



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2009

**FLORIDA BLOOD SERVICES WELCOMES SEVEN TURKISH DELEGATES
WITH THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS
(ACYPL)**

(St. Petersburg, FL: 3/06/09) Florida Blood Services (FBS) will host an international delegation from Turkey beginning at 2:15 pm on Monday, March 9, 2009. They will meet with FBS management and be given a tour of the FBS laboratories and facilities, located at 10100 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N. in St. Petersburg. This visit is part of a multi-city exchange program sponsored by the US Department of State.

The group, whose ages range from 25-40, will visit the Tampa Bay area with a political exchange program arranged by the ACYPL. The program, which is designed to promote mutual understanding of the American political system at all levels, provides the delegates with an opportunity to learn more about the American culture, discuss international issues, and build lasting professional relationships with their American counterparts. The Turkish delegation will arrive on Saturday, March 7th and depart on Tuesday, March 10th.

Headquartered in St. Petersburg, FBS currently provides blood and blood components to patients at 61 hospitals and other ambulatory healthcare facilities in 14 Northwest Florida, Southern Alabama and Tampa Bay counties. After a merger is finalized this April with Southeastern Community Blood Center in Tallahassee, a combined total of almost 300,000 volunteer donations will be needed annually to serve patients at 84 hospitals in 40 counties.

About The American Council of Young Political Leaders(ACYPL):

ACYPL is a bipartisan, non-profit educational exchange organization dedicated to fostering relations between the next generation of political leaders in the United States and their counterparts around the world. Its practical education programs include international exchanges, foreign policy and democracy conferences and election study programs.

Each year ACYPL sends young Americans (age 25-40) on political study tours abroad and organizes reciprocal visits to the United States. Participants learn diplomatic skills, engage in dialogue on bilateral issues and forge professional relationships through the unique access they receive to the political leadership of the nation(s) they visit. The programs are made possible through an annual grant from the US Department of State.

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