

National Forum

ON EDUCATION POLICY



Your education policy convening.

JUNE 29 - JULY 1, 2016

Marriott Wardman Park

Washington, D.C.



**EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES**

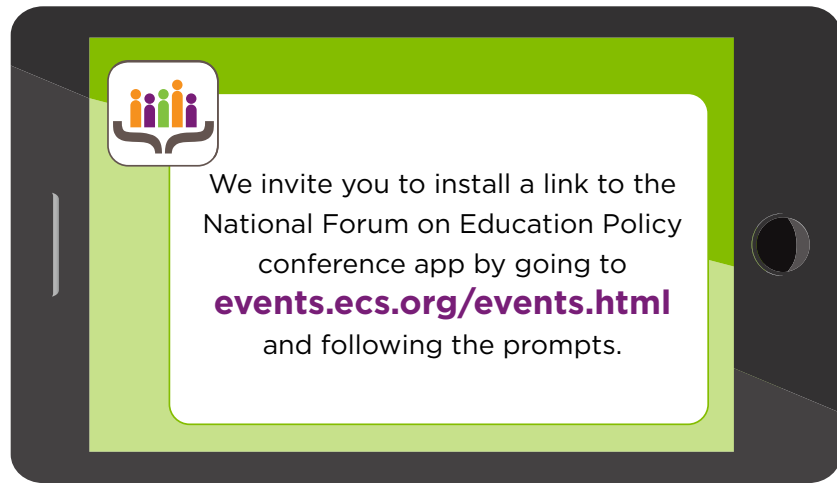
Your education policy team.

@EdCommission | #ECSNF16

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NATIONAL FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Special thanks and recognition go to the following Education Commission of the States' Commissioners who serve on the 2015-17 planning committee and helped plan this year's National Forum.

Chair

DOLORES GRESHAM

Chair, Education Committee, Tennessee Senate

JOE GARCIA

President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

MARY FALLIN

Governor, State of Oklahoma

DENNIS ROCH

Deputy Chair, Education Committee, New Mexico House of Representatives

JAMES APPLGATE

Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us for Education Commission of the States' 2016 National Forum on Education Policy. We are thrilled to have so many influential state education leaders with us this year in our nation's capital. From governors, legislators, chief state school officers and their staffs to teachers of the year and so many others, we encourage you to take advantage of this unique and powerful convening. We hope that you immerse yourself in policy discussions, learn what other states are doing well and openly share any lessons learned. The knowledge gained during our National Forum sessions combined with these insightful hallway conversations will help you advance education policy in your states.

Please do not forget to also get to know Education Commission of the States' staff while you are here. We are your education policy team and we want to hear what's happening in your states.

Enjoy the 2016 National Forum on Education Policy!



Steve Bullock
GOVERNOR, STATE OF MONTANA
2015-2017 Chair
Education Commission of the States



Jeremy Anderson
PRESIDENT
Education Commission of the States

ABOUT Education Commission of the States

At Education Commission of the States, we believe in the power of learning from experience. Every day, we provide education leaders with unbiased information and opportunities for collaboration. We do this because we know that informed policymakers create better education policy.

At Education Commission of the States:

RESEARCH

We compile information on education policies from early childhood through postsecondary education so state policymakers can make informed decisions.

REPORT

We regularly issue relevant and timely reports that provide education leaders with concise, factual overviews on the full spectrum of state education policies.

COUNSEL

We are available to provide unbiased advice on policy plans, consult on proposed legislation and testify at legislative hearings as third-party experts.

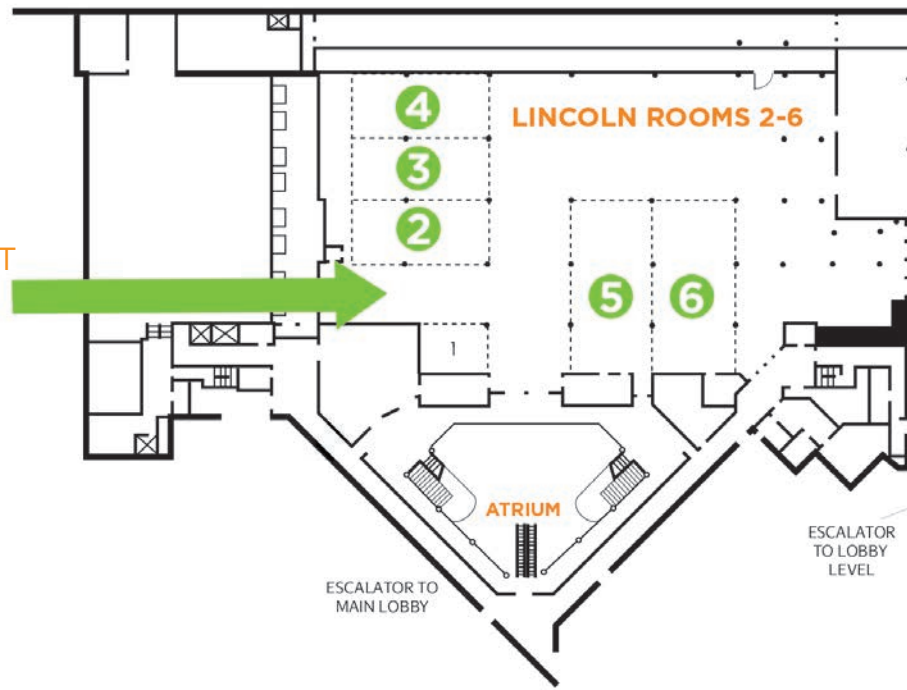
CONVENE

We bring education leaders together within their states and across states to interact, collaborate and learn from each other.

Our SPACE

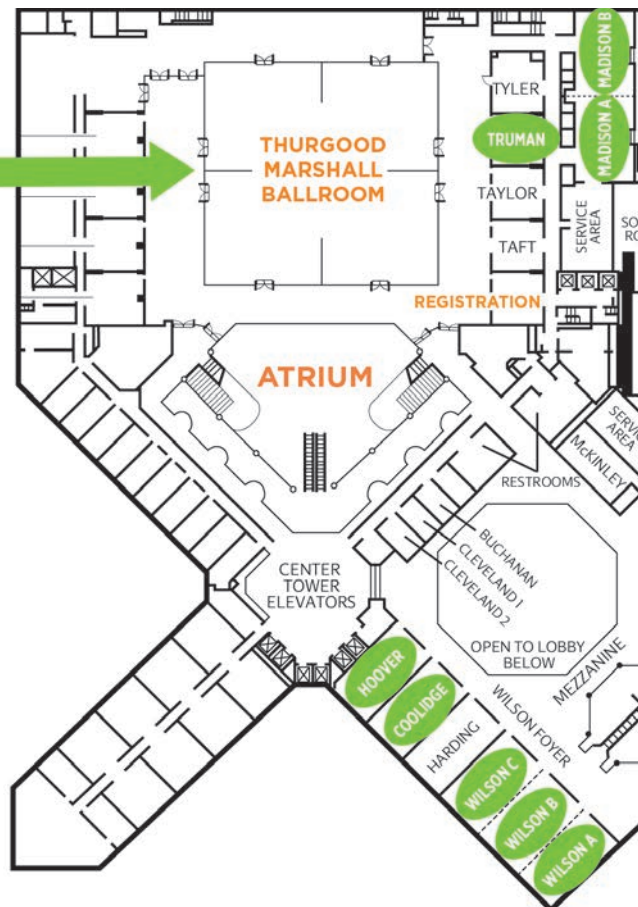
EXHIBITION LEVEL

CONCURRENT SESSIONS



MEZZANINE LEVEL

PLENARY SESSIONS AND ED TALKS



Our PARTNERS

PLATINUM

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure all people - especially those with the fewest resources - have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. For more information, please visit www.gatesfoundation.org.



GE Foundation

The GE Foundation, the philanthropic organization of GE, is committed to building a world that works better. We empower people by helping them build the skills they need to succeed in a global economy. We equip communities with the technology and capacity to improve access to better health and education. We elevate ideas that are tackling the world's toughest challenges to advance economic development and improve lives. The GE Foundation is powered by the generosity and talent of our employees, who have a strong commitment to their communities. We are at work making the world work better. Follow the GE Foundation at www.gefoundation.com and on Twitter at @GE_Foundation.



USA Funds

USA Funds® is a nonprofit organization established in 1960 to enhance postsecondary education preparedness, access and success. USA Funds focuses on postsecondary education "Completion With a Purpose" — supporting postsecondary students' attainment of credentials and competencies that lead to productive and rewarding careers and thus to economic, civic and creative contributions to their communities and society. For more information, please visit www.usafunds.org.



GOLD

ACT

ACT is an international, mission-driven, nonprofit organization providing high-quality assessments grounded in more than 50 years of research. The ACT® test is the most widely used US college admissions test, taken in 2015 by 1.9 million high school seniors. Our ACT Aspire® assessment system measures student growth from grades 3 to 10 and links to the ACT to build a complete picture of college and career readiness. More than 3 million people have earned the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate™, powered by ACT WorkKeys®, to demonstrate they have foundational workplace skills. Learn more at www.act.org.



Our PARTNERS

AdvancED

AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization serving the largest community of education professionals in the world. Founded on more than 100 years of work in continuous improvement, AdvancED combines the knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change to empower pre-K to 12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. AdvancED's position as a global leader in school improvement and accreditation continues to expand by providing a national and international voice to inform and influence policy and practice on issues related to education quality. Learn more at www.advanc-ed.org.



AT&T

AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T's signature philanthropic initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring. Through Aspire, we've passed the \$250 million mark on our plan to invest \$350 million in education from 2008-2017. For more information, please visit www.att.com.



National Association of Charter School Authorizers

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is committed to advancing excellence and accountability in the charter school sector and to increasing the number of high-quality charter schools across the nation. NACSA provides training, consulting and policy guidance to authorizers. For more information, please visit www.qualitycharters.org.



