

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENT PRESIDENT F.W. DE KLERK SPEAKING IN PHOENIX

Shared Prize with Nelson Mandela and Helped End Apartheid in South Africa

July 11, 2016 (Phoenix, AZ) – Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former President of South Africa F.W. de Klerk will be the featured guest for the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute *Distinguished Speakers Series*, in collaboration with Arizona State University and ASU's Thunderbird School of Global Management. President de Klerk will speak on the topic of *Developing World-Developing Leaders* at a luncheon on Monday, September 26 at the Omni Montelucia Resort in Paradise Valley.

In 1993, the Nobel Peace Prize was presented to de Klerk and Nelson Mandela “for their work for the peaceful termination of the apartheid regime, and for laying the foundations for a new democratic South Africa.” F.W. de Klerk was president of South Africa from 1989 to 1994, during which time he worked with Nelson Mandela to successfully end the country's apartheid system of racial segregation, expanding citizenship for its people.

During his first speech as president of South Africa in 1989, de Klerk called for an end to apartheid. He ordered Nelson Mandela released from prison and lifted the ban on the African National Congress (ANC) party. Subsequently, President de Klerk focused on ending apartheid and establishing a racially integrated democracy, meeting with several black leaders, including Mandela, who became president of the ANC in 1991.

During the nation's first free election in 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa and de Klerk became his first deputy. That same year, following arduous negotiations between black and white leaders, legislation was passed that repealed discriminatory laws in South Africa. With President Mandela, de Klerk worked to draft a new and inclusive constitution to extend political, economic, and social rights to all South Africans.

Today, President de Klerk campaigns for peace and justice worldwide. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Global Leadership Foundation, a Switzerland-based nonprofit organization he founded in 2004 which makes available the experience of former leaders to today's national leaders. The august 35-member group is comprised of former Presidents, Prime Ministers, senior government ministers and other distinguished leaders from around the globe, drawn together by a desire to strengthen democratic leadership and improve human rights worldwide.

We extend our appreciation to Ambassador Barbara Barrett for making President De Klerk' visit to Phoenix possible -- one of his two U.S. destinations.

For more information about the luncheon, contact the O'Connor Institute at 602-730-3300 or info@OConnorInstitute.org. Table sponsorships and general admission tickets are available online at www.OConnorInstitute.org

About Sandra Day O'Connor Institute

Founded in 2009 by retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the O'Connor Institute continues her distinguished legacy and lifetime work of solving important social, economic and political problems through civil discourse and civic action. At the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute, civic engagement intersects with public policy, where important decisions affecting our future are made through a process of civil discussion, critical analysis of facts and informed participation of all citizens. The O'Connor Institute works to build consensus, form collaborations and help craft solutions to vital public issues, in an environment of mutual respect and shared purpose for a better state and nation. www.OConnorInstitute.org

About ASU

Arizona State University has developed a new model for the American Research University, creating an institution that is committed to access, excellence and impact. ASU measures itself by those it includes, not by those it excludes. As the prototype for a New American University, ASU pursues research that contributes to the public good, and ASU assumes major responsibility for the economic, social and cultural vitality of the communities that surround it. www.ASU.edu

About Thunderbird School of Global Management

Thunderbird School of Global Management, founded in 1946 on a WWII military base in Glendale, Arizona where pilots from around the world came to train, was established to provide education in foreign trade and international business. Thunderbird celebrates its 70th anniversary this year as a top-ranked international business management school with offices in Glendale, Geneva, Moscow and Dubai. In 2015, Thunderbird became a part of Arizona State University as its 16th college, offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in global management and global leadership, as well as a range of courses for executive education and professional development. www.thunderbird.edu

#

MEDIA CONTACT: Heather Schader | (602)730-3300 | Heather@OConnorInstitute.org