

**\$2,500.00 Essay Competition For Students at  
Universities & Colleges in Utah Sponsored by The  
McCarthy Family Foundation**

Global Human Rights Activist and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Ingrid Betancourt will speak at the fifth annual *McCarthy Family Foundation Lecture Series: In Praise of Independent Journalism* this fall. In conjunction with the lecture (open to the public at no charge), the Foundation is sponsoring an essay contest to encourage and further student dialogue about a journalist's role in a free society.

Ms. Betancourt was captured by guerillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) as she campaigned for the Colombian presidency in 2002. She was liberated, along with 14 other hostages, in a daring rescue staged by the Colombian army in 2008. Ms. Betancourt will speak about "the role journalists played during her captivity, release, and return to society."

Students at colleges and universities in Utah are invited to write an original essay of 500 words or less, typed and double-spaced about the topic: **"How might a journalist's reporting affect the outcome of a hostage situation: risks, rewards, and responsibilities?"** The winning essayist will receive a cash award of \$2,500.00 and two reserved, front-row seats at the October 23, 2010 lecture. The winning essay will be printed in the evening's program.

Entries must include the student's name with contact information including phone number (preferably mobile), email address and the name and department of the university or college where the student is enrolled. Entries may be submitted immediately but postmarked no later than Friday, September 10, 2010. Submissions should be mailed to: ESSAY COMPETITION c/o MKL Public Relations, P.O. BOX 58 1198, Salt Lake City, Utah 84158-1198. The winner will be notified early October.

Sarah J. McCarthy (Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) will chair the jury for the essay competition. Jury members include Thomas K. McCarthy, Jr. (former associate editor, *Salt Lake Tribune*), Lois Collins (columnist and reporter, *Deseret News*), Lex Hemphill (former sports reporter/columnist, *Salt Lake Tribune*), and Nancy Melich (former reporter and arts writer, *Salt Lake Tribune*). The jury reserves the right *not* to select a winning essay.

Information is also available at [mkl@mklpr.com](mailto:mkl@mklpr.com), 801.209.3029 or by clicking on the email link [lectureseries@mklpr.com](mailto:lectureseries@mklpr.com) at [www.mklpr.com](http://www.mklpr.com).