Pearson

Pearson is the world's leading learning company, providing educational materials and services to learners of all ages around the globe. For more information, please visit www.pearsoned.com.



Scholastic Corporation

Scholastic Corporation (NASDAQ: SCHL) is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books, a leading provider of print and digital instructional materials for pre-K to grade 12, and a producer of educational and entertaining children's media. The Company creates quality books and ebooks, print and technology-based learning materials and programs, classroom magazines and other products that, in combination, offer schools customized solutions to support children's learning both at school and at home. The company also makes quality, affordable books available to all children through school-based book clubs and book fairs. With a 95 year history of service to schools and families, Scholastic continues to carry out its commitment to "Open a World of Possible" for all children. Learn more at www.scholastic.com.



Our PARTNERS

State Farm Foundation

The State Farm® mission is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected and realize their dreams. We achieve our mission through the products and services we offer, as well as through our involvement in and commitment to the community. We make it our business to be like a good neighbor, helping to improve the quality of life in the communities where our associates live and work. For more information, please visit www.statefarm.com.



Walton Family Foundation

The philanthropic vision of Sam and Helen Walton has driven the work of the Walton Family Foundation for nearly three decades. Their legacy is more important than ever as we accelerate our efforts to improve K-12 education for all students in America, to protect our rivers and oceans and the communities they support, and to give back to the region that first gave Sam and Helen Walton opportunity. Learn more at www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org or follow us on Twitter (@waltonfamilyfdn).

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



SILVER

AVID

AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a global nonprofit organization that operates with one guiding principle: Hold students accountable to the highest standards, provide academic and social support, and they will rise to the challenge. AVID's kindergarten through higher education system brings research-based curriculum and strategies to students each day that develop critical thinking, literacy, and math skills across all content areas. For more than 30 years, AVID has prepared students for college readiness and success. It now impacts the lives of almost 1.3 million students throughout the United States and the world. For more information, please visit www.avid.org.



BloomBoard

BloomBoard is the leading professional development platform for empowering continuous, personalized, competency-based learning for K-12 educators. The platform provides district leaders with an effective way to understand where educators need support, provide personalized learning opportunities specific to their growth goals, and recognize them for skills they've demonstrated. For educators, BloomBoard provides a place to learn, share and discuss the best teaching ideas and earn micro-credentials aligned to skills and competencies they've learned. For more information, visit schools.bloomboard.com.



Our PARTNERS

College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success – including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools. For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.



ETS

At ETS, we advance quality and equity in education for people worldwide by creating assessments based on rigorous research. ETS serves individuals, educational institutions and government agencies by providing customized solutions for teacher certification, English language learning, and elementary, secondary and postsecondary education, and by conducting education research, analysis and policy studies. Founded as a nonprofit in 1947, ETS develops, administers and scores more than 50 million tests annually in more than 180 countries, at over 9,000 locations worldwide. For more information, please visit www.ets.org.



KnowledgeWorks

KnowledgeWorks is a social enterprise focused on ensuring that every student experiences meaningful personalized learning that allows him or her to thrive in college, career and civic life. By offering a portfolio of innovative education approaches and advancing aligned policies, KnowledgeWorks seeks to activate and develop the capacity of communities and educators to build and sustain vibrant learning ecosystems that allow each student to thrive. Our portfolio includes EDWorks and StriveTogether. Learn more at www.knowledgeworks.org.



Measured Progress

Measured Progress, a not-for-profit organization, is a pioneer in authentic, standards-based assessments. For more than 30 years, we have been connecting the K-12 educational community with innovative and flexible assessment solutions. Our mission to improve teaching and learning has helped states and districts implement meaningful assessments. For more information, please visit www.measuredprogress.org.



MetaMetrics

MetaMetrics® is focused on improving education for students of all ages. The organization's distinctive frameworks for reading and mathematics bring meaning to measurement and are used by millions to differentiate instruction, individualize practice, improve learning, and measure growth across all levels of education. For more information, please visit www.lexile.com and www.quantiles.com.



Our PARTNERS

Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services, devices and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. For more information, please visit. www.microsoft.com.



Questar

Questar Assessment Inc. is a K-12 assessment solutions provider focused on building a bridge between learning and accountability. We take a fresh and innovative approach to meaningful assessment design, delivery, scoring, analysis, and reporting. And we are reimagining how assessments can empower educators by giving them the insights they need to improve instruction and fully prepare students for college or career. Our high-quality, reliable assessment products and services are easily scaled and tailored to meet the specific needs of states and districts needs at an unprecedented value. Educators trust our high-performing teams and dependable technology to minimize risks and ensure success for states, districts, schools, and students.



Renaissance Learning

Renaissance Learning is a leading provider of cloud-based assessment and teaching and learning solutions that fit the K12 classroom, improve school performance, and accelerate learning for all. Renaissance Learning enables educators to deliver highly differentiated and timely instruction while driving personalized student practice in reading, writing, and math, every day. For more information, please visit www.renaissance.com.



SAS

Some educators see data as facts and figures. But it's more than that. It's the lifeblood of your schools. It contains history. And it can tell you something about the future. SAS helps you make sense of the data. As the leader in education analytics software and services, SAS transforms your data into insights that give you a fresh perspective on your students and schools. You can identify what's working. Fix what isn't. And discover new opportunities. Please visit sas.com/k12.



LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STAFF NETWORK

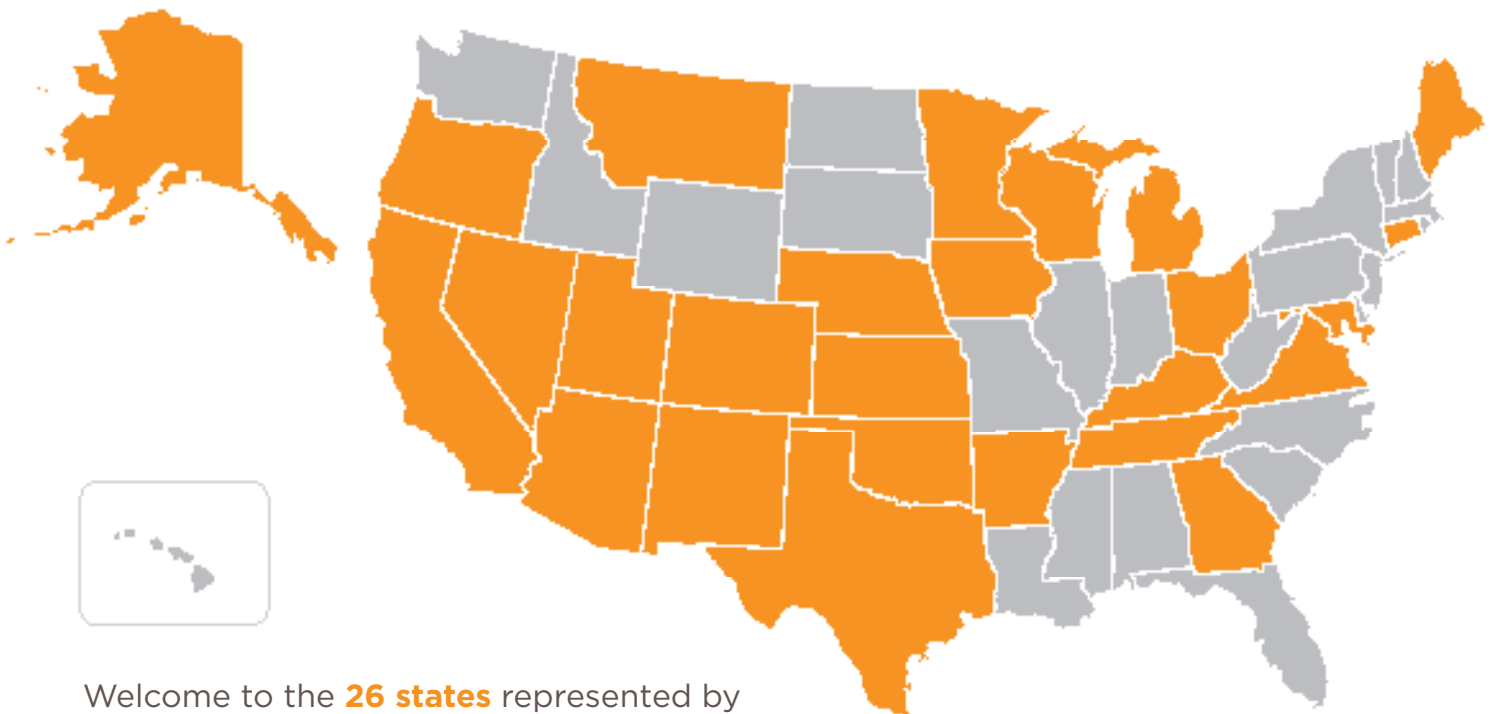
Thanks to the generous support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Education Commission of the States invited nearly 50 members of the Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) to participate in a two-day professional development workshop focused on issues surrounding early college credit opportunities and ESSA.

The LESN is a joint partnership between Education Commission of the States and the National Conference of State Legislatures. LESN annually recognizes a legislative education staff member who has provided exemplary service to the legislative process and who has been active in LESN.



BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

Welcome Legislative Staff!



Welcome to the **26 states** represented by legislative staff at the 2016 National Forum on Education Policy!

Schedule at a **GLANCE**

Tuesday, June 28

8 A.M. – 5 P.M.	Legislative Education Staff Network Meeting	MARYLAND A & B
2 – 6 P.M.	National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement Board Meeting	MARYLAND C

Wednesday, June 29

8 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Legislative Education Staff Network Meeting	MARYLAND A & B
8 A.M. – 12 P.M.	National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement Board Meeting	MARYLAND C
9 – 11 A.M.	Arts Education Partnership Advisory Meeting	HOOVER
11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M.	State Teachers of the Year Networking Session	COOLIDGE

1:30 P.M. - National Forum on Education Policy Begins

1:30 – 3:15 P.M.

