



## News Release

Contact:

George Ellis 513 673-7783

Daniel Drent 513 312-4006

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Students at Xavier rewarded by Ann Coulter appearance** **Over \$28,000 for progressive student groups**

CINCINNATI, September 11, 2007 – Last Thursday, September 6, 2007, the campus of Xavier University could have been a day where hatred and discrimination reigned. That was the day Ann Coulter arrived on campus. Unlike other appearances by Ms. Coulter, it was a day where diversity, equality and freedom of speech were celebrated. Ms. Coulter delivered her message to exactly 1,273 people at the Cintas Center, meaning more than half of the seats were empty. Not far away, about 200 people gathered to “Thank Ann” for coming to Xavier. Her appearance allowed Equality Cincinnati, along with several organizations, to raise over \$28,000 to give to six student groups at Xavier. These six groups are the same type of groups the Ms. Coulter routinely attacks. The majority of the funds came in \$5 and \$10 dollar donations, from over 4,000 people for all across the country.

“The organizers of this rally could have chosen to protest outside of the Ann Coulter event directly, could have chosen to disrupt that event,” stated George Ellis, President of Equality Cincinnati. “That too would have been a demonstration of our freedom of speech. Instead, the organizers chose to use the appearance of this rather witless, mean-spirited person to create a positive force on the campus of Xavier.”

“Ann’s message is one of division,” said Bo Shuff, director of education and public policy for Equality Ohio. “Ann seeks to separate individuals and separate groups from each other. We sought the opposite, we wanted to bring diverse groups together.”

It was clear to see that students groups that will share the funds; will use them to help promote fairness and equality for all students at Xavier and beyond. Every person that accepted the funds, on behalf of their group, clearly stated that it makes no difference if you are man or women, black or white, gay or straight, everyone deserves the same fair and equal treatments. As the future leaders in our country, we can all have faith that we are on the right track for equality.

Ellis continues, “Equality Cincinnati was proud to be supportive of this positive response to a political pundit who stands against everything in which we believe. We were proud to be a part of this novel approach to protest and look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with Equality Ohio and the other organizers of this event.”

Equality Cincinnati would like thank you to all the partners that helped to make this event a success: Equality Ohio, ProgressOhio, People for the American Way, Human Rights Campaign, National Organization for Women – Cincinnati and Democracy for Cincinnati. Without their efforts and support this event would not have happened. Also, thank you to the leaders, staff and students at Xavier for welcoming us to their campus for this event.

Below are the XU student groups that were beneficiaries of the this campaign

Alpha Phi Alpha - Since it's founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African-Americans and people of color around the world.

Black Student Association - The purpose of the Black Student Association is to promote the interests of the Black students of Xavier University, advocate their rights and privileges, and to teach the Xavier community and the public as a whole the significance of African-American culture.

Voices of Solidarity - VOS's mission is to generate an increased sense of awareness, leading to practical actions on the behalf of impoverished peoples in developing areas not only in Latin America but also in all parts of the world.

Xavier Alliance - The Xavier Alliance, established in 2001, is the primary forum for discussion and education of gay issues on campus, as well as being a useful resource for students, faculty, and staff.

Xavier Women's Center - The Xavier Women's Center serves as a highly visible point of connection for maximizing the collective impact of people and programs committed to women's equity.

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For more information on Equality Cincinnati please visit our website at [www.equalitycincinnati.org](http://www.equalitycincinnati.org).

Equality Cincinnati is a non-profit organization working for full equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in the greater Cincinnati region.