



WOLFMAN
P R O D U C T I O N S

John McCardell

Choose Responsibility



Choose Responsibility was founded in December 2006 by former Middlebury College President John McCardell. After stepping down as president in 2004, McCardell wrote an op-ed in the *New York Times* entitled “What Your College President Didn’t Tell You,” in which, amongst other things, he stated that the 21 year-old drinking age is “bad social policy and terrible law.” That controversial position attracted the attention of many readers, among them hedge fund pioneer Julian Robertson. Robertson’s foundation offered a grant which allowed McCardell and a team of research assistants to undertake a year-long study of the 21 year-old drinking age. Their white paper, “The Effects of the 21 Year-Old Drinking Age,” was completed in September 2006 and formed the basis for Choose Responsibility’s positions.

In a short time and with limited resources, Choose Responsibility has succeeded in drawing national attention to the once-settled question of the drinking age. Through articles in major publications like *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *PARADE Magazine* and most recently in major national coverage of the Amethyst Initiative, Choose Responsibility has stirred debate amongst the American public about the drinking age and reality-based alcohol education.

John McCardell, currently the president of Choose Responsibility, founded the organization following a long and accomplished career at Middlebury College. After joining the faculty ranks in 1976 as a professor of American history, McCardell went on to serve as President from 1991 to 2004. His 13 year tenure as president was marked by an expansion of the student body and faculty, development of state-of-the-art facilities, launch of a hugely successful capital campaign, and an increase in Middlebury’s prominence around the world. Along with his leadership of Choose Responsibility, he continues to teach history at the College.