Plenary Block

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

- Opening Session
- Education Commission of the States Chair’s Initiative: Dual enrollment and improved student success
- Frank Newman Award for State Innovation Recognition
- Ed Talk with David Adkins: State policy around ESSA
- Corporate Award Recognition

3:15 – 3:30 P.M.

Break

3:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Concurrent Block

ROOM: Lincoln 2-6

- Dual Enrollment: Strategies that work – and lessons learned
- ESSA and College Readiness Assessments: Flexibility, accountability and shared decision-making
- Connecting the Education Data Continuum
- School Finance 101: Diving into the lessons of education funding
- Tools to Prompt Policy Progress: Strategies for success

4:30 – 5:45 P.M.

Roundtable Discussions — Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

5:45 – 7 P.M.

Opening Reception — Atrium

Schedule at a **GLANCE**

Thursday, June 30

7:30 – 8:15 A.M.

Commissioners' Business Session – Wilson A, B & C

8:15 – 10:15 A.M.

Plenary Block

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

- Education Trends: Getting back to our roots in education
- Ed Talk with Fredi Lajvardi: Reversing the STEM deficit
- Poverty and the Achievement Gap: A problem long in need of solutions

10:15 – 10:30 A.M.

Break

10:30 – 11:30 A.M.

Concurrent Block

ROOM: Lincoln 2-6

- Early Learning and ESSA: Opportunities for states
- Reaching the Finish: Supporting near-completers in degree completion
- Enhancing Student Success: Federalism in postsecondary education
- Turnaround Innovations and ESSA: Improving low-performing schools
- ESSA's Impact on Charter School Policymaking

11:30 – 11:45 A.M.

Break

11:45 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.

Plenary Block

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

- James Bryant Conant Award Recognition
- Every Student Succeeds Act 101: Putting states on track to success

1:15 – 1:30 P.M.

Break

1:30 – 2:30 P.M.

Concurrent Block

ROOM: Lincoln 2-6

- Free Community College: An option to increase adult degree attainment
- Integrating STEM and the Arts
- ESSA and Accountability: An opportunity to learn from states
- STEM: Strategies that work and lessons learned
- Building Capacity in K-3
- Education Reimagined: The future of learning is now (Room: Madison)

2:30 – 2:45 P.M.

Break

Schedule at a **GLANCE**

2:45 – 4:20 P.M.

Plenary Block

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

- **Ed Talk with Elizabeth Huntley: Return on investment of early childhood education**
- **College Affordability: States tackle the rising cost of tuition**
- **Ed Talk with Evan Marwell: The power of digital learning**

Friday, July 1

8:15 – 9:30 A.M.

Plenary Block

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

- **Ed Talk with Shanna Peeples: Leading the way for every student's success**
- **Teacher Pipeline: Clearing the path to improved learning**

9:30 – 9:45 A.M.

Break

9:45 – 10:45 A.M.

Concurrent Block

ROOM: Lincoln 2-6

- **Fact and Fiction: Examining the teacher shortage issue**
- **Computer Science: Meeting the demands of the tech world**
- **Measuring College Value from the Consumer Perspective... and Beyond**
- **Leadership for Improving Learning and Teaching**
- **Beyond Compliance: Educator preparation data that informs program improvement**

10:45 – 11 A.M.

Break

11 – 11:30 A.M.

Plenary Block

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

- **Ed Talk with Dana Goldstein: Moving beyond the "Teacher Wars"**

11:30 A.M.

Adjourn

Pre-FORUM

Tuesday, June 28

8 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Legislative Education Staff Network Meeting	MARYLAND A & B
2 - 6 P.M.	National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement Board Meeting	MARYLAND C

Wednesday, June 29

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8 A.M. - 12 P.M.	National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement Board Meeting	MARYLAND C
9 - 11 A.M.	Arts Education Partnership Advisory Meeting	HOOVER
11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.	State Teachers of the Year Networking Session	COOLIDGE



AGENDA Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

1:30 P.M. - NATIONAL FORUM ON EDUCATION POLICY BEGINS

1:30 – 3:15 P.M. PLENARY BLOCK

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

1:30 - 1:50 P.M. Welcome to the 2016 National Forum on Education Policy

Presenter: JEREMY ANDERSON, President, Education Commission of the States

1:50 - 2:45 P.M. Education Commission of the States Chair's Initiative: Dual enrollment and improved student success

Studies show that students who participate in dual enrollment fare better in high school and college. Explore policy options that allow high school graduates to successfully transition into postsecondary education.

Presenters: GOV. STEVE BULLOCK, Montana, GOV. PHIL BRYANT, Mississippi and LT. GOV. KIM REYNOLDS, Iowa

2:45 - 2:50 P.M. Frank Newman Award for State Innovation Recognition

2:50 - 3:10 P.M. Ed Talk with David Adkins: State policy around ESSA

As ESSA empowers states in this changing age of education policy, David Adkins, Executive Director of the Council of State Governments, will provide perspective on how education leaders need to collaborate within and across states to ensure the best possible education is available to all children.

3:10 - 3:15 P.M. Corporate Award Recognition

3:15 – 3:30 P.M. Break

AGENDA Wednesday

3:30 – 4:30 P.M. CONCURRENT BLOCK

Dual Enrollment: Strategies that work – and lessons learned

ROOM: Lincoln 5

States are increasingly retooling their dual enrollment programs to ensure course access, quality and transferability of credit. This session will provide an overview of strategies that states are using to rework policies to achieve these goals and will detail what can be learned from states that have traveled down this road. Attendees will hear candid insights from states implementing major changes to their dual enrollment policies, including successes and lessons learned.

Moderator: **REP. WENDY HORMAN**, Idaho House of Representatives

Speakers: **REBECCA WATTS**, Associate Vice Chancellor for P-16 Initiatives, Ohio Department of Higher Education, **KEN WAGNER**, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Rhode Island Department of Education and **CAREY WRIGHT**, State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi

ESSA and College Readiness Assessments: Flexibility, accountability and shared decision-making

ROOM: Lincoln 6

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) allows districts to select a college readiness assessment for high school accountability, as long as their selection meets certain requirements and is approved by the state. In this session, presenters will discuss implications of ESSA's high school assessment flexibility provisions and considerations for navigating the shared decision-making authority between districts and states. Attendees will gain insight from the states that have introduced bills intending to streamline the selection and approval process by creating a list of high school assessment options pre-approved for district use.

Moderator: **SHARMILA MANN**, Senior Project Manager and Policy Analyst, Postsecondary & Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States

Speakers: **REP. PAUL BOYER**, Education Chairman, Arizona House of Representatives, **JOY HOFMEISTER**, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oklahoma Department of Education and **SEN. BETH BYE**, Deputy Majority Leader, Connecticut Senate

Connecting the Education Data Continuum

ROOM: Lincoln 3

In the past five years, states have made tremendous investments into state longitudinal education data systems that have the potential to connect data across the education continuum of pre-K, K-12 and postsecondary systems. States now face the challenge to connect education data to workforce and other government data systems to drive better life outcomes for students. In this session, panelists will discuss the types and quality of data that could be collected across state agencies, departments and systems. Learn how two states are breaking down the historical silos of information to help government agencies work together to understand the past, optimize the present and predict the future.

Moderator: **PAIGE KOWALSKI**, Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, Data Quality Campaign

Speakers: **TONY SMITH**, State Superintendent of Education, Illinois and **SEN. RALPH HISE**, North Carolina Senate

School Finance 101: Diving into the lessons of education funding

ROOM: Lincoln 2

There have been a host of recent developments and emerging trends related to state school funding policies across the nation. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of those actions followed by an open discussion about school funding in the states. The discussion will include school funding formulas, state revenue developments, teacher compensation issues and other topics that are at the forefront of education finance in states this year. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of school funding as well as potential solutions to the challenges states face.

Speaker: **MIKE GRIFFITH**, School Finance Strategist, Education Commission of the States

Tools to Prompt Policy Progress: Strategies for success

ROOM: Lincoln 4

Improving state policy on a particular issue is always a goal of education leaders, but finding a way forward can be challenging. This session will show how you can use two recent Education Commission of the States publications – a policy checklist and a gap analysis tool – to help think through an issue and map out a strategy for successful policy development and implementation. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how to clear the many hurdles involved with creating better policy.

Speakers: **DANIELLE GONZALES**, Assistant Director for Policy, Aspen Institute, **JAN BRENNAN**, Project Leader, National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement, Education Commission of the States and **SEC. BARBARA CEGAVSKE**, Nevada Secretary of State

AGENDA Wednesday

4:30 – 5:45 P.M. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

■ **The Arts: Leading the way to student success**

Join this lively conversation to discuss how arts education can bolster student achievement, support educator effectiveness and transform teaching and learning environments. Learn about the Arts Education Partnership's 2020 Action Agenda and how it outlines goals and strategies for advancing the role and contribution of the arts in education.

Facilitators: **JANE R. BEST**, Director, Arts Education Partnership, Education Commission of the States, **DOUG HERBERT**, Special Assistant, Office of Innovation and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education and **AYANNA HUDSON**, Director, Arts Education, National Endowment for the Arts

■ **Financial Aid Policy: What's on the horizon?**

What happens on the Hill doesn't always stay on the Hill. Join us for updates on federal actions in financial aid and a discussion about the implications they hold for states. With proposals surrounding a simplified aid application process, federal and state partnerships and others, this will be a conversation that anyone interested in college affordability policy will not want to miss.

Facilitators: **TOM HARNISCH**, Director of State Relations and Policy Analysis, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, **MEGAN McCLEAN COVAL**, Managing Director of Policy and Federal Relations, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and **SARAH PINGEL**, Policy Analyst, Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Institute, Education Commission of the States

■ **STEM: Where are we now?**

Driven by numerous concerns, state leaders over the last decade have adopted policies and initiatives to increase the number of students interested in – and succeeding in – science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Join a discussion on state approaches to enhancing access to high-quality STEM learning experiences and lessons learned.

