

PRESS RELEASE

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Laura Bush to Speak at The Education Alliance Annual Dinner Celebration *Fundraiser Scheduled for Nov. 9 at the Clay Center*

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (Sept. 2, 2011) – Former First Lady Laura Bush is scheduled to return to West Virginia on Wednesday, Nov. 9, to serve as keynote speaker for The Education Alliance’s 2011 Annual Dinner Celebration.

“The Education Alliance is extremely honored to have the former first lady as our 2011 annual dinner speaker,” Kusimo said. “Mrs. Bush is known throughout the world for her poise, grace and style. She serves as the UN Ambassador for the Decade of Literacy, has been a strong proponent of education as a means to greater prosperity and freedom, particularly in her advocacy for women in Afghanistan and the Middle East. Mrs. Bush has also been an accomplished author and former educator who is passionate about reading and learning.

Kusimo noted that Mrs. Bush, who visited West Virginia as First Lady, continues with President Bush to actively support education reform initiatives through the work of the George W. Bush Presidential Center.

“Since The Education Alliance’s mission is to help ensure that all public school students complete high school prepared for a career or education after high school, we are particularly pleased to have a dinner speaker who understands the challenges and rewards associated with schooling children from all walks of life,” Kusimo said. “We look forward to welcoming Mrs. Bush to the great state of West Virginia for our annual fundraiser.”

Patricia S. Kusimo, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of The Education Alliance, said a reception from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences of West Virginia will precede the dinner, a fundraiser that supports the organization’s mission to prepare West Virginia students for post-secondary education and career opportunities.

The Education Alliance is making tickets, tables and sponsorships available for the Annual Dinner Celebration, Kusimo said. Inquiries can be directed to The Education Alliance at 304-342-7850. The Education website is www.educationalliance.org.