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Contact: **Josh Block**
jblock@aipac.org

AIPAC RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PRO-ISRAEL STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Washington, D.C. -- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) today recognized the outstanding efforts of pro-Israel students and campus professionals from ten different high schools and college campuses from across the nation.

Awards were presented at a special Campus Activism Awards Banquet held earlier during AIPAC's annual Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., an event that brought together more than 6,500 pro-Israel activists, including more than 1,200 students from 363 campuses and all 50 states.

Top campus honors went to students at Michigan State University, who received the 2008 Duke Rudman Leadership Award. Presented by AIPAC President David Victor and President Emeritus Melvin Dow, the students were recognized for their exceptional efforts to mobilize more than 200 campus leaders to celebrate the U.S.-Israel relationship in its 60th year, educate the campus leaders on the importance of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and registering hundreds of pro-Israel students to vote.

"Activist of the Year" awards were presented to highly accomplished student activists at the Barrack Hebrew Academy, Utah Valley University, University of Georgia and University of Miami. Students at these schools organized campus missions to Washington to lobby their members of Congress on the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship, developed campus programming to educate students about events in the Middle East and mobilized their campuses to take action on Iran.

"Ally of the Year" awards were presented to three outstanding campus and high school professionals from Muhlenberg College, Prozdor at Hebrew College and the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, each of whom demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting AIPAC's leadership development agenda.

In addition, AIPAC presented "Advocate of the Year" awards to three student activists from Alabama State University, the University of Oklahoma and SUNY-Albany, each of whom has worked tirelessly speaking for AIPAC at community events around the country and gone above and beyond to expand the base of pro-Israel activism both on and beyond the campus.

The following are further details regarding the honorees:

"AIPAC Activist of the Year" Awards

AIPAC activists at the **Barrack Hebrew Academy** were honored for their work inspiring their entire school to get more involved in the 2008 election campaign by organizing a mock political convention kicked-off by Senator Arlen Specter. The activists also held an incredibly successful Israel at 60 celebration focused on the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

AIPAC activists at **Utah Valley University** developed relationships with key elected officials. In addition to reaching out to their member of Congress and both U.S. Senators, they hosted the State Senator responsible for Iran state divestment at their phenomenally successful Israel at 60 Leadership

Dinner. They also reached out beyond their campus to spread the pro-Israel message to other colleges in Utah.

AIPAC activists at the **University of Georgia** built rock-solid relationships with campus political organizations which helped them secure the signatures of over 1,500 students on a petition reinforcing the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship. This campus also played a vital part in helping pass the Georgia state divestment legislation by logging over 300 calls to Georgia State House members.

AIPAC activists at the **University of Miami** were honored for their strong campus work in many areas. This cadre of students had a leadership statement on Israel signed by 60 campus organizations and presented the statement to Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. They also got heavily involved in campus and national politics.

“AIPAC Ally of the Year” Awards

Muhlenberg College Hillel Director Patti Mittelman worked to identify pro-Israel students to get more heavily involved in political activism and helped bring student leaders into the pro-Israel movement.

Prozdor at Hebrew College Director Margie Berkowitz helped make pro-Israel political activism part of the culture of this Jewish Day School where AIPAC previously did not have reach.

Alpha Epsilon Pi Director of Jewish Programming Phil Brodsky worked tirelessly to mobilize thousands of students across the country to help with state divestment campaigns, Israel at 60 celebrations and recruitment for AIPAC events.

“AIPAC Advocate of the Year” Awards

Alabama State University AIPAC campus activist Duncan Kirkwood organized a lobbying mission for student government leaders and raised the money to send 9 student leaders to Israel. He has also spoken on behalf of AIPAC at several community events this past year.

SUNY Albany AIPAC campus activist Reuben Ingber single-handedly recruited nearly 20 student government presidents to attend the AIPAC Policy Conference and has worked to build a strong pro-Israel political community on his campus.

University of Oklahoma AIPAC campus activist Kenah Nyanat used his position as student government president to liaise with state government and have a state resolution passed recognizing the unique relationship between the United States and Israel.

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