Facilitator: **JENNIFER DOUNAY ZINTH**, Director of High School and STEM, Education Commission of the States

■ **Best Practices in Charter School Authorizing: Oversight in a successful, equitable and accessible charter sector**

Come engage in a discussion with charter school authorizing experts about how authorizing shapes the charter community at the local, state and federal level. Bring your thorniest questions and get ready to talk about topics like school accountability, discipline, charters and ESSA, and much more.

Facilitator: **AMANDA FENTON**, Director of State and Federal Policy, National Association of Charter School Authorizers

AGENDA Wednesday

■ **GradNation Initiative: Can collective impact raise graduation rates?**

Despite big gains in graduation rates, nearly 500,000 students still drop out of high school each year. Tune in to this Minnesota case study, where policymakers, business and nonprofit leaders, educators and youth are showing that a big goal, innovation and collaboration can raise graduation rates to 90 percent by 2020.

Facilitators: **RACHAEL TUTWILER FORTUNE**, Director of Alliance Engagement, America's Promise Alliance, **DARON KORTE**, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education, **CAMMY LEHR**, GradMinnesota Project Manager, Minnesota Alliance With Youth and **STACY SKELLY**, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Pearson

■ **CCSSO Career Readiness Initiative**

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) has partnered with the JP Morgan Chase Foundation to support 25 states as they improve their career preparation programs by advancing the recommendations of a 2014 CCSSO task force on career readiness. Come engage in a discussion and get your questions answered.

Facilitators: **ASHLEY GARDINER**, Senior Associate, Career Readiness Initiative, CCSSO and **BETH PLEWA**, Senior Associate, Career Readiness Initiative, CCSSO

■ **Building a System of Accountability with a Foundation of Continuous Improvement**

Learn how state education agencies and local districts can take advantage of an unprecedented opportunity under ESSA to build an accountability system with the flexibility to take into account local nuances. Learn how to create an accountability system that supports and enables continuous improvement to lift every learner, every teacher, every leader and every community.

Facilitator: **MARK A. ELGART**, President and CEO, AdvancED

■ **Every Student Counts. Count Every Student: Measuring student subgroup growth under ESSA**

Decades of research dating back to the Coleman Report highlight the achievement gaps that exist in education. Interestingly, a similar gap does not exist when looking at student academic growth. ESSA places a large emphasis on the student growth of subgroups of vulnerable students, such as military connected, homeless and foster youth. There are many policy decisions to make in determining how to measure the growth of small subgroups in schools. What are the challenges, tradeoffs and implications of these decision points? How can your state ensure that every student counts in school accountability systems?

Facilitators: **JENNIFER BELL**, Education Specialist, SAS and **NADJA YOUNG** Senior Manager of Education Initiatives, SAS

■ **ESSA, Growth and Comparability: Traversing emerging trends in education**

New flexibility made possible by ESSA creates new opportunities (and new responsibilities) for managing policies and practices around topics such as growth, accountability, actionable assessment results, career planning and monitoring progress toward postsecondary aspirations. Come discuss how new research and technologies can help state leaders traverse these emerging trends in education.

Facilitators: **TERRY HOLLIDAY**, Former Commissioner of Education, Commonwealth of Kentucky and **MALBERT SMITH**, CEO and President, MetaMetrics

AGENDA Wednesday

■ Educator Ethics: Identifying gaps and solutions

The education profession involves complex relationships and competing tensions. Educators often face gray areas where there may appear to be no clear delineations between right and wrong, and where decisions are often situational and contextualized. In addition, there are risks and vulnerabilities inherent within a profession in which practitioners are granted responsibilities in place of a parent while simultaneously immersed in a shared space with those they serve. Often, these professionals may lack substantive training in professional ethics and even a general understanding of the statutes that govern educators' conduct. This roundtable discussion will explore this professional gap, the subsequent impact on schooling communities and important initiatives that occur at the district, state and national levels that attempt to address those concerns.

Facilitator: TROY HUTCHINGS, Senior Strategic Advisor, Educational Testing Service

■ Creating a Culture of Student Success for Institutes of Higher Education

Join a discussion with AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) for Higher Education regarding professional learning with colleges and universities across the U.S. to engage faculty in high engagement strategies, student support structures and institutional change. Year one results reported by Gibson Consulting Group for the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation grant with nine institutions will be shared. Findings indicate that instruction emphasizing research-based, student-centered pedagogy makes a key difference and resonates with college freshmen and faculty. This work builds on the 35-year success of AVID in the K-12 sector preparing low-income, first-generation students for success in college.

Facilitator: ROB GIRA, Executive Vice President, AVID Center

■ The Future of Educator Professional Development and Recertification

BloomBoard will share its experience working with Digital Promise and seven state education agencies to move their professional development and recertification requirements from a seat-time approach (e.g. credit hours, clock hours, salary points, etc.) to a competency-based model using micro-credentials.

Facilitator: JASON LANGE, CEO and Co-Founder, BloomBoard

■ School Funding and At-Risk Students

Join this roundtable for an open discussion on how states are currently funding programs for at-risk students and hear more on some new funding solutions states are implementing to assist these students in reaching their educational goals. In addition, Education Commission of the States' staff will discuss a new report that details how all 50 states currently fund programs for their at-risk student populations.

Facilitators: MIKE GRIFFITH, School Finance Strategist, Education Commission of the States and EMILY PARKER, Policy Analyst, Postsecondary & Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States

5:45 – 7 P.M. Join us in the Atrium for the **OPENING RECEPTION!**

2016 TEACHERS of the Year

Congratulations to **Jahana Hayes** from John F Kennedy High School in Waterbury Conn., the **2016 National Teacher of the Year!**

Participation of the **2016 Teachers of the Year** was made possible by the generous support of **Scholastic**.



Congratulations to our 2016 State Teachers of the Year!

ALABAMA

Jennifer Brown

ALASKA

Amy Jo Meiners

ARIZONA

Christine Marsh

ARKANSAS

Meghan Ables

AMERICAN SAMOA

Rosita Sola

CALIFORNIA

Daniel Jocz

COLORADO

Leticia Guzman Ingram

CONNECTICUT

Jahana Hayes

DELAWARE

Sandra Hall

DEPT. OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Mary Hansen

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Topher Kandik

FLORIDA

Diane McKee

GEORGIA

Ernest Lee II

GUAM

Melanie Mesa Blas

HAWAII

Stephanie Mew

IDAHO

Melyssa Ferro

ILLINOIS

Kim Thomas

INDIANA

Jean Russell

IOWA

Scott Slechta

KANSAS

Justin Coffey

KENTUCKY

Ashley Lamb-Sinclair

LOUISIANA

Kelly Stomps

MAINE

Talya Edlund

MARYLAND

Ryan Kaiser

MASSACHUSETTS

Audrey Jackson

MICHIGAN

Rick Joseph

MINNESOTA

Amy Hewett-Olatunde

MISSISSIPPI

Anna Morris

MISSOURI

Linda Glasgow

MONTANA

Jessica Anderson

NEBRASKA

Tim Royers

NEVADA

John Tierney

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ashley Preston

NEW JERSEY

Chelsea Collins

NEW MEXICO

David Morales

NEW YORK

Dana McDonough

NORTH CAROLINA

Keana Triplett

NORTH DAKOTA

Amy Neal

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Dora Miura

OHIO

Teresa Cianchetti

OKLAHOMA

Shawn Sheehan

OREGON

Heather Anderson

PENNSYLVANIA

Mairi Cooper

RHODE ISLAND

Tracy Lafreniere

SOUTH CAROLINA

Suzanne Koty

SOUTH DAKOTA

Sarah Lutz

TENNESSEE

Cathy Whitehead

TEXAS

Revathi Balakrishnan

UTAH

Melody Apezteguia

VERMONT

Susan Koch

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Monique Motta

VIRGINIA

Natalie DiFusco-Funk

WASHINGTON

Nathan Gibbs-Bowling

WEST VIRGINIA

Andrea Santos

WISCONSIN

Roger King

WYOMING

Amy Pierson

AGENDA Thursday

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

7 - 8 A.M. **Breakfast Buffet** — Thurgood Marshall Foyer

7:30 - 8:15 A.M. **Commissioners' Business Session** — Wilson A, B & C

8:15 - 10:15 A.M. **PLENARY BLOCK**

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

8:15 - 8:45 A.M. **Education Trends: Getting back to our roots in education**

At a time of great unrest in education, it is more important than ever to get back to the fundamentals of student development and human development. Extensive Gallup research sheds light on the opportunities we can seize.

Presenter: BRANDON BUSTEED, Executive Director of Education and Workforce Development, Gallup

8:45 - 9:15 A.M. **Ed Talk with Fredi Lajvardi: Reversing the STEM deficit**

Lajvardi's high school robotics program inspires students and has shown that hard work and determination in STEM fields can be fun and rewarding. Extracurricular STEM programs, such as Lajvardi's, can reverse the science, technology, engineering and math deficit.

9:15 - 10:15 A.M. **Poverty and the Achievement Gap: A problem long in need of solutions.**

The achievement gap is real and has persisted for more than 40 years. Education leaders explore what is being done in their states to increase achievement for all students and narrow the gap.

Presenters: MARGIE VANDEVEN, Commissioner of Education, Missouri, REP. SHARON TOMIKO SANTOS Chair of House Education Committee, Washington, MARYELLEN ELIA, Commissioner of Education, New York and President of the University of the State of New York and MICHAEL PETRILLI, President, Thomas B. Fordham Institute

10:15 - 10:30 A.M. **Break**

AGENDA Thursday

10:30 – 11:30 A.M. CONCURRENT BLOCK

Early Learning and ESSA: Opportunities for states

ROOM: Lincoln 3

Early learning is suffused throughout ESSA. In this session, learn about the provisions pertaining to early learning from pre-K through the early elementary grades and what the law provides for our youngest students. Attendees will leave with an understanding about how ESSA can support and enhance the policy work in their states' early childhood system.

