

And I appreciate you bringing up that point. It makes sense. So how many businesses are actively involved with the community college system, would you say? Are you the right person to ask? Maybe Dr. Wallace knows that.

Mr. McCollum. We've got 4,000 businesses that are members of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, and I don't know the exact number within—

The President. A lot?

Mr. McCollum. But I would say 75 percent would be a very easy number.

The President. No wonder this is such a vibrant community. It is utilizing all its assets to continually—to make this—Jacksonville an attractive place for a lot of reasons, and—got anything else you want to say?

Mr. McCollum. Just thank you for being here, and thank you for the job you're doing.

The President. Yes, thanks. Listen, I—[*applause*]
—thanks. I want to thank our—the folks sitting up here, willing to get in front of all the cameras and talk. [*Laughter*]
You can get used to it. [*Laughter*]

But I hope you found this interesting. I certainly did. I love to see success. And I think part of my job is to herald success, and part of the job of those of us who have been elected is to focus on success, which means results. And we're getting fantastic results all around our country from our wonderful community college system.

Jeb told me that coming to—when I came to Jacksonville, I'd see one of the great community college systems in the country. I suspect he's right, Dr. Wallace. You get a lot of credit for it. And you get a lot of credit for being able to attract well-motivated, incredibly smart students.

So I want to thank you all for coming today. May God bless you all. May God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:59 p.m. at the South Campus. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Mayor John Peyton of Jacksonville, FL; and J. David Armstrong, Jr., chancellor, Florida Community Colleges & Workforce Education, Florida Department of Education.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

January 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council.

Later in the morning, at the U.S. Agency for International Development, the President met with presidents of international relief organizations to discuss relief efforts following the December 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunamis in the Indian Ocean.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. Later, also in the Oval Office, he met with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

Later in the afternoon, the President received a briefing and participated in a discussion on efforts to improve tsunami monitoring and warning systems in response to the December 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunamis in the Indian Ocean. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in an interview with *The Wall Street Journal*.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority to congratulate him on his January 9 election victory.

The President announced that he has named Allan B. Hubbard as Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council.

The President announced that he has named Candida Perotti Wolff as Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

January 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government

to discuss the upcoming elections in Iraq. He then had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President met with Attorney General John Ashcroft. Later, he met with Defense Minister Sergey Borisovich Ivanov of Russia.

Later in the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with *The Washington Times*.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Chertoff to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

The President declared an emergency in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on December 21–23, 2004.

The President declared an emergency in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record snow on December 22–24, 2004.

January 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Falls Church, VA. Upon arrival at J.E.B. Stuart High School, they met with school officials and international baccalaureate program students.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an interview with Barbara Walters of ABC's "20/20" show for later broadcast.

January 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Arlington, VA.

Later in the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with teachers and a principal to discuss education priorities. Later, he met with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

Later in the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with *USA Today*. He then participated in an interview with representatives of regional media.

The President announced that he has named Jim Towey as Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

January 14

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ghazi al-Ujayl al-Yawr of the Iraqi Interim Government to discuss President al-Yawr's visit to Europe and the upcoming elections in Iraq. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Jacksonville, FL, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to designate Kent R. Hill as Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The President announced his intention to appoint William T. Ryan as a member of the Board of Directors of the Rural Telephone Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate David A. Balton for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph R. DeTrani for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as