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BGR MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release – October 18, 2016

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CBS News President David Rhodes to Speak at BGR's Annual Luncheon

News Coverage in Challenging Times is Timely Topic

New Orleans (October 18, 2016) – The Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR) 2016 Annual Luncheon will offer a captivating conversation around serious news coverage in these challenging times, including commentary on this political season. The November 30th event will feature CBS News President David Rhodes and is an exciting opportunity for the engaged citizens of greater New Orleans to receive a unique, national perspective.

Mr. Rhodes oversees the news division and all news content for the CBS Television Network, CBS digital platforms and CBS News Radio. This includes the *CBS Evening News*, *CBS This Morning*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *Face the Nation*, *48 Hours* and *60 Minutes*.

Rhodes will be introduced by WWL-TV President Tod Smith; WWL-TV is New Orleans' CBS affiliate. Following Rhodes' remarks, retired WWL-TV anchor and BGR Board Member Dennis Woltering will moderate a question-and-answer session.

“We are excited to have David Rhodes as our Annual Luncheon speaker,” stated Mark A. Mayer, Chairman of the BGR Board. “His unique perspective on the business of gathering and reporting the news should prove fascinating—especially this year.”

BGR's Annual Luncheon has a history of featuring award-winning journalists, such as Kathleen Parker, Steve Roberts and Jonathan Capehart.

Last year, *New York Times* Op-Ed Columnist Maureen Dowd addressed BGR's supporters.

"We are proud to feature Mr. Rhodes this year and look forward to his insight on the current media landscape," said Amy Glovinsky, BGR President & CEO. "As BGR's sole fundraising event, this luncheon provides important financial support for BGR's good government work."

About the BGR 2016 Annual Luncheon:

BGR's 2016 Annual Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, November 30, at noon at the New Orleans Marriott. To reserve tables and tickets, or to view a full list of current table sponsors, please visit www.bgr.org. BGR is grateful for the support of this year's event sponsors, Whitney Bank and Latter & Blum Inc., and to our host, the New Orleans Marriott. BGR's annual business meeting, during which BGR's members will elect the 2017 Board of Directors, will immediately precede the luncheon program.

About BGR's Work:

Revenue from the fundraiser will support BGR's core activities: local government monitoring, policy analysis, publication of reports, and post-publication implementation work. BGR's 2016 workplan includes: nonprofit tax exemptions; the charter authorizing structure in Orleans Parish; local pension plan reform; a potential drainage fee in New Orleans; and options for funding street repair and maintenance. For the tenth year in a row, BGR was recognized by its national peers in governmental research for outstanding work. The Governmental Research Association presented the award for Outstanding Policy Achievement for *The Accidental Steward: The Orleans Parish School Board as a Resource Manager in the Reform Era*. BGR also won the award for Most Distinguished Research for *The \$1 Billion Question: Do the Tax Dedications in New Orleans Make Sense?* In the past decade, the Governmental Research Association has given BGR more awards for distinguished research, policy achievements and public education than any other governmental research organization in the US.

About BRG:

BGR is a private, nonprofit, independent research organization. Since its founding in 1932, it has been dedicated to informed public policy-making and the effective use of public resources in the Greater New Orleans area. For more information, call 525-4152 or visit BGR's website, www.bgr.org.

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