



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **The Keystone Center's Youth Policy Summit to Address Energy Innovation in Michigan**

**Kalamazoo, Michigan July 24, 2010** – The Keystone Center's Youth Policy Summit challenges high school students in addressing the critical issue of Energy Innovation. Thirty of the region's youth are gathering at Western Michigan University's Fetzer Conference Center, July 24-29. After spending their spring semester conducting original research, these students engage energy leaders from industry, government and non-profit sectors on policy solutions for sustainably meeting current and future energy needs.

These young leaders are focusing not only on progressive energy solutions; they are also tasked with creating opportunities for new "green" jobs within the energy sector. 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 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 1:00pm, students will meet with a panel of professional experts from across the region at Western Michigan University. "*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:

**David J. Lyons-** Dow Corning Corporation  
**Jon Allan-** CMS Energy  
**Chris McGill-** American Gas Association  
**David Gard-** Michigan Environmental Council  
**Jennifer Alvarado-** Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association  
**Tom Occhipinti-** Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
**Amy Butler-** Bureau of Workforce Training

A highlight of the Summit takes place on **Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>** at 3:30 p.m. 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 Western Michigan University Fetzer Center.** Maps and parking directions can be found at [www.wmich.edu/fetzer](http://www.wmich.edu/fetzer). Please contact Elizabeth Roush with questions and for media coverage of any portion of the Youth Policy Summit.

Sponsors of the program include: Western Michigan University-MGREE, The Wege Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company, Saginaw Community Foundation, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, Haworth, FedEx, Saginaw Community Foundation, DTE Energy, CMS Energy, American Gas Association and on behalf of the Dow Corning Foundation Donor Advisory Fund; Midland Area Community Foundation, on behalf of the Dow Corning Foundation Donor Advisory Fund; and Dow Corning Corporation.

#### **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 students range from young children through adults and represent a diversity of groups. 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.*