Speakers: **LIBBY DOGGETT**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy and Early Learning, U.S. Department of Education, **JILLIAN BALOW**, Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction and **REP. DENNIS ROCH**, New Mexico House of Representatives

Reaching the Finish: Supporting near-completers in degree completion

ROOM: Lincoln 2

There are an estimated 1.2 million adults with more than 60 credits earned but no degree awarded. How do we help this population either return to higher education or award them the credential they have earned? This session provides information on areas of policy and programming that target near-completers in order to award them a credential. Attendees will leave with policy strategies to increase degree completion.

Moderator: **LEXI ANDERSON**, Policy Analyst, Postsecondary & Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States

Speakers: **DEMI MICHELAU**, Director of Policy Analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and **KRISTEN KRAMER**, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Texas

Enhancing Student Success: Federalism in postsecondary education

ROOM: Lincoln 4

American federalism fosters federal, state and local support for experimentation in postsecondary education. But federalism also leads to a lack of coherence and clear direction for the postsecondary sector which can lead to confusion. This session considers ways to strengthen and more clearly define the relationship between federal and state postsecondary policy and suggests how we may do so in an era of political change, fiscal uncertainty and increased focus on degree attainment.

Moderator: **BRIAN A. SPONSLER**, Director, Postsecondary & Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States

Speakers: **PHILLIP OLIFF**, Research Manager, Pew Charitable Trust, **JAMES APPLGATE**, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education and **SCOTT PATTISON**, Executive Director and CEO, National Governors Association

Turnaround Innovations and ESSA: Improving low-performing schools

ROOM: Lincoln 5

In light of the new flexibility granted by ESSA, states will be looking for innovative ways to improve their lowest-performing schools. Implementing a successful school or district turnaround strategy, however, brings many challenges — financial, political and logistical. In this session, we will hear how the new federal law has impacted the state's role with the goal of learning about the opportunities, challenges and lessons learned from state and district leaders pioneering turnaround innovations.

Moderator: **STEPHANIE ARAGON**, Policy Researcher, K-12 Institute, Education Commission of the States

Speakers: **COLLEEN LENNON**, Principal, Emily G. Wetherbee School, Massachusetts, **DAVID SMITH**, Superintendent, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and **RITA FENTRESS**, Director of School Improvement, Tennessee Department of Education

ESSA's Impact on Charter School Policymaking

ROOM: Lincoln 6

While charter schools have not been center stage in discussions about the major changes brought about by ESSA, there are significant components that affect, indirectly if not directly, state-level charter school policymaking, oversight and management. This session will provide a review of the key charter school considerations for policymakers as they prepare to create meaningful plans for ESSA compliance.

Moderator: **AMANDA FENTON**, Director, State and Federal Policy, National Association of Charter School Authorizers

Speakers: **MANDY SCHAUMBURG**, Education Deputy Director and Senior Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, **RICHARD POHLMAN**, Executive Director, Thurgood Marshall Academy and **NATHAN JAMES**, Deputy Executive Director for Legislative Affairs, Tennessee Board of Education

AGENDA Thursday

10:30 – 11:30 A.M. **Partners Networking Session** (FOR PARTNERS ONLY) — Truman

11:30 – 11:45 P.M. **Break**

11:45 A.M. – 1:15 P.M. **PLENARY BLOCK (LUNCHEON)**

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

12:05 - 12:15 P.M. **James Bryant Conant Award Recognition**

12:15 - 1:15 P.M. **Every Student Succeeds Act 101: Putting states on track to success**

ESSA was created to ensure success for all students and schools. U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. John B. King leads a discussion of plans to work with states and districts to begin implementing the law.

Presenters: DR. JOHN B. KING, U.S. Secretary of Education, TONY EVERS, Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction, PEDRO RIVERA, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education and AUDREY JACKSON, 2016 Teacher of the Year, Massachusetts

1:15 – 1:30 P.M. **Break**

1:30 – 2:30 P.M. **CONCURRENT BLOCK**

Free Community College: An option to increase adult degree attainment

ROOM: Lincoln 5

Nearly half of all states considered a free community college policy proposal in 2016. Attendees and presenters will consider the implications and possibilities of a free community college policy that focuses exclusively on adult students. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of efforts to support adult degree attainment and workforce development through a free community college model.

Speakers: SARAH PINGEL, Policy Analyst, Postsecondary & Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States, ANDY CARLSON, Senior Policy Analyst, State Higher Education Executive Officers, JESSE O'CONNELL, Strategy Officer, Lumina Foundation and PETER BLAKE, Director, Virginia Council of Higher Education

Integrating STEM and the Arts

ROOM: Lincoln 4

Increasing student achievement in STEM learning is rising to the top of many state policy agendas. Join this lively conversation to learn more about the role of the arts in STEM learning. Leave with opportunities for states, districts and community organizations to broaden the reach of STEM programs through the arts.

Moderator: JANE R. BEST, Director, Arts Education Partnership, Education Commission of the States

Speakers: AKUA KOUYATE-TATE, Senior Director, Wolf Trap Foundation for Performing Arts and MEREDITH LUDWIG, Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research

ESSA and Accountability: An opportunity to learn from states

ROOM: Lincoln 6

All states are being impacted by the changes to accountability under ESSA. During this facilitated discussion, attendees will hear from their peers about how states are addressing new flexibility and requirements for accountability systems under ESSA. Attendees will have the opportunity to share experiences from their state and leave with suggestions from others dealing with common issues like ELL proficiency and test participation.

Speaker: JOANNE WEISS, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Education Commission of the States and President, Weiss Associates

Building Capacity in K-3

ROOM: Lincoln 3

Much has been done to improve the quality, funding and accountability in pre-K, but what about kindergarten through 3rd grade? In this session, attendees will learn why K-3 are critical developmental years. Panelists will present on leadership, strategies to improve K-3 and implementation. Attendees will leave with strategic direction to improve the quality of K-3, leading to grade level reading and math proficiency.

Moderator: CHRISTOPHER CROSS, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Education Commission of the States and Chairman, Cross & Joftus

Speakers: SHANNON RILEY-AYERS, Associate Research Professor, National Institute for Early Education Research, KELLY POLLITT, Chief Strategist, Policy & Alliances, National Association of Elementary School Principals and TRACY LAFRENIERE, 2016 Teacher of the Year, Rhode Island

AGENDA Thursday

STEM: Strategies that work – and lessons learned

ROOM: Lincoln 2

For more than a decade, Massachusetts has been a leader in enhancing access to high-quality STEM learning from the early grades through postsecondary. At this session, attendees will learn the various approaches, including regional STEM networks, the STEM Starter Academy and innovative public/private partnerships that have been successful in developing and sustaining STEM initiatives. Attendees will also learn how the state has retooled its STEM efforts based on experience.

Moderator: **JENNIFER DOUNAY ZINTH**, Director, High School & STEM Institute, Education Commission of the States

Speaker: **DAVID CEDRONE**, Associate Commissioner for Economic and Workforce Development and STEM, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Education Reimagined: The future of learning is now

ROOM: Madison

Personalized learning is gaining traction as is the switch from Carnegie units and seat time to competency-based learning. In this session, a panel of experts will describe the elements required to implement learner-centered education in the context of the new opportunities offered to states and districts in the provisions of the ESSA.

Moderator: **PETER MCWALTERS**, Consultant and Advisory Board Member, Education Reimagined

Speakers: **PAUL LEATHER**, Deputy Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Education and **MARIA WORTHEN**, Vice President for Federal and State Policy, iNacol

2:30 – 2:45 P.M. Break

2:45 – 4:20 P.M. PLENARY BLOCK

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

2:50 - 3:05 P.M. Ed Talk with Elizabeth Huntley: Return on Investment of early childhood

Huntley shares the story of her childhood struggles while delivering a message on the importance of strengthening education policies for children and youth to positively impact the trajectory of their lives.

3:05 - 4:05 P.M. College Affordability: States tackle the rising cost of tuition

Rising college prices and accumulated student loan debt are pushing policymakers to seek paths to a system that is more affordable for all students. Hear state-level solutions for reducing the price of college.

Presenters: **JOE GARCIA**, President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, **TERESA LUBBERS**, Commissioner, Indiana State Higher Education Commission and **ZAKIYA SMITH**, Strategy Director, Lumina Foundation

4:05 - 4:20 P.M. Ed Talk with Evan Marwell: The power of digital learning

In today's digital age, the ability to upgrade the internet infrastructure for K-12 public schools is at a premium and at a time when school budgets are already stretched. Evan Marwell, CEO and Founder of Education Superhighway, will highlight state policies aimed at providing the transformational power of digital learning to all students across the country.

4:30 – 5:30 P.M. New Commissioner Orientation (FOR COMMISSIONERS ONLY)— Wilson A & B

AGENDA Friday

FRIDAY, JULY 1

7 - 8 A.M. **Breakfast Buffet** — Thurgood Marshall Foyer

8:15 – 9:30 A.M. **PLENARY BLOCK**

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

8:15 - 8:30 A.M. Ed Talk with Shanna Peeples: Leading the way for every student's success

Peeples, the 2015 National Teacher of the Year, is known for using many methods to teach and impact her students. Her experience can shape our approach to a variety of education policies.

8:30 - 9:30 A.M. Teacher Pipeline: Clearing the path to improved learning

Stagnant pay, attrition, retirement and politicized fights over tenure – these are several reasons some states struggle to fill teaching positions. Dive into efforts to elevate the profession and boost education as a whole.

Presenters: CHRIS KOCH, President, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, LINDA DARLING-HAMMOND, President, Learning Policy Institute and KENT MCGUIRE, President and CEO, Southern Education Foundation

9:30 – 9:45 A.M. **Break**

9:45 – 10:45 A.M. **CONCURRENT BLOCK**

Fact and Fiction: Examining the teacher shortage issue

ROOM: Lincoln 5

Alarms sounded last year when widespread media coverage warned of a critical teacher shortage running rampant across the nation. However, the story behind the headline is far more complex. Through the case study of an individual state, this session will explore why there are disagreements about whether a shortage truly exists and delve into the strategies states are exploring to combat it.

