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DUKE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RECEIVE AIPAC “ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR” HONORS

Washington, D.C. --- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) recognized the outstanding efforts of pro-Israel students from Duke University at the AIPAC Campus Awards Luncheon held earlier this week during our annual Policy Conference in Washington.

Student activists from Duke University were presented with the “Activist of the Year” award for their commitment to pro-Israel politics and for taking an innovative approach to broadening the pro-Israel base for political activism on campus.

“Duke University activists provided the larger AIPAC campus movement with a model for pro-Israel activity through their political involvement and their successful efforts in growing the pro-Israel campus movement. Thank you and congratulations to Duke University activists for their work on campus this year,” said AIPAC President David Victor.

Over the past year, students at Duke University seized the moment during Campaign '08 and affirmed strong bi-partisan support for the U.S.-Israel relationship. Partnering with Duke’s College Democrats and College Republicans, the students co-sponsored a debate-watch party and ran an op-ed in the campus newspaper – a strong expression of support for the U.S.-Israel alliance.

Duke students mobilized and made a legislative impact. They launched a campaign aimed at cultivating relationships with freshman members of Congress and strengthening their base of pro-Israel student activists.

The award was presented at the 2009 AIPAC Policy Conference, an event that brought together more than 5,500 delegates, including more than 1,000 pro-Israel campus advocates and 193 Student Government Association presidents. Students represented 325 campuses, from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. “Activist of the Year” awards were also presented to highly accomplished student activists from Cornell University, Northwestern University, and Duke University. Top honors went to activists at The George Washington University, who received the Duke Rudman Award.

Consistently ranked as the most influential foreign policy lobbying organization on Capitol Hill, AIPAC is an American membership organization that seeks to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel. For more than 50 years, AIPAC has been working with Congress to build a strong, vibrant relationship between the United States and Israel. With more than 100,000 members across America, AIPAC works throughout the country to improve and strengthen that relationship by supporting U.S.-Israel military, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation.