

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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Governors Jim Blanchard and John Engler Headline MPLP Events

Former Michigan governors Jim Blanchard and John Engler will headline the Michigan Political Leadership Program's 2010 dinner and West Michigan breakfast.

Douglas B. Roberts, director of Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research which administers MPLP, made the announcement Tuesday.

"We are thrilled to have these two governors on the MPLP stage for the first time," Roberts said. "These two governors have more than 20 years of leadership experience. This program couldn't be more timely as MPLP celebrates its 15th annual dinner and 8th annual breakfast."

Blanchard, a former U.S. Congressman, served eight years as Michigan's governor. He was named U.S. Ambassador to Canada in 1993 and is currently Co-chair, Government Affairs Practice Group for the global law firm DLA Piper. He is also chairman of the Washington-based Meridian International Center and serves on the Board of Directors of Chrysler Group LLC. He is an MSU graduate.

Engler served three terms as Michigan governor and 20 years in the Michigan Legislature. He was elected first to the Michigan House of Representatives and then to the Michigan Senate, rising to Senate Majority Leader. He is currently President of the National Association of Manufacturers and is a member of the Board of Directors of Delta Airlines. He is an MSU graduate.

MPLP, one of the nation's premiere political leadership training grounds, annually hosts the dinner and breakfast celebrated as one of the state's largest nonpartisan gatherings.

MPLP is considered unique in the nation for its scholarship, multi-partisan approach and curriculum balanced between hands-on experience and exposure to the state and nation's leading authorities on public policy and political leadership.

The 2010 events, which raise majority support for the 24 Fellowships, will be Thursday, Feb. 25 at Livonia's Laurel Manor, and Friday, Feb. 26 at DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids.

Since 1992, MPLP has trained 24 competitively selected Fellows per year. The program provides instruction for one weekend per month for 10 months. It intentionally selects an equal number of Fellows from each of the two major political parties.

To date, nearly 500 people, from all professions and parts of the state, are MPLP graduates. A quarter of them are serving or have served in public office.

Among their ranks are Detroit City Council member and former Detroit Mayor Kenneth Cockrel Jr., former House Speaker Craig DeRoche, Sen. Wayne Kuipers, Rep. Ed Clemente, Rep. Robert Dean and Rep. Kenneth Horn.

Dinner and breakfast are open to the public. Tickets are \$150 each. Tables are valued at \$1,500, and sponsorships at all levels are available. For more information and to purchase tickets online, go to <http://www.ipsr.msu.edu/MPLP/fundraisers.htm>

IPPSR is a part of MSU's College of Social Science and specializes in public policy, leadership training and rigorous survey research.

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