

Media Relations

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UNH Hosts Debt Crisis Conference in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The critical importance of slowing the growth of our nation’s debt to a sustainable level is the focus of a Dec. 3, 2013, conference on Capitol Hill: “Moving Beyond the Short-Term: What Will It Take to Prevent a Debt Crisis?” hosted by the University of New Hampshire.

Former Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad (D-ND) will present the keynote address at the conference, and panelists will include Douglas Elmendorf, director of the Congressional Budget Office, former Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN), and former Congressmen Steve LaTourette (R-OH), Jim Nussle (R-IA), and David McCurdy (D-OK), as well as Eugene Steuerle, institute fellow and Richard B. Fisher Chair of the Urban Institute, and Alan Rhinesmith, fellow at the National Academy of Public Administration.

The conference is organized by the UNH’s School of Law’s Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership and Public Policy and UNH’s Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics in partnership with The Concord Coalition, The Center for Public Integrity, and Fix the Debt.

The event, held at the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, is the UNH School of Law’s second conference on fiscal responsibility, through its newly created Rudman Center. The conference will focus on how Congress’ inability to come together on a bipartisan fiscal plan has negatively impacted public confidence and the economy. Not advancing a long-term strategy to reduce our national debt, avoid default, and provide the necessary investments in our national infrastructure has impacted government’s ability to protect the economic recovery and stabilize our debt.

Moderators will include: Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, Robert L. Bixby, executive director of The Concord Coalition, and William E. Buzenberg, executive director of The Center for Public Integrity. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) will offer comments by video.

“My hope is that this dialogue among policy makers, stakeholders, and budget experts will stimulate further conversation on this crucial issue and provide a framework for practical solutions going forward,” said UNH Law Professor Erin Corcoran, executive director of the Rudman Center. “Following the conference, the center and its students will produce a white paper on suggested solutions, which we will present to members of Congress.”

UNH Law’s Rudman Center was formally launched in April 2013. It provides scholarship, training, and opportunities for new generations of leaders who cherish public service, and its focus on issues of critical importance to the country also serves as a living monument to Senator Rudman, whose bipartisan spirit and dedication to serving the common good made him a singular figure in American politics. The Rudman Center, through the work of its Fiscal Responsibility and Law Institute, is carrying on Senator Rudman’s commitment to fiscal responsibility and to educating the public about the causes and consequences of the federal deficit.

The conference, sponsored by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Dec. 3, 2013, at the Capitol Visitor Center, Room 203-202, in Washington, D.C.

For more information or to register, please email Rudman.Center@law.unh.edu or contact Marin Mathien at (603) 513-5267. For press inquiries, please contact Danielle Barrick at (603) 513-5111 or

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