

Texas Lyceum Assembles in El Paso

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Congressman Reyes, UTEP President and top Fort Bliss officials to address group

(EL PASO) The Texas Lyceum, the states' premier leadership group, will convene here April 10-12th to explore, discuss and debate some of the major issues surrounding national security policy. The 28 year-old non-partisan and non-profit group fosters leadership in both public and private arenas. They hold a series of meetings each year in different Texas cities and last met in El Paso in 1999.

The Lyceum will be welcomed to El Paso Thursday night by University of Texas at El Paso President Dr. Diana Natalicio. They will hear about the University and the famous 1966 Texas Western College (now UTEP) NCAA Championship Basketball Team, still the only Texas team to win a men's national basketball championship.

"We're looking forward to hosting these Texas leaders on our campus and showcasing UTEP's increasing role in national security efforts, intelligence initiatives and partnerships with Fort Bliss," said El Paso Lyceum Director and meeting co-chair Estrella Escobar.

On Friday, the group moves to Fort Bliss to hear from officials on several significant national security policy areas, including the Army's Future Combat Systems, the military's role in homeland security and the impact of recent military base realignments and closures . Later, Lyceum Directors will experience Army training first-hand.

On Friday evening, El Paso Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, will address the group. The Congressman will address the group regarding pressing issues in national security, intelligence and homeland security that have an impact on state and local policy.

"We are honored to host the Lyceum and have officials share their insight on the military," said El Paso Lyceum Director and meeting co-chair Laura Uribarri. "Fort Bliss, the country's largest military base, is an ideal location for Lyceum directors to get a better understanding of today's military and learn what the men and women in uniform do to prepare for their service to our nation."

Saturday, Directors will hear from Bill Ehrie, Chairman of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission and discuss the impact of BRAC and wartime deployments on the military preparedness of Texas.

"Our El Paso Lyceum directors have done an amazing job in planning the Lyceum's sixth visit to the Sun City," said John Boettiger, president of the Texas Lyceum. "We look forward to learning about military policy and experiencing West Texas hospitality at its best."

The El Paso Texas Lyceum meeting is being co-chaired by Laura Uribarri, Director of UTEP MBA Programs and Estrella Escobar, assistant to the President of UTEP. Conference committee members include: Larry Peterson, Business Consultant; Deborah Zuloaga, United Way President; and Glenn Walker, SAIC Deputy Division Manager.

Lyceum El Paso Conference events open to the media

Thursday April 10th

7:15 – 9:15 pm Dinner and welcome by **Dr. Diana Natalicio, UTEP President**

Location: Jonathan Rogers Hall of Champions, Second Floor, Larry K. Durham Sports Center, North Sun Bowl

Friday, April 11th

6:45- 9:00pm Dinner and Fireside Chat with **Congressman Silvestre Reyes** Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Location: El Paso Club

Saturday April 12

12:30–1:30pm DLunch briefing from **Mr. Bill Ehrie**, Chairman of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, on the impact of BRAC and wartime deployments on the military preparedness of Texas.

Location: Geology Reading Room, 3rd Floor, Geology Building, UTEP

About The Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan organization, is the premier statewide leadership organization. The group consists of 96 men and women from throughout the state, who begin their six-year term while under the age of 46, and who have demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

In 2008, the Lyceum will release the second annual Texas Lyceum Poll, an independent survey of Texans' attitudes about issues facing the state and the nation and conduct meetings in Tyler, El Paso and McAllen for the group's directors. In October, the organization will hold its 23rd annual public conference in Houston on the topic of Transportation Infrastructure in Texas.

The Lyceum has an impressive list of former members who are serving or have served in the public office including: President George W. Bush, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison-(R) Texas, Governor Rick Perry, former Texas Comptroller John Sharp, Texas State Senators Rodney Ellis (D)-Houston and Kirk Watson (D)-Austin, Houston Mayor Bill White and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

The Texas Lyceum acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues, and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector and individual responses to the issues.

To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts periodic public forums, publishes the Lyceum Journal, The Texas Lyceum Poll and conducts programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation. For more information visit: www.texaslyceum.org.