

# EDWARD M. KENNEDY INSTITUTE

## FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Dear David,

It was good to have those brief minutes with you a few weeks ago, even though it was the sad occasion of Senator Kennedy's memorial service that brought us together. While it is impossible to heal the enormous void left by the Senator's death in a few short weeks, I have taken great comfort in my involvement in the Institute founded in his name. It is an institute dedicated to fulfilling his vision of educating the general public, students, teachers, new Senators, and Senate staff about the role and importance of the Senate.

I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on our brief conversation by giving you more of an overview of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate (The EMK Institute). You will see in this overview that a distinguished advisory council will serve as a critical central resource for the work of the Institute. I have, in fact, the distinct pleasure of inviting you to serve as a member of this Advisory Council as a "distinguished historian." But first—more about the Institute and its mission.

The Institute, to be located on the University of Massachusetts campus, adjacent to the John F. Kennedy Library at Columbia Point, has been conceived to preserve the Senate's past, illuminate its present, and inspire those who will lead the nation in the future. Through innovative, participatory educational programs, the Institute will give the general public, teachers, Senators, Senate staff, and others in public service an extraordinary window into the workings of the U.S. Senate. This opportunity will enable them to learn about every aspect of the Senate's operations, including its history, rules, customs, and the critical skills that every successful Senator must possess.

The Institute will feature and celebrate the legislative career of Senator Kennedy and use his collective papers to focus attention on how the Senate shapes public policy and the nation. The physical space will be a dynamic learning laboratory with access to a vast trove of information—including the papers of all Senators—through an extensive digital library available on-site and on-line.

We envision tailoring specific educational programs for different segments of the population. Some of those programs could include, for example, a "Summer Senate" for high school students, where two students from each state would travel to Boston to spend an extended time at the Institute. It's also likely we will provide mock Senate sessions, seminars, and symposia for the general public as well as teacher training programs to help educators better engage their students in contemporary issues.

We also envision designing comprehensive educational programs specifically for incoming Senators and their staff to help them prepare for their new roles. During seminars for sitting Senators and other public officials that will focus on complex contemporary issues, we would experts from appropriate fields and provide a forum for the exploration of different points of view and strategies. The Institute

will also host foreign leaders to help them better understand the role and the function of the Senate in American democracy.

We will bring many of these programs to life in the signature space of the Institute—a room that will be representative of the Senate Chamber. The 40,000 square foot building will also feature museum, exhibit, ceremonial, and reception spaces, a library, a research area, and several classrooms. The design of the building is complementary to the adjacent presidential library, and we anticipate that we will break ground during the first half of next year. Our hope is that the building will be ready for occupancy by early 2012 (?).

As you can see, we not only have an aggressive construction schedule but also have envisioned comprehensive and compelling educational and leadership opportunities for the Institute. But we need help and guidance to make all this a reality. For that reason, we are establishing a distinguished bi-partisan Advisory Council to help shape the programming of the Institute and to participate in events. The Council will include Senators, educators, a range of leaders in key disciplines, and esteemed historians such as yourself. Council members will be called upon to work with the staff and Board of Directors as the Institute takes shape in the formative years.

The Council will meet periodically. As a distinguished advisor, we may call upon you to help in such duties as shaping plans for the initial programs, and developing, leading, or participating in those programs. We may also ask you to serve as an ambassador for the Institute within your professional area, recommending colleagues to participate in working groups and programs.

I hope that this has given you a better understanding of the Institute's mission and your potential role, should you agree to it. I also hope you feel comfortable that we are heading in the right direction to honor Senator Kennedy's lifetime of public service. As we develop the vision for this Institute, we are laser-focused on doing justice to his stated wish that, "To preserve our vibrant democracy for future generations, I believe it is crucial to have a place where citizens can go learn first-hand about the Senate's important role in our system of government."

I look forward to hearing from you in response to my request and would be honored to include you as one of our distinguished advisors.

With best wishes.

Peter Meade President and CEO