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Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

# Press Release

For immediate release

## Sen. Watson confirmed to speak at legislative conference

Newly named to Higher Education Committee, senator to offer insight

**AUSTIN (7/16/10)** – Sen. Kirk Watson of Austin will be one of the keynote speakers for the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Legislative Communication Conference set for Tuesday, Oct. 5, and sponsored by Strategic Partnerships, Inc. and The University of Texas Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Watson will begin his third term in the Texas Senate when the legislature meets again in January 2011. In his first session as a member of the Texas Senate, he was named Legislative Rookie of the Year by *Texas Monthly* magazine. The following session he was named to the magazine's list of the 10 Best Legislators.

Always entertaining, Watson will share his personal insight on the upcoming session, where legislators will once again tackle redistricting and face a budget deficit that some have predicted will be upwards of \$18 billion. In a recent shakeup of Senate committees, Watson retained his vice chair position with the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee and was for the first time named to the Higher Education Committee, a plum assignment for a senator whose district includes The University of Texas at Austin.

In addition to Watson's keynote address, the biennial conference will also feature other speakers and panels whose input is designed to assist agency officials, board members and senior state officials prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Those attending will hear from budget gurus from the state's leadership's offices, hear tips on how to deal with government leaders and hear from legislators directly involved in the state budget process. A panel of media and political wonks will also offer their predictions for what the session will hold.

The event will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 5 at The Commons of the J.J. Pickle Center at The University of Texas at Austin. The conference typically draws attendance by state agency executives and employees, representatives of nonprofits, higher and public education officials and others interested in the legislative process, the state budget and the workings of legislative committees and state boards and agencies.

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](http://www.spartnerships.com).)

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***About Strategic Partnerships, Inc.:***

SPI ([www.spartnerships.com](http://www.spartnerships.com)) is a government procurement and national research firm based in Austin, Texas. Its staff of consultants, researchers and budget analysts are all former government executives.