

CIVIC EDUCATION



*Reconnecting
People and
Politics*

LES C. FRANCIS



Born and raised in San José, Les Francis earned his Bachelor's from San José State in 1965 and his secondary teaching credential in 1966. Beginning his career with the California Teachers Association, Mr. Francis went on to serve as a senior congressional aide and deputy white house chief of staff, eventually becoming a nationally-respected political campaign manager and strategist. He has served as a volunteer adviser to democratic movements across the globe and has authored dozens of articles for leading national newspapers.

Presently, Francis serves as a principal for Washington Media Group, Inc. and is on the faculty at George Washington University, where he teaches courses in campaign communications and political campaign ethics. A longtime ambassador of SJSU, Francis is active in the Spartan Foundation and serves on the SJSU Tower Foundation Board of Directors.

LES FRANCIS SCHOLARSHIP *for* CIVIC EDUCATION



COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Reconnecting People and Politics
at San José State University*



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic engagement is at the very heart of a functioning democracy. Sovereignty lies in the citizenry, and it is both the right and the duty of a people of a democratic nation to participate in the identification and resolution of matters of public concern.

This important duty, civic engagement, is on the decline in America. With the growing coarseness of our political culture, voters feel more and more alienated from the democratic process with every election cycle. Meanwhile, around the world, we witness the difficulties of establishing democracy in nations with no experience in the principles of self-government.

But democracy cannot survive without an informed and involved citizenry.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS: EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Les Francis believes, as do his friends at San José State, that instilling the value and rewards of civic engagement in young people is the primary method of combating the growing disconnect between our institutions of government and the American people. Like so many lessons, this must be taught early by teachers in high school classrooms.

To that end, the Les Francis Scholarship for Civic Education was created in 2006 at San José State for students interested in teaching high school social sciences. It is funded by an endowment created for this purpose. Through the scholarship, this year and for generations to come San José State has the opportunity make an impact in America's civil landscape while honoring a distinguished graduate.

Les Francis who has demonstrated strong leadership in both politics and education and a man who is passionate about the need to prepare and inspire teachers to become advocates for civic engagement, and to convey that same passion to their students.

A PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Every year, one student who has an expressed interest in teaching high school social sciences will be recognized with a generous scholarship to further the civic education movement.

Candidates wishing to be considered for the honor are required to submit an essay on reconnecting people and politics to the dean of the College of Social Sciences. This competitive scholarship is intended to offer to SJSU's deserving and most promising students the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of tomorrow's citizens, voters and leaders.



To make a gift or for more information, contact the Office of Development at 408 924 1154. The university's Tax ID is 83-0403915.