

February 26, 2003

General Henry Hugh Shelton  
5008 Swinton Dr.  
Fairfax, VA 22032

Dear General Shelton:

On behalf of the governors of 13 states and Puerto Rico, I would like to invite you to give a keynote address at a pivotal conference on leadership and citizen engagement in the South. The conference, scheduled for June 1-3, 2003, in Biloxi, Mississippi, will attract some 400 of the South's top leaders from the worlds of business, academia and public service.

This conference will explore leadership issues that are critical in bringing about positive change in our states and communities, including the importance of developing leadership among our youth. Your well-deserved reputation for leadership will give this topic the prominence it deserves. I know our region's public and private leaders would warmly receive your insights and would welcome the opportunity to learn more about the leadership initiative that you have launched at North Carolina State University.

The conference is being organized by the Southern Growth Policies Board, for which I serve as chairman. Southern Growth, which was formed by the Southern governors in 1971, is a nonprofit, interstate compact composed of governors, legislators and citizen representatives from each of its member jurisdictions. Its mission is to help improve the economy and quality of life in the South through dialog and collaboration among a wide cross-section of the region's policy and program leaders. (See [www.southern.org](http://www.southern.org).)

For additional information on the conference, please contact Jim Clinton, Southern Growth's executive director, at (919) 941-5145 or [yclinton@southern.org](mailto:yclinton@southern.org). I would be grateful if you would be part of this historic and exciting meeting on the future of the South and look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

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RM:klr