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## **National Guard Youth Foundation and U.S. Reps. Grace Napolitano and David McKinley Will Host National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Awareness Reception on Capitol Hill**

*National Guard Youth Foundation Heads to Capitol Hill to Bring Attention to Youth ChalleNGe Program for High School Dropouts*

**Alexandria, VA** – Today on Capitol Hill, the National Guard Youth Foundation will host a reception to raise awareness of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, an evidence-based program that works with adolescents who have dropped out of high school, but are seeking an opportunity to improve themselves and their prospects for the future. The reception will take place from 5:00pm - 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at the Rayburn House Office Building in Banquet Room B338.

“Youth ChalleNGe is the best youth program in the nation, hands down,” **said Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano, Co-Chair of the Congressional Youth ChalleNGe Caucus.** “To effectively address drop out and delinquency among at-risk youth, there should be two to three programs in every state. Through discipline and mentorship, graduates emerge better able to succeed in the wider world.”

Conducted at 35 academies across the country, ChalleNGe is operated in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau, the National Guard Youth Foundation, state governments and local sites. The program consists of a 5 1/2-month residential phase framed around eight core components: academic excellence, responsible citizenship, physical fitness, leadership/followership, job skills, service to the community, health and hygiene and life coping skills and, as importantly, a 12-month post residential phase that matches a mentor to each graduate.

“For over 20 years, the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program has successfully tapped into the unseen potential of thousands of our nation’s youth,” **said Congressman David R. McKinley, Co-chair, National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Congressional Caucus.** “I encourage my colleagues to join us to learn more about how the Youth ChalleNGe Program works to combat the dropout crisis.”

“We need to expand outreach on the Hill and a shared understanding of the severity of the dropout crisis, and the effect it has on our nation’s economic health and future” **said**

**Louis A. Cabrera, National Guard Youth Foundation President.** “Our aim is to heighten awareness of the positive effects of the ChalleNGe program, one of the most cost-effective and successful programs for at-risk youth.”

Helping more than 130,000 teens to date turn their lives around, ChalleNGe is recognized as among the most cost-effective, highly rated programs of its kind for youth who have dropped out of school.

- An independent, multi-year study of the program by MDRC shows that high school diploma/GED attainment increased by 29%; college attendance increased by 86% and annual earnings increased by 20%.
- An independent cost-benefit analysis by the RAND Corporation shows a 166% return on investment in the program – every dollar spent yielded a return of \$2.66 in benefits to society.

[The ChalleNGe program was recently featured on an in-depth multi-part series on CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley.](#)

-30-

#### **About the National Guard Youth Foundation**

The National Guard Youth Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to addressing the nation’s school dropout crisis by giving youth a second chance through the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. NGYF advocates for and supports ChalleNGe, run by the National Guard; raises awareness of the impact that the school dropout crisis has on our society, economy and national security; and provides ChalleNGe graduates with scholarships and career support to help them continue on their path of success. For more information, visit [www.ngyf.org](http://www.ngyf.org).

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