



# BOSTON COLLEGE

## "LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM AMERICAN HISTORY"

### PULITZER PRIZE WINNER DAVID McCULLOUGH OFFERS EXCLUSIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT INAUGURATION OF CARROLL SCHOOL'S WINSTON CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP & ETHICS

CHESTNUT HILL, MA (May 4, 2006) -- Pulitzer-prize winning historian David McCullough told a capacity Boston College audience today that the best way to educate leaders for the future is to take a good look at the past.



McCullough was the keynote speaker at the inaugural event of the Clough Colloquium Series, sponsored by the Carroll School of Management's Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics held at the Robsham Theater. The address was part of a day of events to formally launch the Winston Center, which was announced last fall.

"If you want to be a leader, if you want to teach the future leaders, if you want to encourage leadership at all levels of society, you have got to teach history," McCullough said.

"How do we know who we are, what happened and why it happened if we don't know history?" he asked. "Young people of today can go everywhere – and do – but they don't know where 'everywhere' is," he said, drawing peals of audience laughter. "The real problem with American education, and including most importantly, the education of leadership, is us. We have to show our interest in history."

McCullough, author of a number of highly-acclaimed books, including *John Adams*, *Truman* and *1776*, frequently cited the characteristics of key American leaders that are evident through the study of history.

"When George Washington took command of the Continental Army in the summer of 1775," he said, "he was appointed by the Continental Congress not because of his military achievement, but because they knew the man. They knew his integrity. They knew his character and they knew they could count on him.

"Washington was not an intellectual. He was not a spell-binding orator. Nor was he a military genius," McCullough noted. "What he was, was a leader," he said. "He knew what he was about; he knew why he was taking the job, even though he did not want to."

McCullough said that honesty and common sense are important qualities to be found in successful leaders. "Another important ingredient of leadership is that you must be willing to have people around you who might upstage you, who in fact may be brighter than you.

"Watch out for that person who has had a flawless career, who has never failed," McCullough cautioned. "Because if they are in a job of such consequence, they are going to fail, they are

going to be criticized, they are going to be abused by the press, by political opponents, by stockholders, all kinds of people.

“If they haven’t had any experience in getting up off the ground, they are going to have a hard time handling it,” McCullough said.

“To me it is not coincidental that the most effective presidents we have had down through the years have been those men who have had some sense of history, who read history, who cared about history, who loved history and who wrote history,” he said. “It’s conspicuous that Washington had it, Adams had it, Jefferson had it, so did Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman.”

The Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics at the Carroll School of Management draws on Boston College’s Jesuit tradition of values-based scholarship, education, and personal formation. Endowed with a principal gift from Los Angeles businessman Robert L. Winston, a retired senior vice president of American Fund Distributors and 1960 alumnus of BC, the Center sponsors a substantial program of research, seminars, colloquia, residencies, and a public lecture series.

The Clough Colloquium Series was established by a gift from former University Board of Trustees chairman Charles I. Clough, a 1964 graduate of Boston College, and his wife Gloria L. Clough, who received an MS degree from the University in 1996. By sponsoring symposia and conferences on issues of broad public concern and by bringing to Boston College outstanding leaders from the United States and abroad, the Clough Colloquium series helps executives, students and faculty gain special insight into the challenges of ethical leadership in contemporary culture.

Another component of the Winston Center is the Chambers Lecture series, a gift from Norman A. Chambers, a 1982 alumnus, and Monever A. Chambers, which brings high-profile speakers to campus for public programs and student-focused activities. Consistent with Boston College’s commitment of fostering the personal development of its students, The Chambers series offers perspectives and guidance designed to mold ethical leaders of the future.

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