The Alan K. Simpson-Norman Y. Mineta Leader Series

“Super PACs” – The evolution of money as free speech and the role these groups have on political discourse, campaigns and elections

April 8, 2013 | 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm | Blinken Auditorium, TWC Residential & Academic Facility
(The dress code is business professional.)

The Simpson-Mineta Leaders Series is founded in the spirit of the lifelong friendship of two extraordinary leaders from opposite sides of the aisle. Norman Y. Mineta and Alan K. Simpson met during World War II when Simpson’s Boy Scout troop met with Mineta’s in the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming where Secretary Mineta’s family was then interned with over 10,000 other Japanese-Americans. Despite their differences, both their friendship and their commitment to leadership and public service endured.

The Simpson-Mineta Leaders Series aims to create a forum in which students from around the country and the world can engage with extraordinary leaders, explore issues of contemporary public concern, and articulate their own views about the meaning of leadership and citizenship in today’s society.

Rodell Mollineau
President – American Bridge 21st Century

Rodell Mollineau, president of American Bridge 21st Century, brings more than a decade of experience developing national message campaigns and leading high-level communications operations.

At American Bridge, Mollineau leads the overall efforts of the Super PAC and its companion 501(c)(4) foundation, overseeing the premier research and communications operation that will serve as a permanent progressive counterweight to the outside Republican groups that took hold of the electoral process in 2010.

Prior to joining American Bridge, Mollineau spent four years in the office of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) as Staff Director of the Senate Democratic Communications Center. In this role he oversaw one of the largest political communications operations in the country, directing the long-term message development and rapid response strategy of the Senate Democratic Caucus and working closely with the White House, House Leadership and members of the progressive community to coordinate message and strategy.

Mollineau is a veteran of several statewide and presidential elections and has led communications initiatives in every region of the country. He served two previous tours of duty on Capitol Hill starting his career as a press
Mollineau grew up in New York and New Jersey and is a graduate of the University of Dayton in Ohio.

American Bridge 21st Century is a progressive research and communications organization committed to holding Republicans accountable for their words and actions and helping you ascertain when Republican candidates are pretending to be something they’re not.

We understand the frustration you feel with elected officials who campaign on one set of principles but govern by another, because we feel it too. We believe you deserve better than that. We think our elected officials should have one set of principles, not one for each set of special interests they represent. Political commentator Michael Kinsley once said that the definition of a gaffe is when you catch a politician telling the truth. That’s exactly what we plan to do.

Our organization researches candidates’ records to ensure their rhetoric matches their voting records. We monitor public appearances to prevent the cynical pandering that results in a candidate taking different positions depending on the audience they are in front of. And we work to get this information to you through mainstream and social media, grassroots activism and our website.

Here at American Bridge 21st Century we believe this nation is at its best when we are building bridges: bridges that bring people together and bridges that help get us where we want to go. We believe in electing public servants that put the needs of hardworking Americans over those of special interests and who understand that the best investment we can make is in the American people.

We hope this website is helpful as you make your decision on what candidates best share your vision for the future of our country. We also hope that you join us in our mission. If you hear of a candidate or elected official playing fast and loose with the truth let us know. If you’re at a town hall meeting take out your iPhone and record it, we’d love to highlight your footage on our site. Working together we can ensure the election of public servants who will make us proud and move America forward.