



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Former White House and State Department Advisor
To Become 1st CALC Executive Director**

MOBILE, AL – Colby J. Cooper, who served as a principal advisor to former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for over a decade, will become the first executive director of the newly formed Coastal Alabama Leadership Council (CALC).

“This is a perfect fit,” said CALC chairman Ricky Mathews, who is also publisher of the Mobile Press-Register. “Colby was ready for a new stage in his career at the exact moment our organization was ready to take the next step.”

Before joining Secretary Rice at the Department of State, Cooper, 35, served as the Director for Communications and Media Relations on the National Security Council at the White House, where he was responsible for long-range foreign policy communications planning and initiative roll-outs. He traveled internationally with Secretary Rice and President George W. Bush and helped plan and manage key meetings and conferences in the U.S. and abroad.

Cooper is a 1999 graduate of Bucknell University, where he lettered in varsity football. He and his family live in Fairhope, AL.

“I’m excited about joining the CALC,” said Cooper. “To partner in shaping the mission and operations of an organization like this, with so many regional leaders already committed to its success, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

The Coastal Alabama Leadership Council is a non-profit organization of business CEOs and non-profit leaders. Its formation, early in 2011, implements a key recommendation of the Coastal Recovery Commission (CRC) of Alabama in the wake of the 2010 Gulf oil spill: To create a permanent coalition of individuals, companies and non-profits to facilitate planning and implementation of initiatives to enhance environmental, societal and economic health on a regional scale. A foundation for those initiatives was laid in the CRC’s December 2010 report, “A Roadmap to Resilience.” (www.crcalabama.org)

“Hiring Colby,” said Mathews, “readies us for an enthusiastic outreach effort to add members and broaden the base of the Leadership Council.”

Cooper is expected to assume the duties of CALC executive director in October of 2011.

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CONTACT: Ben Brown; ben@placemakers.com; 828.508.5002