

THE PRESIDENTS' PLEDGE AGAINST GLOBAL POVERTY

www.presidentspledge.org

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College and University Presidents Pledge Personal Income to Help End Extreme Global Poverty

NEW YORK— April 30, 2012 — Twenty-eight leaders in higher education have formed [The Presidents' Pledge Against Global Poverty](#), a new initiative to help end extreme poverty and focus attention on the positive impact of personal philanthropy.

The 28 charter members of the Pledge have signed a public commitment to contribute five percent or more of their personal income each year to organizations that fight the causes or effects of extreme poverty. At least half of the president's contributions fund international projects; up to half may be designated for anti-poverty efforts in the U.S. The project aims to enlist presidents, chancellors, past presidents and presidents emeriti in an effort to help reach the [United Nations Millennium Development Goals](#) and further engage the next generation of global citizens in poverty solutions.

"We are at a point in human history when ending extreme poverty is an almost achievable goal," said Pledge participant [George Rupp](#), president emeritus of Columbia and Rice Universities and CEO and president of [The International Rescue Committee](#), a relief and development organization that implements humanitarian assistance programs in more than 40 countries.

"Higher education is at the forefront of finding solutions that mitigate severe poverty. It also shares responsibility for preparing a new generation of globally engaged citizens," Rupp added. "Ending poverty is certainly not simple. But personal philanthropy does have impact. The Presidents' Pledge aims to generate momentum and add a new voice to this crucial cause."

[Ann M. Svennungsen](#), past president of Texas Lutheran University, initiated conversations with Rupp and other higher education leaders about creating The Presidents' Pledge Against Global Poverty.

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“We are just getting started. University presidents hold a distinctive platform as moral leaders. Acting together, their commitment can help galvanize the collective will needed to address complex issues like extreme poverty. We look forward to growing momentum,” said Svennungsen.

The Presidents’ Pledge Against Global Poverty is aligned with [Bolder Giving](#), a 501(c)(3) organization. It received support from a private donor and a special grant from [The Henry Luce Foundation](#) to develop the project. The charitable contributions of participating presidents are made individually and directly to organizations of their choosing that work to alleviate poverty.

“We invite colleagues to join us in this crucial work; together, we can raise the visibility of the effort to ameliorate poverty around the world, and emphasize the urgency of doing so. Together, our gifts make a difference,” said [Nannerl O. Keohane](#), president emerita of Duke University and Wellesley College. Keohane, a Pledge participant, is Distinguished Visiting Professor of Public Affairs at Princeton University.

Charter members of The Presidents’ Pledge Against Global Poverty represent a cross-section of leadership at public and private universities nationwide, including presidents from the institutional members of the American Council on Education, the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, the Council of Independent Colleges, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and other groups.

For more information about The Presidents’ Pledge Against Global Poverty, visit www.presidentspledge.org.

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