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**Former Presidential Advisor  
and ABC Political Commentator Matthew Dowd  
Gives “Critical Mission Briefing”  
During Fundraiser for the Austin Community College  
Center for Public Policy and Political Studies**

***Dowd to Discuss Presidential Campaign and  
Impact of Upcoming Election***

AUSTIN—On October 16, 2008, ABC Political Commentator, Matthew Dowd, will give a “Critical Mission Brief” during a fundraiser luncheon, benefiting the Austin Community College (ACC) Center for Public Policy and Political Studies (CPPPS). Not only will Dowd discuss the need for public involvement in the political process, he will also talk about the upcoming presidential election—the status of the presidential campaigns, who he predicts will win the election and the impact it will have on our nation.

CPPPS, a nonpartisan and externally funded 501c (3), follows ACC’s path of responsiveness to Central Texas students’ needs. The interactive educational resources of the center provide opportunities for faculty and students to engage in the public policy process. Overseeing the nonprofit is a Board of Directors chaired by former Austin Mayor Bruce Todd.

“We believe that it is important to get the young leaders of tomorrow at ACC involved with governmental processes in a positive and stimulating manner,” said Todd. “Our collective goal is to demonstrate that whether these young people choose public affairs as an honorable vocation or avocation, they will understand that it is a vital part of their life and future.”

Former mayor Todd has served as President of the Board of the ACC CPPPS since its inception in 2007. During that time, the center has already conducted several successful ventures including the first paid internship for government students, a highly successful celebration of the U.S. Constitution, and its hosting of the Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court at ACC. Guest speaker, Dowd, currently serves as an ABC News Political Contributor.

Dowd's recent political work includes serving as the Chief strategist on two winning reelection efforts—for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006 and for President George W. Bush in 2004. His innovative approach and leadership on the 2004 campaign led the bi-partisan American Association of Political Consultants to name him Pollster/Strategist of the Year. Dowd has helped former Democrat Texas lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock win election and re-election, and served as a member of Democrat U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen's senate and campaign staffs.

A frequent contributor to many news shows and now a political commentator for ABC news, Dowd has taught at the University of Texas' LBJ School of Public affairs and has led seminars at Stanford, Harvard and Yale Universities. He is also co-author of the *New York Times* bestseller, Applebee's America: How Successful Political, Business and Religious Leaders Connect with the New American Community.

In America, levels of participation in the electoral process have fluctuated between dismal and anorexic—until now. Proof of our newfound vigor is revealed in the high numbers of people voting in primaries and caucuses (especially young people) and attending rallies. 2008 has already proven to be an historic year.

“[Many] voters have little faith in elected officials...an overwhelming number of [people] say they turn to their peers for answers to big problems rather than political, business, or religious institutions,” Matthew Dowd, said.

Consequently, it is the commitment of Dowd and the ACC CPPPS to bring attention to this problem and to finding workable solutions. With more than 50% of the nation's young people starting college at two-year education centers, it is vitally important as well as patriotic to support the only U.S. Public Policy Center at a community college. How well we train our youth will determine the success of our future.

The luncheon is on October 16, 2008 (just about two weeks shy of the election) at 11:30 a.m. at the UT Alumni Center located at 2110 San Jacinto Blvd. Some sponsorships for \$5,000 and \$2,500 tables of ten are still available, along with individual tickets for \$125. Sponsorship donations provide access to a special V.I.P. reception with Dowd before the luncheon. Sponsorships and individual tickets can be purchased online at [www.policyaustin.org](http://www.policyaustin.org).

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### **About Austin Community College Center for Public Policy & Political Studies**

The Center for Public Policy & Political Studies (CPPPS) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit center, housed under the Office of External Affairs, dedicated to expanding knowledge of, and participation in political processes and public policy for ACC students and their communities. We are committed to education, civic engagement, informed decision-making and understanding across cultures. W.R. “Peck” Young directs the center. Please go to [www.policyaustin.org](http://www.policyaustin.org) for more information.