

Democratic chair candidates share strategies with mayors

BY WILL LESTER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Candidates for the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee talked Tuesday about the need to rebuild the party from the ground up as they pitched themselves to Democratic mayors.

Howard Dean, a 2004 presidential candidate, reminded the mayors that he has run presidential campaigns, raised millions of dollars and organized voters throughout the country.

"This is all about local politics," Dean told the National Conference of Democratic Mayors at a Washington hotel. "If you want to win, you have to start at the bottom."

Dean, the former governor of Vermont, got the endorsement Tuesday of the entire DNC delegation from Florida as well as the state Democratic chairs of Mississippi, Utah, Oklahoma, Washington state and Vermont.

Simon Rosenberg, founder of the centrist New Democrat Network,

talked about the need to organize in all 50 states and touted his abilities in fund raising and devising ad campaigns. Rosenberg also has been collecting endorsements, including the backing of former DNC chair Joe Andrew and former Dean campaign manager Joe Trippi.

Former Texas Rep. Martin Frost boasted of his leadership of the Democrats' congressional campaign committee, in which he raised \$80 million over two election cycles. Frost has been endorsed by veteran Democratic organizer Robert Strauss and House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland.

Tim Roemer, the former Indiana congressman who is more conservative than the other candidates, said Democrats "need a chairman who can go into all 50 states and help Democrats win elections." He said he has confidence DNC members will not have a "litmus test" on issues like abortion; Roemer opposes some abortion procedures. He has collected

the backing of several prominent Democrats, including Louisiana Sen. John Breaux and California Rep. Ellen Tauscher.

Former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb reminded the mayors that Democrats ignore many black votes when they write off whole regions of the country, such as the South. David Leland, a former Ohio party chair, said he helped deliver Ohio for President Clinton eight years ago and can help the Democrats again.

Democratic activist Donnie Fowler said the key to party victory is "listening to people from outside Washington."

"The question about Dean is, while he will have a third of the vote easily, can he get to 50 percent?" Fowler asked. Then he referred to Dean's 2004 presidential campaign, with its huge grass-roots organization and more than \$40 million raised.

"Dean had the oranges," Fowler said, "but he couldn't make orange juice."

Education: Program adapts Japanese method

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counties. Six of the districts are classified as high-need, meaning that at least 20 percent of the students come from families with incomes below the poverty line. About 240 teachers are expected to participate.

"We're going to do an adapted version, an Oregonian version, of this Japanese lesson study," said Susan Hardwick, a geography professor and the CAS co-director of the project.

"We're going to use video and online support groups to extend it to middle and secondary teachers," she added. "I think it's going to be really exciting."

QCteach is based on the research of Marilyn Olson, coordinator of middle and secondary teacher education in the COE. Olson worked on a pilot program in the summer of 2003 and will be co-directing this program with Hardwick.

"(The program is) for teachers who don't ordinarily get financial, emotional or intellectual support from universities like the U of O," said Hardwick. "We feel like all teachers are under so much pressure right now."

The project directors hope to help schools with limited resources meet the demands of the No Child Left Behind Act. Hardwick expects the program will gain national recognition and expand after the initial three-year period.

"The legislation in Washington, the No Child Left Behind push, is really forcing teachers to become better equipped to handle the content that they teach," she said. "We wanted to write a grant that would support them, pay their tuition, pay their travel and give them the support they need to enhance their content knowledge."

The project proposal drew the attention of U.S. Department of Education officials, who awarded \$412,693 to the effort in the form of a FIPSE, or Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, grant. The grant is one of three awarded to different projects at the University in 2004 and contributes to QCteach's total budget of \$655,549.

The state's education department gave a separate grant of \$69,984. The CAS will fund about 37 percent of the project, according to the press release.

"We have content experts in different departments helping us with this," Hardwick said. "(They're)



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Marilyn Olson, coordinator of middle and secondary teacher education at the College of Education and co-director of the QCteach program, helps facilitate a meeting of content specialists.

professors who you see lecturing in the big courses or working with the graduate students. Now five of them are going to help us work with teachers.

"Those five faculty are part of a larger initiative that we created a couple years ago called ECAT, the Education Careers Advising Team," Hardwick added. "These are faculty who, for free, meet with students regularly who want to be teachers. They're advisors and supporters of future teachers."

Olson said recruitment of teachers will take place in the next two weeks.

"What we hope to do is to have the opportunity to study the results," Olson said. She said she wants to determine "how will this help the kids?"

"(Teachers) don't normally have the time to exchange ideas," Lizy Madathil, a content specialist in mathematics, said. "This gives them a chance."

The deans of the CAS and the COE responded in a press release.

"We want to improve access to the latest and best information in key subject areas — math, science, the social sciences, language arts and English as a second language — without additional cost to schools," CAS Dean Joe Stone said.

"Teachers put out hour after hour and really don't have the time or the assistance to study why some things work and others don't.

Certainly not at the level that we want to examine," COE Dean Marty Kaufman said. "We're trying to unlock the dynamic between teaching and learning so that teachers can reach more students."

A lesson study such as the one this program aims to accomplish has never been used before, Hardwick said.

"We have a whole different model that's evolving for the project," Hardwick said. "Internationally, lesson studies have been used for teacher development, but not in the unique way that Marilyn piloted and we're going to build on in this project."

In addition, Hardwick said, this is the first time the COE and the CAS have had a big grant together.

Hardwick hopes to extend the benefits of the teaching project to current CAS students.

"(Students) don't really get the support when they're getting their major in arts and sciences; the teaching comes the fifth year, after they graduate," she said. "We're trying to create programs that will support future teachers — keep them encouraged that they want to teach, motivate them and give them really solid content training in their majors and in their field."

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