



ECEDE

*Emergency Coalition to Defend
Educational Travel*

The Emergency Coalition to Defend Educational Travel
Is Pleased to Invite you
To a Conference to Demand the Elimination of
Restrictions on Academic and Educational Travel to Cuba
March 9, 2010, 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon
In the Holeman Lounge of the National Press Club
529 14th St. NW; Washington D.C.

In 2003, the Bush administration cancelled the travel provisions created by the Clinton administration in 1999 “to reach out to the Cuban people” through structured programs developed by U.S. institutions to bring about greater understanding of various aspects of Cuban life. And, in 2004, it imposed such severe conditions on the academic programs in Cuba offered by accredited U.S. colleges and universities as to make them virtually impossible to continue. Exchange programs at most colleges and universities were closed down and remain so today.

Both these measures stand in blatant violation of the *Free Trade in Ideas Act* of 1994, which states that: “It is the sense of the Congress that the president should not restrict travel for educational purposes between the United States and any other country.”

But they not only violate the *Free Trade in Ideas Act*, they are decidedly counterproductive if we wish to encourage dialogue between U.S. and Cuban scholars, hopefully leading to a better understanding between our two peoples. They also undermine our standing as a nation that respects academic freedoms.

The purpose of this conference, therefore, is to call for the immediate elimination of those restrictions. They are a legacy of the Bush administration and should not be continued by President Obama.

Speakers

Implications and Consequences for U.S.-Cuban Relations and for the U.S. Itself

Wayne Smith, ECEDE Chairman

Robert Muse, of Muse and Associates and ECEDE Counsel

William LeoGrande, Dean, School of Public Affairs, American University

Vic Johnson, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Senior Adviser for Public Policy

A number of those who plan to attend have asked for the opportunity to speak. That will be provided. Indeed, we invite comments and suggestions from all as to how best to proceed in bringing about the end of the Bush restrictions.

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