



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY

CSP RECEIVES \$700,000 FROM PETER G. PETERSON FOUNDATION TO STUDY STRATEGIC CHALLENGES FACING PRESIDENT-ELECT

**For Immediate Release
November 10, 2008**

Contact: Thomas M. Kirlin Ph.D.
Vice President of Operations
202-872-9800 or TKirlin@thePresidency.org

The Peter G. Peterson Foundation has awarded the Center for the Study of the Presidency, a non-partisan, non-profit policy and education organization, a grant totaling \$700,000 to fund an ongoing Center initiative, *Strengthening America's Future*, to examine key challenges facing the country, brief the next President, Congress and the American people on those issues, and prepare a series of recommendations for Presidential and Congressional action.

“During the Presidential transition, America is in its most vulnerable state, and the country cannot wait for the next Administration to develop institutional knowledge of the nation’s status and the direction of its policies,” said Center President David M. Abshire. “The Center is building on and encouraging the next President to adopt President Dwight Eisenhower’s Solarium model to identify the critical challenges, the crosswalks between them, and the political and economic costs of action and inaction.”

The Center will work closely with David Walker, Peterson Foundation President and CEO and former Comptroller General of the United States, Norman Augustine, former Chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation, and Leon Panetta, former White House Chief of Staff. Walker, Augustine and Panetta will lead a Steering Committee of eminent public and private sector leaders to provide guidance and insight throughout the effort. The Steering Committee will develop a Comprehensive Net Assessment that prioritizes the issues facing the country and illustrates the costs of delayed action, followed by a conceptual framework of effective ways, means, and timing to develop and implement sound policies. During all phases of this project the Center will attempt to work closely with the new President, Vice-President and Congress to help foster the cooperation and mutual support required to enact needed changes.

The building blocks for this effort are set forth in Abshire’s most recent book, *A Call to Greatness: Challenging Our Next President*, which describes how the next President should organize a 120-day comprehensive net assessment to set priorities, reorganize our resources and lead the nation so that we can effectively meet these daunting challenges. While still in draft form in late 2007, a copy of the book was shared with all the major Presidential candidates, many of whom provided the Center positive feedback.

The Center for the Study of the Presidency is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)3 organization that seeks to further the understanding and functioning of the American Presidency and its related institutions and, thereby, to educate, illuminate, and inspire leaders of tomorrow. More information about the organization can be found at www.thePresidency.org.

###