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**Former President Clinton Announces Impact of Student and University
Commitments to Action at Second
Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) Meeting**

*Michael Black, Sheza Hamdy, Joseph Konkell, and Thomas Mendez
of the University of St. Thomas among CGI U commitment-makers*

New York, NY – President Bill Clinton hosted the second Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) at The University of Texas at Austin February 13-15, 2009 and announced new projects that students and universities are undertaking to improve the world.

Among those projects was a commitment titled University of St. Thomas Social Entrepreneurship Initiative, made by **Michael Black, Sheza Hamdy, Joseph Konkell, and Thomas Mendez** of the University of St. Thomas. The group is giving two micro-loans to honey farmers and artisans in Mayan villages while also trying to expand their program to U.S. college campuses through a \$2 a day challenge, where students will have the opportunity to experience what life can be like on a meager income.

CGI U builds on the successful model of the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting, which celebrates its fifth anniversary this year, to engage college students and administrators to make commitments to address global issues with practical, innovative solutions.

“Through Clinton Global Initiative University, students and universities have made more than 1,700 commitments that affect hundreds of thousands of lives and make a difference in their communities and worldwide,” President Clinton said. “Our meeting this year at The University of Texas at Austin displayed the power young people and institutions of higher education have to positively impact the global challenges we face.”

The CGI U Meeting, hosted by of Student Government at The University of Texas at Austin, convened nearly 1,000 college students and almost 70 university presidents, as well as leading non-profit organizations, social entrepreneurs, and youth leaders. Other attendees included NFL All-Star Nnamdi Asomugha, FSU Student-Athlete Myron Rolle, the Daily Show’s John Oliver, Matthew McConaughey, Natalie Portman, Luke Russert, and Morgan Spurlock.

The CGI U Meeting schedule consisted of several working sessions and discussions devoted to five focus areas: education, energy & climate change, global health, human rights & peace, and poverty alleviation. Over the course of the day, President Clinton announced several exemplary commitments made by both students and universities, descriptions of which are included below. Prior to attending the meeting, students and faculty submitted proposals on their plans to take action on these issues.

Commitments ranged from small actions with big impacts, such as installing energy-efficient light bulbs in low-income homes, to more ambitious projects such as rebuilding schools in war-stricken regions of Sudan. Students will carry out these projects over the coming months and years, and report back to CGI U on their progress and results.

President Clinton announced that as a result of commitments made by students in 2008 at the inaugural CGI U Meeting at Tulane University in New Orleans:

- More than 26,000 university students and 2,000 university faculty and staff became actively engaged in efforts to promote clean energy, mitigate climate change, alleviate poverty, improve global health, and promote human rights and peace.
- More than 74,000 members of the university community were reached by educational efforts and outreach about clean energy, environmental awareness, and sustainability.
- More than 3,800 new recycling containers were placed on college campuses and in the surrounding community.
- Students raised \$260,000 for humanitarian relief, and more than 2,500 refugees received assistance.
- Students raised \$375,000 to fund scholarships and collected more than \$100,000 worth of educational resources including books, laptops, uniforms, and pencils for students in need.
- Students raised \$354,000 to fund global health programs and have reached over 70,000 people with healthcare and social services.

To conclude CGI U, President Clinton was joined by CGI U Meeting attendees in a community service project at the Rosewood Park and Recreation Center in East Austin. They worked with students from The University of Texas at Austin to take part in a wide range of community service activities.

Students not in attendance at The University of Texas at Austin were able to follow the meeting live via webcast, and can make their own commitments online by visiting www.cgiu.org.

About the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

CGI is a project of the non-partisan Clinton Foundation that brings together a community of global leaders to identify and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. Since 2005, CGI's Annual Meetings have brought together more than 100 current and former heads of state, hundreds of leading global CEOs, heads of foundations and major philanthropists, directors of the most effective non-governmental organizations, and prominent members of the media. These CGI members have made nearly 1,200

commitments valued at \$46 billion to address poverty alleviation, climate change, global health, education and other issues. These commitments have already impacted more than 200 million lives in 150 countries. Commitments made at the 2008 Annual Meeting are expected to impact almost 160 million people. CGI will celebrate its Fifth Anniversary Meeting from September 22-25, 2009 in New York City.