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Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

Press Release

For immediate release

Panel of legislative budget experts to address deficit

During 7th Biennial Pre-Session Legislative Conference set Oct. 5 in Austin

AUSTIN (7/27/10) – The 2011 state budget and the balancing act it will require from state legislators facing a multi-billion-dollar shortfall will be the topic for a panel of three experts who will offer their insight in October at the 7th Biennial Pre-Session Legislative Conference. Long on state budget experience and ready to share information on where state dollars might fall in the biennial budget works will be Mike Morrissey, senior advisor to Gov. Rick Perry; Don Green, director of Intergovernmental Relations for Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Andrew Blifford, senior budget advisor to House Speaker Joe Straus.

The biennial conference, co-sponsored by Strategic Partnerships, Inc. and The University of Texas at Austin's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, is slated for Tuesday, Oct. 5, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Commons of the J.J. Pickle Center at The University of Texas at Austin.

The conference, held before each biennial session of the Texas Legislature, features numerous panels that address issues from the state budget to other hot-button items for the session. In the past, conference attendees have heard insider budget information from the chairs of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees and tips on working with the state's leadership from representatives of the governor's, lieutenant governor's and House Speaker's executive staffs and media gurus.

Morrissey is an old hand at state budgetary matters, having previously served as Director of the Budget, Planning and Policy Division in the Governor's Office, where he was responsible for the development, implementation and long-range planning of the state's multi-billion-dollar budget and policy initiatives. He also served as Director of Fiscal Policy for former Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff, as budget director for Perry when he was lieutenant governor and as Budget Director and special assistant to former Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock. Morrissey also worked as a budget examiner at the Legislative Budget Board.

Blifford has been in state government since 1996, when he started his public service career in the Governmental Relations divisions of the Texas Department of Economic Development, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Public Utility Commission. He also served as director of the

House Appropriations Committee under chairman Rep. Jim Pitts. Blifford joined the Speaker's Office in 2009.

Green's state government career began in 1980 at the Legislative Budget Board, where he served as a budget analyst, senior budget analyst and special assistant to the director. During his 15-year career with LBB, he worked on variety of state agency budget issues. In 1995, Green became the chief financial officer for the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. He later served as the chief financial officer for the Health and Human Services Commission and was budget director for former House Speaker Tom Craddick.

For more information regarding the event and how to register, [click here](#). More information also will be made available through press releases and in SPI's weekly newsletter, the *Texas Government Insider*, as speakers are confirmed. (To subscribe to the *Texas Government Insider* for additional information on this event as it is made available and for other government news in Texas, go to www.spartnerships.com.)

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About Strategic Partnerships, Inc.:

SPI (www.spartnerships.com) is a 15-year-old government procurement and national research firm based in Austin, Texas. Its staff of consultants, researchers and budget analysts are all former government executives.