



Gerald L. Baliles, Director

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Miller Center of Public Affairs at U.Va. Opens Office in Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., October 29, 2009 -- The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia has opened an office in Washington, D.C. to facilitate its unparalleled study of the American presidency, to build on its work developing practical public-policy solutions, and to connect with the tens of thousands of U.Va. alumni in the area.

The Miller Center, based in Charlottesville, Va., is the nation's leading institution on the study of the modern American presidency as well as a nonpartisan public-policy center that brings academics and policymakers together to focus on issues important to governance.

The new office, located at 1900 K St., NW, is U.Va.'s first office in the nation's capital. There are more than 35,000 alumni in the Washington area.

"The Miller Center has long been a place where scholars and policymakers have come together to focus on policies of the past and the present. Our work has made a real difference - both for our nation's history and its future. My hope is that our new location in Washington will allow us to make more of a difference," said Gerald L. Baliles, director of the Miller Center, who served as governor of Virginia from 1986 to 1990.

The Miller Center plans to use its Washington office to bring together government officials, scholars, the media, alumni and others to focus on public-policy issues. The Miller Center is currently working on several issues with former Cabinet officials, including former Secretaries of State James Baker and Warren Christopher, who co-chaired a commission on the war powers of the president and Congress, and with former Transportation Secretaries Norman Mineta and Sam Skinner, who are helping to produce a report on how to improve our nation's transportation system.

The Miller Center will also use its D.C. location to conduct interviews for its Presidential Oral History Program. The Miller Center is doing the official, in-depth oral histories of Presidents Carter, Reagan, H.W. Bush and Clinton, interviewing dozens of top officials from each administration. Its scholars are conducting the oral histories of other policymakers, including Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

The Miller Center has also partnered with MacNeil/Lehrer Productions and the National Press Club to produce several public-policy debates in Washington this spring. All debates will be held at the Press Club and air on PBS.

Among those based in the Miller Center's D.C. office are David Coleman, Chair of the Presidential Recordings Program, which is analyzing and transcribing the thousands of hours of White House tapes made by Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon, and Kristy Schantz, who is the Center's new Assistant Director for Communications and Marketing. Schantz previously was executive producer of CNN's *Crossfire*.

The Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution aimed at bringing together engaged citizens, scholars, members of the media and government officials to focus on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with a special interest in the American presidency.

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