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Humphrey Institute will honor Women’s Foundation of Minnesota at annual Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Awards

Minneapolis, Minn. (05/03/07)—Since 2003, the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs has selectively honored local and national leaders and organizations for their commitment to serving the common good at the annual Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Awards dinner. This year, the Institute will spotlight the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota to recognize its commitment to cultivating leadership among young women through board service and other leadership development opportunities.

“The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota is a true leader in sustaining an intergenerational feminist movement by bringing young women into its programs and, most importantly, its decision-making structure,” said Humphrey Institute Professor Sally J. Kenney, director of the Center on Women and Public Policy and chair of the nominating committee. “The foundation not only talks the talk, but walks the walk. It is a model for other feminist organizations.”

Founded in 1983, the foundation funds community projects that benefit young women, organizes research efforts addressing women’s issues, and advocates for social change. The organization involves young women at all levels of leadership—four of its 35 trustees are under 35—and organizational leaders foster a commitment to educate and inform others of the importance of this investment. The foundation also includes young girls (ages 10 to 18) in the grantmaking advisory committee for statewide girls’ programming.

“I have been personally inspired and mentored as a young feminist in the committed work of this organization,” said Humphrey Institute student Kim Borton, a member of the foundation’s board of trustees.

“At the Women’s Foundation, we celebrate and nurture the collective vision and passion young women leaders bring to the fight for women’s equality. By lending fresh perspectives and generational relevancy to our mission, they help us catalyze the power of social change to move equality forward for women and girls across the state,” said Lee Roper-Batker, the foundation’s president and CEO. “On behalf of the foundation’s board, staff, donors, and community volunteers, we are grateful and deeply honored to receive this special recognition from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.”

The Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Awards were inaugurated in 2003 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Humphrey Institute. This year’s other honorees are Sen. John C. Danforth, former U.S. Senator and Ambassador to the United Nations; Josie R. Johnson, civil rights leader and educator; Eugene C. Sit, founder and co-chair of the Minnesotans’ Military Appreciation Fund; and Harlan Cleveland, former dean of the Institute.

The 2007 Public Leadership Awards dinner will be Wednesday, May 16, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Minneapolis. Tickets for the dinner and program are \$125, of which \$75 is a tax-deductible contribution. Proceeds from the event benefit a student scholarship initiative. For tickets to the awards dinner, contact Lars Leafblad at leafblad@umn.edu or (612) 625-9588. For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/news/leadership_awards/.

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA

Founded in 1983, the Women's Foundation of Minnesota is a community foundation that grows equality for women and girls in Minnesota by funding innovative social changes programs, building women's philanthropy, conducting and reporting research, and educating the public about the successes and challenges of Minnesota's women and girls. More information can be found at www.wfmn.org.

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