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Contact: Bill Lacy, Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, (785) 864-4900.

Dole Institute at KU names national campaign strategist as first visiting fellow

Former Reagan White House Political Director Ed Rollins will hold a press conference at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, at KU. He is a visiting fellow at the Dole Institute.

LAWRENCE -- Former Reagan White House Political Director Ed Rollins was named the first visiting fellow at the University of Kansas' Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, Director Bill Lacy announced today.

Rollins' three-day schedule will include student, faculty and Lawrence community events Monday, Feb. 28, through Wednesday, March 2.

The inaugural Dole Institute of Politics Visiting Fellowship was made possible by a gift to the Kansas University Endowment Association from KU alumni Hub and Kathy Hall of Lecompton.

"Ed Rollins has been a major force on the American political scene for 30 years, and we are delighted to have him at the Dole Institute," said Lacy. "Ed will talk about his colorful experiences at a variety of appearances."

As President Ronald Reagan's White House political director, Rollins was the architect of Reagan's 49-state landslide re-election in 1984. Rollins later served as chairman of then-U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp's 1988 presidential campaign, executive director of the National Republican Congressional Committee and manager of Ross Perot's 1992 presidential campaign.

Rollins wrote the 1996 book "Bare Knuckles and Back Rooms," which "reveals how the modern political game is really played - - by a real player. ... Famously outspoken, Rollins is a true maverick whose gift for winning campaigns is matched only by his talent for generating controversy," according to the book jacket.

Rollins will be part of the "Electing Reagan" program, the final lecture of this year's Presidential Lecture Series, on Monday, Feb. 28.

Additionally, Rollins will visit with students at Lawrence High School and a number of KU classes, attend a dinner and lead the KU student-oriented "Pizza & Politics" on March 2. "Pizza and Politics" is a monthly feature for KU students interested in politics and public service that provides a casual presentation with political professionals. These lunches start at noon in the Centennial Room of the Kansas Union.

The institute's visiting fellow program will periodically invite distinguished political practitioners for a short-term visit to the institute. Visiting fellow schedules will involve maximum contact with students, faculty and the Lawrence community.

"We are pleased that Hub and Kathy Hall have stepped forward to make this first visiting fellowship possible," Lacy said.

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