



June 20, 2008

Chris Myers Asch  
U.S. Public Service Academy  
1225 I Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Asch:

As the President of James Madison University, I am writing to offer my endorsement of the United States Public Service Academy. I believe that creating such an educational institution will help America inspire talented young people to proudly lead careers in public service.

Today there exists a perfect opportunity to infuse new generations of Americans with a shared value and national respect for the needs that the public service discipline meets for our society. A new Public Service Academy will make a significant contribution to our nation by strengthening our civilian leadership. Similar to its military peers, the Academy will offer a rigorous undergraduate education that will develop students into highly qualified, service-oriented young leaders. The visibility and prestige of a Public Service Academy will help attract more top students into public service, which will help America meet the serious domestic and international challenges of the twenty-first century.

At James Madison University I have witnessed proof of the growing interest of young people in the arenas of public service. We currently have 53 undergraduate alumni serving in the Peace Corps and a total of 347 JMU alumni have volunteered for the Peace Corps since the organization was established in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. In the last two decades, we have seen tremendous growth in Community Service-Learning and Alternative Spring Break programs, which the university instituted to support the development of leaders committed to service.

Seeing a greater need for skilled leaders in this sector, recently James Madison University approved a new Doctorate of Philosophy program in Strategic Leadership. The current program seeks to prepare future civilian leaders for public service and offers two tracks; one in non-profit and community leadership and the other in educational leadership. Its addition illustrates the strong demand for educated public servants.

I also applaud the concept of an academy for it eliminates the strain of debt that traditionally burdens college graduates and ultimately drives them into careers in the private sector out of financial necessity. Now those young people who enter college wanting to serve our country in the public sector, can graduate and live out their professional aspirations without feeling compromised.

It is my sincere belief that the United States Public Service Academy will strengthen our nation, and I urge Congress to pass the U.S. Public Service Academy Act (S. 960 and H.R. 1671) to create it.

Sincerely,

Linwood H. Rose  
President

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