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The Keystone Center's Youth Policy Summit to Address Water Resources in the Southeast

Birmingham, Alabama July 25th 2010 – The Keystone Center's Youth Policy Summit challenges high school students in addressing the critical issue of Water Resources in the Southeast. Thirty of the region's youth are gathering at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and the Alabama School of Fine Arts, July 25-30. After spending their spring semester conducting original research, these students engage water sector leaders from industry, government and non-profit organizations on policy solutions for sustainably meeting the current and future water needs of the region.

These young leaders are focusing not only on progressive solutions; they are also tasked with creating opportunities which are socially equitable and economically and environmentally sustainable for the community. Participants negotiate consensus-based recommendations and then share them with the State Board of Education, Members of Congress, and state legislatures as well as business and NGO leaders. On July 27th, from 9am to 1pm, students will meet with a panel of professional experts from across the region at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. *"The Keystone Center focuses on the right initiatives to better prepare young people to compete in the future. The breadth and depth of the learning experience involved in the Youth Policy Summit is impressive"* commented Jim Donlon, former CFO of Arvin Meritor, who previously served as an expert panelist. Panelists for the 2010 event include:

- **Alabama Rivers Alliance**
- **Southern Environmental Center**
- **Cahaba River Society**
- **Energen and Alagasco**
- **Alabama Power Company**
- **The Coca Cola Company**
- **Balch & Bingham LLP**
- **Water Works Board of the City of Birmingham**
- **Alabama Water Resources Commission**
- **Soil Water Conservation Committee**
- **Joint Legislative Committee on Water Policy and Management**
- **USGA Alabama Water Science Center**

A highlight of the Summit takes place on **Friday July 30th at 3:30 pm** at the Alabama School of Fine Arts when students present their final policy recommendations to the public. **Media and the public are welcome to attend any of the Summit events held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and the Alabama School of Fine Arts.** Maps and parking directions can be found at www.bbgardens.org and www.asfa.k12.al.us. Please contact Annemarie Fussell with questions and for media coverage of any portion of the Youth Policy Summit.

Sponsors and in-kind donors of the program include: World Wildlife Fund, Royal Cup Coffee Company, Energen and Alagasco, Alabama Power, Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, Hewitt-Trussville High School, Alabama School of Fine Arts, Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, Cahaba River Society, Fish Market, Black Warrior River Keepers, Alabama Environmental Council, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Coca Cola Company, The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation, and Balch and Bingham, LLC.

ABOUT THE KEYSTONE CENTER

Headquartered in Keystone, Colorado, The Keystone Center prepares leaders of today and tomorrow with the intellectual and social skills they will need to resolve society's most challenging energy, health, environmental and resource problems. The education programs attain this goal through the application of scientific methods, the reconciliation of difference through negotiation, and the development of critical thinking and collaborative problem solving. Education programs provide direct experiences within the context of local, national and global issues. Our success is measured by the quality of our programs, the achievements and effectiveness of our students and educators and our contributions to a better society.