Moderator: JULIE WOODS, Policy Analyst, K-12 Institute, Education Commission of the States

Speakers: TERESA LUBBERS, Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, ELLEN SHERRATT, Deputy Director, Center on Great Teachers and Leaders, American Institutes for Research and ERNEST LEE, 2016 Teacher of the Year, Georgia

Computer Science: Meeting the demands of the tech world

ROOM: Lincoln 2

As data emerges projecting continued information technology job growth in the coming decade, computer science is of growing interest to state policymakers and the candidates expected to fill these positions. Observers express concern over the absence of female and underrepresented minorities, both in computer science degree programs and in IT-related occupations. Join us for state-specific approaches to increasing student interest and access to high-quality computer science coursework, including efforts to increase the diversity of students pursuing these degrees and careers.

Moderator: TAMI GOETZ, Executive Director, Utah STEM Action Center

Speakers: JIM STANTON, Executive Director, MassCAN, ANTHONY OWEN, Coordinator of Computer Science, Arkansas Department of Education and ALLYSON KNOX, Director of Education Policy, Microsoft

AGENDA Friday

Measuring College Value from the Consumer Perspective and Beyond

ROOM: Lincoln 3

From *Money Magazine* to the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard and beyond, consumers are getting more and better information on the outcomes of their college education. One promising multi-state effort to help policymakers, consumers and higher education leaders to have better access to both the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of their educational options will be discussed during this interactive session. Panelists from Gallup, College Measures and the business community will share how information tools, along with their potential impact for various audiences and users, are reshaping how we discuss the value of a college degree.

Speakers: **DEREK REDELMAN**, Senior Program Director, USA Funds, **BRANDON BUSTEED**, Executive Director of Education and Workforce, Gallup, **DAVE ADKISSON**, President and CEO, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and **MARK SCHNEIDER**, President, College Measures and Vice President, American Institutes for Research

Leadership for Improving Learning and Teaching

ROOM: Lincoln 4

Research shows that leadership is a significant factor in improving student learning and teacher effectiveness. This session will explore the conditions, culture and policies that foster effective school leadership. Participants will discuss ways to share leadership work and decisions among educators as well as learn about emerging trends that will shape the future of learning.

Speakers: **ALESHA DAUGHTREY**, Partnership Strategy, Center for Teaching Quality and **MATT WILLIAMS**, Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, KnowledgeWorks

Beyond Compliance: Educator preparation data that informs program improvement

ROOM: Lincoln 6

The U.S. Department of Education seeks to increase transparency, accountability and program improvement in educator preparation programs by creating new Higher Education Act Title II data reporting requirements for states. Some states have already developed educator preparation data dashboards for the same purposes using metrics that address state needs. In this session, panelists present state models for educator preparation program reporting and discuss how their approaches and data specifications compare to those proposed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Moderator: **MICHAEL ALLEN**, Founder and Co-partner, Teacher Preparation Analytics

Speakers: **CANDICE MCQUEEN**, Tennessee Commissioner of Education, **BENNETT BOGGS**, Director, Division of Educator Preparation, Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board and **JEANNE BURNS**, Associate Commissioner, Teacher and Leadership Initiatives, Louisiana Board of Regents

10:45 – 11 A.M. **Break**

11 – 11:30 A.M. PLENARY BLOCK

ROOM: Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

Ed Talk with Dana Goldstein: Moving beyond the "Teacher Wars"

Goldstein, a journalist and bestselling author of "Teacher Wars," presents her research on the history of the teaching profession, and shares ideas from across the country on how to help teachers improve their practice.

11:30 A.M. **Adjourn**

Thank you for attending Education Commission of the States' 2016 National Forum on Education Policy.

We look forward to seeing you in 2017!

James Bryant Conant **AWARD**

Sal Khan

Founder, Khan Academy

Education Commission of the States is proud to announce Sal Khan as the 2016 recipient of the James Bryant Conant Award, one of the most prestigious honors in the education community.

In 2008, Khan founded the Khan Academy – a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere. Since its creation, Khan Academy’s readily available content has grown to include more than 6,500 videos, accessed by more than 10 million people seeking knowledge to enrich their lives.

The Khan Academy provides educational access to a broad range of subjects and offers customized lesson plans and assessments, creating an interactive and personalized learning experience. By emphasizing learning, rather than teaching, Khan’s approach has greatly impacted not only how information is delivered, but also the way in which children and adults learn in America.

Education Commission of the States is honored to award Sal Khan with the 2016 James Bryant Conant Award, as his commitment to providing a high-quality education and his work to ensure that anyone, anywhere has the knowledge and tools needed to help support a successful future demonstrates his leadership in the advancement of educational attainment.



ABOUT THE AWARD

The James Bryant Conant Award, named for the co-founder of Education Commission of the States and former president of Harvard University, recognizes outstanding individual contributions to American education. The award was established in 1977 to memorialize Conant, a pivotal figure in the education reforms of the 1950s and '60s that continue to shape schools today. Once called the “Inspector General” of U.S. education, Conant advocated for comprehensive secondary education for all, improvements to inner-city schools and reforms to teacher education. Each year, Education Commission of the States bestows the award on an individual whose efforts and service have created a pronounced and lasting influence on American education. Sal Kahn joins an esteemed list of past recipients, including Thurgood Marshall, E.D. Hirsch, Fred (Mr.) Rogers and Lamar Alexander. Dr. William L. Sanders, developer of the educational value-added assessment system, was presented with the award in 2015.



Frank Newman Award FOR STATE INNOVATION

Mississippi

Education Commission of the States is proud to announce the state of Mississippi as the 2016 recipient of the Frank Newman Award for State Innovation. Mississippi is being recognized with this prestigious award for prioritizing early learning reading skills and implementing policy that led to the state being one of only two states to see increases in 4th grade reading scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Signed into law by Gov. Phil Bryant in 2013, the Education Works legislation also gave incentives to Mississippi students who pledge to teach in state, increased teacher pay and channeled more funds toward education than at any time in state history.

The Magnolia State has seen clear results. Since the implementation of the Literacy Based Promotion Act of 2013, 92 percent of third-graders passed the state reading exam. Scores from the 2015 NAEP exam, known as the nation's report card, showed historic jumps. Additionally, Mississippi was one of only two states to see increases in NAEP scores at both 4th and 8th grade levels.



ABOUT THE AWARD



The Frank Newman Award for State Innovation recognizes states and territories for enacting innovative education reforms or implementing innovative programs that go beyond marginal or incremental changes to improve student outcomes on a large scale. In 2005, the award was renamed in honor of the late Frank Newman, who served as president of Education Commission of the States for 14 years. The award recognizes a state for any of the following:

- Education improvement efforts that are replicable and hold valuable lessons for other states.
- Bold and courageous policies, including existing approaches with evidence of significant impact on student achievement in the state.
- Policies or programs that have bipartisan, broad-based support.

Past Award Winners

JAMES BRYANT CONANT AWARD

2015	<i>William L. Sanders</i>	2002	<i>Robert P. Moses</i>	1987	<i>Marian Wright Edelman</i>
2014	<i>Marc Tucker</i>	2001	<i>Fred Rogers</i>	1986	<i>Harold Howe II</i>
2013	<i>Gene Wilhoit</i>	2000	<i>John Goodlad</i>	1985	<i>Terrel H. Bell and David P. Gardner</i>
2012	<i>E.D. Hirsch</i>	1999	<i>Frank Newman</i>	1984	<i>James B. Hunt Jr.</i>
2011	<i>Ted Kolderie</i>	1998	<i>Robert Slavin</i>	1983	<i>Carl Perkins</i>
2010	<i>Linda Darling-Hammond</i>	1997	<i>Claiborne Pell</i>	1982	<i>John Brademas</i>
2009	<i>Kati Haycock</i>	1996	<i>John W. Gardner</i>	1981	<i>Terry Sanford</i>
2008	<i>Ron Wolk</i>	1995	<i>Richard W. Riley</i>	1980	<i>Ralph Tyler</i>
2007	<i>Gaston Caperton</i>	1994	<i>Ernest L. Boyer</i>	1979	<i>Francis Keppel</i>
2006	<i>Nancy S. Grasmick</i>	1993	<i>Wilhelmina Delco</i>	1978	<i>Joan Ganz Cooney</i>
2005	<i>Sharon Lynn Kagan</i>	1992	<i>Theodore R.Sizer</i>	1977	<i>Benjamin Mays</i>
2004	<i>Thurgood Marshall and John H. Stelle</i>	1991	<i>James P. Comer</i>		
2003	<i>Roy Romer</i>	1989	<i>Fred M. Hechinger</i>		
		1988	<i>Lamar Alexander</i>		

FRANK NEWMAN AWARD FOR STATE INNOVATION

2015	<i>Kentucky (for Unbridled Learning: College/ Career-Readiness for All)</i>	2004	<i>North Carolina (NC TEACH) and South Carolina (The Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement)</i>
2014	<i>Illinois (for preparation and support of effective school principals)</i>	2003	<i>Maryland (Visionary Panel for Better Schools)</i>
2013	<i>Delaware (for multiple initiatives)</i>	2002	<i>Alabama (Alabama Reading Initiative) and Texas (Texas Reading Initiative)</i>
2012	<i>New Hampshire (for high school reforms)</i>	2001	<i>Georgia (Universal Preschool Program)</i>
2011	<i>New England Secondary School Consortium</i>	2000	<i>Connecticut (Beginning Educator Support and Training [BEST] Program)</i>
2010	<i>Ohio (for legislative reforms)</i>	1999	<i>North Carolina (North Carolina Community College System)</i>
2009	<i>Tennessee (for multiple initiatives)</i>	1998	<i>Oregon (Students Recycling Used Technology [STRUT])</i>
2008	<i>North Dakota (North Dakota Commission on Education Improvement)</i>		
2007	<i>Alaska (for multiple initiatives)</i>		
2006	<i>Kentucky (Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 and other initiatives)</i>		
2005	<i>Florida and Utah (co-winners, for multiple initiatives)</i>		

2016 Distinguished SENIOR FELLOWS

Education Commission of the States is honored to have three education policy veterans serving as Distinguished Senior Fellows in 2016. The fellows, with expertise ranging from preschool to postsecondary and beyond, serve as advisors to us and to member states.

