



Saturday, October 29, 2005

Edwards, Forbes to speak

Former candidates will lecture on government

By Howard McEwen
Enquirer contributor

Northern Kentucky University will host a discussion with two past and possibly future presidential contenders at 7 p.m. Tuesday at NKU's Regent's Hall.

Former U.S. Senator and Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards and Forbes Magazine editor in chief and two-time Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes will discuss "Governing in America: The Power Behind the Politics" at the 2005 NKU Alumni Lecture.

Deidra Fajack, director of alumni programs, said this is another example of the university's outreach to Northern Kentucky.

"We have increasingly tried to become more involved and spread our education into the community. We also want to encourage people to become more involved and become educated about the political process," Fajack said.

However, that outreach is stretching beyond Northern Kentucky.

Working in conjunction with the NKU Student Government Association, discount prices have been extended to any Kentucky high school or university student.

"We have students coming from all the other universities in the state - UK, Louisville, Morehead and others," Fajack said.

John Lucas was in NKU's first graduating class in 1973 and served as chairman of the lecture's organizing committee. He agreed that the university is expanding its role.

"The university is clearly putting its footprint on Northern Kentucky and the commonwealth," Lucas said. "I've seen it grow from a small local college to a regional university that's now attracting students from around the state."

Senior Jennifer Perry, who serves as president of the Student Government Association, also believes it beneficial for NKU.



ZOOM

John Edwards: One-term Democratic Senator from North Carolina and 2004 Democratic vice-presidential candidate. His stump speech during the 2000 presidential race often referred to "two Americas", one privileged and one poor.

ADVERTISEMENT



ZOOM

Steve Forbes: Ran for the Republican Party nomination for president in 1996 and 2000. Fortune inherited from his father's publishing business. Current editor-in-chief of Forbes magazine and President and CEO of Forbes Inc.

"It's an awesome experience," she said. "It gets the students exposed to other aspects of life - business and politics.

"When we bring two gentlemen like this to campus, it brings NKU more respect and raises our esteem in the eyes of the community."

This is the sixth year for the lecture series and the first that has attracted speakers who might be actively campaigning for a future presidential election.

Past guests include former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former presidential candidates Bob Dole and George McGovern, former New York governor Mario Cuomo and Watergate journalist Bob Woodward.

Lucas thinks the caliber of speakers will continue to rise.

"The word is out that NKU is a good place to visit," he said.

Tickets for the lecture are \$30 for the general public, \$25 for alumni and NKU faculty/staff, and \$5 for students.

More information is available by calling (859) 572-5486.

[Print](#) | [Go back](#) | Copyright 2005, *The Enquirer*