



WISCONSIN WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 2543 MADISON, WI 53701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Karen Hughes to Keynote 23rd Annual WWIG Scholarship Recognition Banquet

Dinner to Be Held Wednesday, May 5 at the Monona Terrace in Madison

MADISON – Wisconsin Women in Government (WWIG) announced today that Ambassador Karen Hughes will keynote the organization's 23rd Annual Scholarship Recognition Banquet on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. Hughes is a veteran Republican political advisor from Texas who served former President George W. Bush in a number of key roles, including as White House Counselor from 2001 to 2002.

"We are thrilled to have Karen Hughes keynote this year's banquet," said Grace Cudney, WWIG President. "A woman of many accomplishments, Karen Hughes has led a remarkable life of public service and political activism."

Hughes served as Counselor to President Bush from 2001 to 2002. Told by the President that he wanted her "in the room whenever a major decision was made," Hughes worked on a comprehensive range of domestic and foreign policy issues. She also led the White House Offices of Communications, Press Secretary, Media Affairs and Speechwriting.

Hughes also served as U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs from 2005-2007. In that role, Ambassador Hughes dramatically reshaped the State Department's communications efforts, launched a new focus on America's "diplomacy of deeds" through health, education and English-teaching programs, and made public diplomacy central in the development of foreign policy.

Hughes' political experience includes serving as Communications Director of President Bush's presidential campaign in 2000, senior communications strategist on his 2004 re-election campaign, Director of Communications in the Texas Governor's Office, Executive Director of the Texas Republican Party, and numerous political, issue and bond campaigns.

She is the author of *Ten Minutes from Normal*, a book about her experiences working for President Bush and her decision leave the White House and move with her family home to Texas in 2002. She is currently the Global Vice Chair of Burson-Marsteller, a leading global public relations and communications firm. In her personal time, she has also devoted herself to the cause of breast cancer awareness.

Individual banquet tickets are on sale now for \$65 and can be purchased online at www.WiscWomenInGovernment.org. Those interested in attending can also call (608) 848-2321 for more information. Sponsorships are also available, and information on sponsorship levels and how to reserve your table can be found at www.WiscWomenInGovernment.org.

The banquet will begin with a networking reception at 5:15 p.m. The welcome and keynote address will begin at 7:00 p.m., with dinner and the awards program immediately following.

NOTE: Media interested in attending should contact Jessica Erickson at 608-215-0468 or via email at jessicaerickson20@hotmail.com for media credentials.

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Wisconsin Women in Government is a 501 c3 organization dedicated to promoting the involvement and advancement of women in all levels of government. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Proceeds from the annual banquet are used to support scholarships at the undergraduate and post-graduate level, as well as legislative service agency internships for women who intend to make public service a career.



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WWIG's annual dinner is the premier bipartisan political event in Wisconsin, attended by more than 1,000 state and local elected officials, business leaders, public servants, and political enthusiasts. Since 1987, WWIG has raised money to support and encourage women to choose a career in government service. Each year, the organization awards scholarships to women pursuing undergraduate study in public service and administration and government affairs.

Past keynote speakers have been:

- 2009 – **Donna Brazile**, veteran Democratic political commentator and strategist
- 2008 – **Jenna Bush**, best-selling author & international child rights advocate
- 2007 – **Elizabeth Edwards**, accomplished attorney, best-selling author
- 2006 – **Christine Todd Whitman**, New Jersey's first female Governor
- 2005 – **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, Former First Lady and U.S. Senator
- 2004 – **Mary Matalin**, former counselor to President Bush & Vice President Cheney
- 2003 – **The Capitol Steps**, musical political satire
- 2002 – **Linda Wertheimer**, award-winning broadcaster for National Public Radio
- 2001 – **Catherine Crier**, award-winning journalist for Court TV
- 2000 – **Arianna Huffington**, syndicated columnist and author
- 1999 – **Pat Schroeder**, former Colorado congresswoman
- 1998 – **Ann Richards**, former Governor of Texas
- 1997 – **Lynne Cheney**, former Chairwoman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and author
- 1996 – **Dee Dee Myers**, former press secretary for President Clinton
- 1995 – **Jeane Kirkpatrick**, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations
- 1994 – **Ann Compton**, award-winning journalist for ABC
- 1993 – **Janet Steiger**, former chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission
- 1992 – **Molly Ivins**, award-winning syndicated columnist and best-selling author
- 1991 – **Peggy Noonan**, columnist for the Wall Street Journal, author, and former speechwriter to President Nixon
- 1990 – **Ellen Goodman**, syndicated columnist
- 1989 – **Marie Davis Jackson**
- 1988 – **Donna Shalala**, President of the University of Miami, former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and former Chancellor of UW-Madison

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