



February 12, 2004

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Student Statesmanship Institute (SSI) On-Site Program. This leadership training program for high school students uses a mock legislature format to teach students how to apply a biblical worldview to real world issues. The program combines biblical or Christian worldview and leadership training, something Cornerstone University also considers the foundation of its educational mission, to help high school students sharpen their grasp of contemporary issues, develop their critical thinking and interpersonal relationship skills, and learn how to apply their biblically based values to marketplace. SSI wishes to develop students who are winsome, respectful of others who hold differing views, and properly engaged with the political and social opportunities afforded by a free and democratic society.

I have seen this program and its staff "in action" on more than one occasion, and I must say I am impressed. I like both the program's intent and content, and I like its results. No student is indoctrinated or badgered to think or express certain views. Rather, students are instructed-by-doing and encouraged. The point of the program is to invest in high school youth so that they develop greater understanding and abilities toward becoming informed citizens of character.

A program like SSI is especially needed, I think, at a time when parents, teachers, pundits, and politicians nationally are talking about both the "dumbing down" and the "debasement" of our culture. Articles appear regularly in publications like *U.S. News & World Report*, *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and a host of other periodicals or newspapers representing a variety of ideological viewpoints, nearly all of which are decrying a declining moral consensus among young people. Respect for human life and dignity, individual responsibility, work ethic, manners and civility seem to be in decreasing supply. Of course we cannot influence every student, and of course not every student evidences negative personal characteristics—and this is where SSI makes its contribution.

SSI partners with high schools, augmenting not replacing a school's established curriculum. SSI works with students who want to learn how to be influential and honorable citizens. My own doctorate is in Political Science, so the context through which SSI teaches values and leadership skills is near and dear to my heart. I've seen many similar programs over the years but none that I like better. So, I highly recommend SSI to you without hesitation or reservation. I am sure your students will benefit from the program as much as students in my area have benefited, some of whom have eventually continued their education at Cornerstone University. If I may assist you further in any way, please call upon me.

Sincerely,

Rex M. Rogers
President

RMR/mls

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

1001 EAST BELTLINE AVENUE NE

GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN

49525-5897

phone (616) 222-1428

fax (616) 222-1515

Rex_M_Rogers@cornerstone.edu

www.cornerstone.edu