SPEAKERS' PROFILES

William B. Allen, Ph.D., undertook undergraduate study at Pepperdine College and obtained a Ph.D. in government from the Claremont Graduate School. He was a Fulbright Fellow, completing a dissertation on Montesquieu and the American founding. He has served as a member of the National Council for the Humanities and as member and chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Dr. Allen is a Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University, and is currently a fellow in Princeton's Madison Program. Formerly Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Dr. Allen also previously served as Dean and Professor at James Madison College, MSU and taught at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. Recognized for excellence in liberal education on the 1997 Templeton Honor Roll, he also has been a Kellogg National Fellow and received the international Prix Montesquieu. His pending study, *Re-Thinking Uncle Tom: The Political Philosophy of H. B. Stowe*, should appear in the coming year. He recently published *Habits of Mind: Fostering Access and Excellence in Higher Education* (with Carol M. Allen).

Vidu Soni, Ph. D., received a doctoral degree from Northern Illinois University, a master of public administration degree from the University of Missouri, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Rajasthan in India. Specializing in American Government, Public Administration, and Public Policy, she is a Professor of Public Administration at Central Michigan University. Dr. Soni has published and presented papers on many aspects of affirmative action and diversity, particularly as pertaining to the workplace. Her research encompasses a wide range of personnel management topics, with a focus on ethics in corporate settings. In 2004, Dr. Soni was awarded the Michigan Public Service Award in Academia from the Michigan chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. She currently chairs the Human Resources and Labor Relations Section of the American Society of Public Administration and serves as a consultant on human resource matters to numerous organizations.

The debate will be moderated by **Bill Ballenger**, editor and publisher of *Inside Michigan Politics.* Mr. Ballenger received a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Public Administration. A former state representative and state senator, he currently also holds the Robert P. and Marjorie Griffin Endowed Professorship in American Government at Michigan Central University.

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