



Memo to the Presidential Transition Team

December 15, 2008

Campus Progress is the youth division of the Center for American Progress, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, progressive organization. Through programs in activism, journalism, and events, Campus Progress: (1) helps young people make their voices heard now on issues that matter; and (2) works with young leaders and organizations nationwide to build a strong, united progressive movement that can bring long-term positive change.

The Transition Team has asked Campus Progress and other groups to answer the question: *What are young Americans uniquely qualified to do to help meet specific national challenges, and how?*

Young people are uniquely qualified to bring their energy, ideas, and networks to bear, starting right away, for progressive change on the key issues -- from education, economic opportunity and health care; to energy and the environment; to challenges overseas. Campus Progress believes that this country needs strong progressive policies to address its greatest challenges and that young people are positioned to be the key constituency working for progressive change. Today's young people are strongly progressive on all the major issues. This generation is a leader for tolerance and civil rights. This generation is best positioned to use and make innovations in the technologies that can help spread change. And this generation is engaged with our communities on the ground, through activism and service efforts.

Right now, Campus Progress is consulting with a wide range of partner organizations to decide what issues we want to emphasize nationally once the Obama Administration begins. The Administration's priorities will be a strong determinant in what is possible in the coming year, so we look forward to learning where the Administration is headed.

Campus Progress -- our staff and the young people in our network -- are ready to work to make progressive change a reality:

- Our advocacy and activism team will develop proposals, write articles, work with the media, produce creative videos and websites, testify to Congress, and connect with young Americans to make the case for change. In the field, we support local activism through our action grants program, and we will steer some resources to efforts that support national goals.
- Our journalism team and network of young reporters and bloggers will cover the key national issues on our CampusProgress.org magazine and Pushback.org blog, and they will encourage our network of supported campus publications to do the same.
- Our events team is ready to hold events on campuses and in communities across the country to highlight the case for change on key issues. Over four years, we have been fortunate to present as speakers President-elect Obama and many key members of the new Administration. We hope to feature a wide range of speakers from the Administration at our events going forward, including at our annual National Conference, to be held next on July 8, 2009, in Washington.

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