CHRISTOPHER CROSS

Chairman, Cross & Joftus, LLC

Christopher Cross is chairman of an education consulting firm and serves as a consultant to the Broad Foundation and the C.S. Mott Foundation. He has served as a member of the advisory board for the School Evaluation Service program of Standard and Poor's and as a senior fellow with the Center for Education. Previously, he served as president and CEO of the Council for Basic Education. Before joining CBE, he served as director of the Education Initiative of the Business Roundtable and as assistant secretary for Educational Research and Improvement in the U.S. Department of Education. Cross has written extensively in the education and public policy areas and has been published in numerous journalistic, scholarly and technical publications, including the *College Board Review*, the *Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times*.



PHILIP "URI" TREISMAN

Professor of Mathematics and Executive Director, Charles A. Dana Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Philip "Uri" Treisman is the founder and director of the University of Texas at Austin's Charles A. Dana Center. He served on the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges and serves on the boards of many entrepreneurial nonprofits committed to improving American education. He was named a MacArthur Fellow in 1992 for his work on nurturing minority student high achievement in college mathematics and 2006 Scientist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation for his outstanding contributions to mathematics. Treisman has received numerous honors and awards for his efforts, including the 1987 Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Achievement in American Higher Education. He received an interdisciplinary Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, where he studied both mathematics and education.



JOANNE WEISS

Education Consultant; former Chief of Staff to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

Joanne Weiss recently stepped down as chief of staff to the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, a position she held from 2010-13. She joined the department in 2009 to lead the Race to the Top Fund, the department's \$4.35 billion program designed to encourage and reward states making systemwide, comprehensive education reforms. Prior to joining the administration, she was partner and COO at NewSchools Venture Fund, where she focused on investments and management assistance for a variety of charter management organizations, human capital solutions providers, and academic tools and systems designers. Before that, Weiss spent 20 years pioneering innovative, technology-based ways to increase the effectiveness of teaching and learning — first by leading curriculum and product development, then as CEO, for companies providing technology-based products and services to underserved students in K-12 and higher education.



Session **SPEAKERS**

DAVID J. ADKINS

CEO, The Council of State Governments (CSG)

Adkins, the ninth CEO of The Council of State Governments, works with state leaders from across the country and from all three branches of state government to help them achieve excellence in governing while advancing the common good. CSG, at both the regional and national level, has an ongoing commitment to help state lawmakers understand the complexities and address the challenges in public education. Adkins believes every child should have access to empowering educational opportunities. His experiences taught him that success in any endeavor is dependent on talent. He knows that talent is developed through early childhood education, excellent classroom teachers, safe learning environments and problem-based learning.



DAVID ADKISSON

@david50

President and CEO, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Dave Adkisson is president and CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in Kentucky. Mr. Adkisson and his staff work with the Kentucky Legislature, the governor, the state's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., and in the court system to advance Kentucky. Mr. Adkisson has held several statewide leadership posts in Kentucky, including chairman of the Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education and chairman of the Kentucky Center for Public Issues. In 2010, he served as chairman of the board of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, an association that represents more than 7,000 chamber professionals across the country.



DR. MICHAEL B. ALLEN

Founding Co-Partner, Teacher Preparation Analytics

Dr. Michael Allen has worked with many states seeking to improve their teacher preparation accountability systems and consulted on teacher quality and preparation issues for major organizations in the field. He served as senior program officer at the National Research Council and began his education research and policy career at Education Commission of the States. He is the author of numerous reports and articles in the education field, several articles on epistemology and a book on nonprofit ethics. He has a Ph.D. in philosophy from Boston University and an M.Ed. in research methods from Australia's Charles Sturt University.



JEREMY ANDERSON

@ECS_Anderson

President, Education Commission of the States

Jeremy Anderson has a strong public service record working with officials in Washington, D.C., with many governors and legislators in states and with education policy organizations around the country. He served as the long-time policy and governmental affairs director for former Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, where he advised the governor on state and national legislative initiatives and oversaw her involvement with Education Commission of the States during her term as Chair. He is the eighth president of Education Commission of the States since its establishment in 1965.



DR. LEXI ANDERSON

@LAnderson313

Policy Analyst, Postsecondary & Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States

Lexi Anderson joined Education Commission of the States in August 2013 as an intern and then became full-time in February 2014. As a policy analyst in the Postsecondary & Workforce Development Institute, Lexi works on many postsecondary projects and topics including the Blueprint for College Readiness, reverse transfer and student transition issues. Prior to working at Education Commission of the States, Lexi worked on multiple college campuses as an academic advisor and with orientation programming. Lexi earned a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's degree in leadership in student affairs and a doctorate in higher education.



DR. JAMES APPLGATE

Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education

Dr. James L. Applegate currently serves as the Executive Director for the Illinois Board of Higher Education where he leads efforts to dramatically expand college opportunity in Illinois. He also works to increase higher education's contributions to Illinois' economic and civic health as part of advancing Illinois' Public Agenda. Jim also served as Vice President for the Lumina Foundation where he was head of grant making. From 2000-2008, he was the chief academic officer for the state of Kentucky. Jim was a professor, department head and university senate chair at the University of Kentucky. He was a University Fellow and received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.



Session **SPEAKERS**

STEPHANIE ARAGON

Policy Researcher, K-12 Institute, Education Commission of the States

Aragon supports states by providing research and analysis to education leaders on a host of K-12 issues, including school turnarounds. Stephanie holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a master's degree in public policy/education policy from the University of Denver's Institute for Public Policy Studies.



JILLIAN BALOW

Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jillian Balow is the Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction and supervises public education in Wyoming. She is a wife and mother of two, was born and raised in Wyoming and graduated from the University of Wyoming. She has served in state government for the past nine years and before that taught in both elementary and secondary settings.



JANE R. BEST, PH.D.

@BestEdPolicy

Director, Arts Education Partnership, Education Commission of the States

Jane Best has extensive experience working among practitioners, policymakers and researchers. She has served as Chief Development Officer at My Student Survey and Chief Strategy Officer at McREL. Dr. Best started her career as a French and ESL teacher. Jane has served on the board of directors of Knowledge Alliance, the STEM Education Coalition and the board of governors for the College of Education at The Ohio State University. Jane holds a B.A. from Indiana University, an M.A. from The Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University.



PETER A. BLAKE

Director, State Council of Higher Education in Virginia

Blake previously worked at SCHEV as an Associate Director overseeing higher education analyses in the areas of faculty and staff compensation, funding policies, academic libraries, distance learning and instructional technology, and student financial aid. In July 2015, Mr. Blake was elected Chair of the Executive Committee of State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) policy and coordinating boards of postsecondary education. He had served previously as SHEEO's Treasurer and Chair of Budget and Finance Subcommittee.



DR. BENNETT G. BOGGS

Director of Educator Preparation, Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board

Dr. Bennett Boggs is Director of Educator Preparation at the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board. Prior to this appointment, Ben served on the nonpartisan education staff to the Kentucky General Assembly. Prior to his legislative work, he served as President's Chief of Staff at Berea College, a liberal arts work college in Appalachia that admits high-achieving underserved students – and charges no tuition. Ben also served as Senior Associate at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, an M.Ed. from the College of William & Mary and his B.A. from Wake Forest University.



REP. PAUL BOYER

@pauldboyer

Education Chairman, Arizona House of Representatives

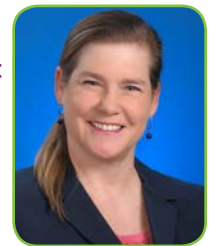
Paul Boyer teaches 10th Grade Humane Letters at Veritas Preparatory Academy, which spans 500 years of modern European history and also includes several great books. He represents legislative district 20, which includes much of Glendale and North Phoenix, in the Arizona House of Representatives and is the Chairman of the House Education Committee. He holds a B.A. in English and a M.A. in Communication Studies from Arizona State University. He is married to Beth and they have a hyperactive, lovable, co-dependent rescue dog – Sydni, an eight-year-old Cairn Terrier.



JAN BRENNAN

Project Leader, National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement, Education Commission of the States

Jan Brennan joined the National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement in 2015. Jan brings a strong background in public administration, arts education and social justice, including positions with the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, Colorado Business for the Arts and the Gill Foundation's Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado. Jan most recently served as Executive Director of El Sistema Colorado, part of an international youth orchestra enrichment program. Jan is licensed as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children.



Session **SPEAKERS**

GOV. PHIL BRYANT

Mississippi

Gov. Phil Bryant learned early the value of hard work and importance of education. He has led Mississippi in implementing transformational public education reforms, promoting economic development and building a competitive business climate that attracts major employers. Before becoming the state's chief executive, Bryant was lieutenant governor from 2008-2011. He also served as state auditor and represented his legislative district in the Mississippi House of Representatives for five years. Bryant began his career as a deputy sheriff in Hinds County and later worked as an insurance investigator before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1991.



BRANDON BUSTEED

@brandonbusteed

Executive Director of Education and Workforce, Gallup

Mr. Busteed's career spans a wide range of important work in education as an educational entrepreneur, speaker, writer and university trustee. Brandon's work integrates Gallup's research and science on talent selection, strengths, engagement and well-being to improve student success, teacher effectiveness and educational outcomes. His mission is to create a national movement to measure the educational outcomes that matter most, connect education to jobs and job creation and promote a paradigm shift from knowledge mastery to emotional engagement in education. Brandon received his bachelor's degree in public policy from Duke University.



