

JESSE HELMS CENTER FOUNDATION 2009 PROGRAMS REPORT

Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge (FELC)

Over 200 young people (representing 12 states) participated in the two FELC sessions held this June at Wingate University. Students actively engaged in a variety of activities including debates, a speech contest, and numerous character education activities. Students were taught throughout the week the stark differences between socialism and capitalism. Students also heard from business leaders and entrepreneurs during the daily speaker sessions. As part of the main activity of the week, students formed companies that sold goods and services to other FELC students. Every company made a profit, and over \$900 was invested through the microfinance lending website Kiva.org, which supports entrepreneurs in developing countries. Earlier in the year, shortened versions of the FELC program were presented to over 300 students at the N.C. Phi Beta Lambda Conference and at a local high school. And, the FELC Facebook page continues to interact and serve graduates of the program by providing articles, tips, internship opportunities, and other important free market based material on a weekly basis.



Helms Foreign Policy School



The Helms Foreign Policy School celebrated a milestone in 2009, when the program was held for the first time at the Helms School of Government at Liberty University in March. Over 40 students participated, and speakers included Deborah DeMoss Fonseca (former Helms Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations), Robert Wilkie (former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs), and Beverly Hallberg (Executive Director of District Media Group). Key conservative foreign relations principles were discussed, and students were actively trained in effective communication strategies.

Jesse Helms Center Lecture Series

Over 500 people participated in this year's Lecture Series program which kicked off in March with John Allison, Chairman of BB&T. The lecture entitled "Principled Leadership" was held on the campus of Wingate University and was well attended by students and Helms Center friends. In September, the Helms Center welcomed Stephen Moore, Wall Street Journal editorial board member and economist, for a discussion on the current economic state of the country. Both lectures were part of the BB&T sponsored program on the Moral Foundations of Capitalism.



Teacher Workshops

In January, the Helms Center welcomed Dr. Troy Kickler, Director of the North Carolina History Project, to lead a workshop entitled "Anti-Federalism, Federalism, and Liberty in North Carolina." Approximately 3,200 students were reached through the 33 teachers who attended. Each teacher received a resource book and follow-up material to increase their knowledge and impact their students for the cause of freedom.

Special Events



In October, the Helms Center inducted the late restaurant entrepreneur and philanthropist, Jack Laughery, into the Charles A. Cannon Free Enterprise Hall of Fame. A dinner was held in celebration of the induction, and longtime friends, supporters, and family members attended and shared their fond memories and the qualities that made Laughery a free enterprise hero. The 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall was celebrated in November with a dinner that also honored former North Carolina Governor James G. Martin. Former Ambassador to Estonia Aldona Was delivered the keynote address, and the Helms Center

was given a piece of the Berlin Wall by the Allegro Foundation of Charlotte. Helms Center Board Chairman Bill Cobey and President John Dodd awarded the James W. Nance Medal of Freedom, the highest honor of the Helms Center, to Martin in honor of his extraordinary leadership, patriotism, and civic responsibility.

Partnerships

The Helms Center continues to partner with other like-minded conservative organizations to advance traditional American values, principled leadership, and free enterprise. This past summer, we welcomed two interns from the Young Briton's Foundation, and their work included helping with FELC and working in the Archives to promote Senator Helms' historical legacy. Also, this summer the Helms Center opened its doors to hundreds of activists to participate in Americans for Prosperity's "Hands-Off My Healthcare" forum. In September, the Helms Center again served as a sponsor for the annual Conservative Leadership Conference. In October, the Helms Center partnered with the Lee Institute and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce to bring in T. Boone Pickens to discuss energy policy. In November, Helms Center president John Dodd was invited to speak on youth outreach during the 2009 State Policy Network meeting of 500 national conservative leaders in Asheville, North Carolina. Also in November, the Helms Center served as the regional collection point for Operation Christmas Child, a yearly program of Samaritan's Purse.



Laws of Life Essay Contest

Thousands of essays were written by middle and high school students during the 2009 Laws of Life program. The topic for the 2009 contest was "Loyalty and Integrity" in recognition of Senator Helms' legacy of principled leadership. Winners received cash/savings bond prizes, and every participant received appropriate recognition of their hard work. Encouraging appropriate character development in our young people is essential to the survival of our country.

Archives

We continue to make significant progress in our archives area with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the million plus piece collection processed. A major focus in 2009 has been the completion of the processing of the Senator's personal correspondence and the beginning of the processing of hundreds of videos and tapes of speeches, interviews, and campaign material from the Senator's 50-year career. We also hosted over 8,000 visitors who learned first hand from our interactive exhibits about Senator Helms' many contributions to liberty and the importance of our free enterprise system.

