

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Jessica L. Pierce

408.205.2763 (cell)  
[jessipierce@gmail.com](mailto:jessipierce@gmail.com)**\*\*Press Statement\*\*****ELECTION 2008: YOUNG PEOPLE FOR Fellows in Action****Media Note: Fellows are available for interview.**

Young people have played a historic part in this election. Progressive candidates, community organizers and student campaigns have worked tirelessly to create what has perhaps been the largest and most comprehensive electoral outreach effort in American history.

Young People For (YP4) fellows — college students from across the country — are playing a significant part in this work. The yearlong YP4 fellowship, a nonpartisan program of People For the American Way Foundation, provides organizational and financial support for college students' meaningful social justice work.

A peek into some of our fellows' creative and powerful efforts to bring about real change this election year:

**THE INTERNET GURUS Matt Popek and Trey Thomas – Penn State, Philadelphia**

Matt Popek and Trey Thomas used the Internet as the great unifying and democratic force that it is to create a campus website, **PSUvotes.org**, to help prevent voter registration problems that many college students face. The site has brought together the campus and many important organizations, making November 4 a day none of us will regret.

**THE EDUCATOR Julieta Cruz – University of Texas, El Paso**

Education and inclusion are the two biggest themes at work in Julieta's work this election season. She has brought electoral information to often-overlooked constituencies in her community: high school seniors and bilingual Latino families. Her heartfelt creative strategies to involve communities who have historically been left out of the loop are precisely what has made the larger progressive effort such a success.

**THE MEDIA MOGUL Mario Henderson – Florida A&M University, Tallahassee**

Presentation is everything, so Mario has enlisted his local media in shedding light and building excitement about the electoral process both at his campus and in his broader community. Getting TV1, his local access/news channel, involved in covering the Election Day efforts and festivities has been a huge success and we are excited for the opportunity to share our excitement with its viewers around the country.

**THE PRODUCERS Curtis Maples and Jason Richberg – Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, OH**

Curtis, Jason and fellows across Ohio collaborated to build a statewide student get-out-the-vote force, building on the work of former YP4 fellows. Before Election Day, 50 percent of the Wilberforce University campus had already turned out to vote early or by mail. Today, they will cap their work by interviewing voters old and new for pieces highlighting the issues and needs of this election and our time. The videos will be displayed on 10 flat-screen televisions in collaboration with **Video the Vote**.

*Young People For (YP4), a program of People For the American Way Foundation, is identifying, engaging and empowering the newest generation of progressive leaders to create lasting change in their communities. Our yearlong fellowship program for college students kicks off with a five-day National Summit in Washington, D.C. and provides organizational and financial support for executing meaningful social justice work. **Learn more at [www.YP4.org](http://www.YP4.org).***

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