DR. JEANNE M. BURNS

Associate Commissioner for Teacher and Leadership Initiatives, Louisiana Board of Regents

Dr. Jeanne M. Burns is the Associate Commissioner for Teacher and Leadership Initiatives for the Louisiana Board of Regents. During the last 25 years, Dr. Burns has been involved in the redesign of all teacher education and educational leadership programs within the state, implementation of a teacher preparation accountability system, implementation of a value-added teacher preparation assessment model, creation of Teacher Preparation Data Dashboards and alignment of preparation programs to college- and career-ready standards. She received her M.Ed. and Ph.D. from Louisiana State University and she previously taught at Stetson University and Southeastern Louisiana University.



SEN. BETH BYE

@BethBye5

Deputy Majority Leader, Connecticut Senate

Sen. Beth Bye represents the 5th State Senate District that includes Bloomfield, Burlington, Farmington and West Hartford. Bye serves as Deputy Majority Leader, Senate Chair of the Appropriations Committee and is also a member of the Education, Judiciary, Children's and Legislative Management committees. Her diverse interests include education, economic development, services for people with disabilities, mental health care and the environment. Bye has been a moving force in bringing high-speed broadband Internet access to Connecticut. Prior to the state senate, Bye served as Vice-Chair of the West Hartford Board of Education for five years and represented West Hartford's 19th State House district for two years.



GOV. STEVE BULLOCK

@GovernorBullock

Montana

Gov. Steve Bullock, Montana's former attorney general, was elected the state's 24th governor in November 2012. He has made better jobs, better education and a more effective government his top priorities. As a father, he recognizes the need for a quality public education. In his first legislative session, Bullock secured a tuition freeze at Montana colleges and universities. He has secured historic levels of funding for the state's elementary, middle and high schools and has pushed for Montana to join the 44 other states that have made meaningful investments in early childhood programs. He received his J.D. with honors from Columbia University Law School in New York.



ANDY CARLSON

@andymcarlson

Senior Policy Analyst, State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)

Mr. Carlson manages and compiles the annual State Higher Education Finance Report and works on various other policy studies, including the State Policy Resource Connection and the periodic Tuition, Fee, and Financial Aid Policy survey. Prior to joining SHEEO, he worked for six years at the Colorado Department of Higher Education as the Budget and Financial Aid Director. In this role, he managed and developed governing board and state-level budget appropriation requests. He holds a M.P.A. degree from the University of Colorado-Denver and a B.A. in history from Indiana University.



Session **SPEAKERS**

DAVID CEDRONE

Associate Commissioner for Economic and Workforce Development and STEM, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

David collaborates with campus leaders of the Massachusetts higher education system to align curriculum and career pathway programs with the workforce needs of key industry sectors, including healthcare, computer science and information technology, financial services and advanced manufacturing. David has two decades' of experience in the business sector, leading global marketing and network services teams at Hewlett Packard, Compaq Computer and Digital Equipment Corporation. He holds an M.Ed. from Lesley University, an MBA from Northeastern University and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Boston University.



SEC. BARBARA CEGAVSKE

Nevada Secretary of State

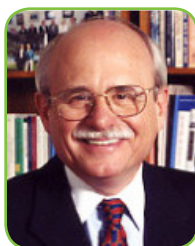
Barbara Cegavske became Nevada Secretary of State in 2015. With more than 33 years of combined public service and small business experience, Cegavske brings a blend of business acumen and legislative expertise to the Secretary of State's office. Cegavske entered public service when she was elected to the Nevada Assembly in 1996 and then served three terms in the state senate. During her time in the Nevada Legislature, Cegavske assumed many leadership roles, including Assistant Assembly Minority Whip, Senate Minority Whip and Senate Assistant Minority Leader. She also chaired the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections.



CHRISTOPHER CROSS

Chairman, Cross & Jofus

Cross is a former Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement at the U.S. Department of Education and former president of the Maryland State Board of Education. He works with clients such as the Aspen Institute, California Department of Education and Education Commission of the States to disseminate promising practices and connect policymaking to critical research. Cross is a noted author and expert on the federal role in education and serves on a number of high-profile advisory boards.



LINDA DARLING-HAMMOND

Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University, President of the Learning Policy Institute

Darling-Hammond is the recipient of 14 honorary degrees and numerous awards for the quality and impact of her research. Before joining Stanford, she was the William F. Russell Professor of Education at Columbia University's Teachers College, a Senior Social Scientist, director of the education program at the RAND Corporation and served as the founding director of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. In 2006, Darling-Hammond was named one of the nation's 10 most influential people affecting educational policy. She has consulted widely on strategies for improving education policies and practices including as the leader of President Barack Obama's education policy transition team in 2008.



ALESHA DAUGHTREY

Partnership Strategy, Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ)

Over the past six years, Daughtrey worked alongside partners, teacher leaders and colleagues to develop teacher-led virtual communities in 10 states, launch projects that bridge educators' leadership on policy and practice, support union/district collaborations and track implementation progress for new teacher leadership and compensation systems in Iowa. Currently, she's working with a CTQ team on new toolkits to structure virtual communities for teacher leaders and measure their impact across platforms. Alesha previously worked in the D.C. area working in policy advocacy and analysis, community organizing, training and philanthropy.



DR. LIBBY DOGGETT

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy and Early Learning, U.S. Department of Education (ED)

Doggett oversees the Office of Early Learning, which provides funds to support and grow early childhood services. Before joining ED, Doggett worked with the Pew Charitable Trusts directing campaigns to build programs for infants and toddlers and Pre-K Now, which improved access and quality of preschool. Doggett also worked for the National Head Start Association, directing their HeadsUp! reading program. She began her career as a bilingual first grade teacher in Austin, Texas. Doggett holds a doctorate from the University of Texas in early childhood special education.



Session **SPEAKERS**

MARYELLEN ELIA

New York State Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York

With 45 years of education experience, Elia was named the 2015 Florida Superintendent of the Year, recipient of the 2015 AASA Women in School Leadership Award from the School Superintendents Association and was one of four finalists for the 2015 National Superintendent of the Year award. She began her career as a social studies teacher in Buffalo's Sweet Home Central School District and taught for 19 years before moving on to administrative positions. Ms. Elia was born, raised and attended school in Western New York. After graduating high school from in Lewiston, N.Y., she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Daemen College in Buffalo, a Master of Education from the University of Buffalo and a Master of Professional Studies from SUNY Buffalo.



TONY EVERS

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elected to office in 2009 and re-elected in April 2013, Evers has dedicated his life to public education, working with the students, parents and citizens of Wisconsin for more than 38 years as a teacher, principal, superintendent and regional administrator. Prior to his election, Tony served eight years as the deputy state superintendent of public instruction, working to ensure a quality education for students across Wisconsin and supporting parents and educators. He has served in schools and lived in communities across Wisconsin, from Tomah to Oakfield, Verona to Oshkosh.



AMANDA FENTON

Director of Federal and State Policy, National Association of Charter School Authorizers

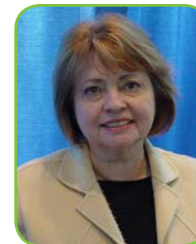
Amanda Fenton leads efforts to advance quality authorizing through smart federal and state policy. In this role, Amanda works with policymakers, authorizers and other education groups to inform policy and implementation discussions on a range of authorizing and charter school accountability topics. Amanda previously worked as an education advocate in California, securing funding and legislative reform for community colleges, school districts, charter schools and non-profit organizations. She has a B.A. in Public Policy from Stanford University and is a proud graduate of Alameda Community Learning Center, a California charter school.



RITA FENTRESS

Director of School Improvement, Tennessee Department of Education

Rita Fentress is the director of School Improvement at the Tennessee Department of Education. Her work in the department's Division of Consolidated Planning and Monitoring targets support for the state's Priority schools, the bottom 5 percent of all schools academically and Focus schools, the 10 percent of schools with the largest achievement gaps between groups of students. Ms. Fentress has worked with the state's Achievement School District and Innovation Zones in the state's four large urban districts since their inception in 2012.



JOE GARCIA

President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Garcia was named President of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education in June 2016. Throughout his career, Garcia has demonstrated a longstanding passion for education and public service. During his more than five years as the second highest elected official in Colorado, Garcia served in the dual role as executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Prior, he was president of Colorado State University – Pueblo, served as co-chair of Gov. John Hickenlooper's P-20 Education Task Force and was a trustee of the Higher Learning Commission for the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. He also has served as president of Colorado's second-largest community college.



TAMARA GOETZ

Executive Director, Utah STEM Action Center, Governor's Office of Economic Development

Goetz has served as the Governor's State Science Advisor and helped to create the Utah STEM Action Center, while also serving as the director of the economic development cluster for life sciences. Dr. Goetz has received numerous awards, including "40 Under 40 Rising Stars" and "30 Women to Watch" by *Utah Business Magazine*, the Award of Merit by the National Association for Career and Technical Education, the Women Technology Council's "Community Builder" award, the Utah Technology Council's STEM Advocate of the Year and the Governor's Medal for Science and Technology.



Session **SPEAKERS**

DANA GOLDSTEIN

@danagoldstein

Journalist and Author

Goldstein contributes to *Slate*, the *New Republic*, *The Marshall Project*, *The Atlantic* and many other publications. Dana writes about education, social science, inequality, criminal justice, women's issues, cities and public health. She is a two-time finalist for the Livingston Award, which honors outstanding reporting by journalists under the age of 35. Previously, Dana was an associate editor at *The Daily Beast* and *The American Prospect*. She graduated from Brown University and lives in New York City.



DANIELLE M. GONZALES

Assistant Director for Policy, Aspen Education & Society Program

Danielle M. Gonzales is Assistant Director for Policy with the Education & Society Program at The Aspen Institute, where she manages a network of senior congressional education staff and develops tools and reports to support policy related to professional learning and teacher effectiveness, college-and career-ready standards and assessments, and the evolving role of states and the state education agency. Danielle was a Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation from 2009-2015. She earned her BA in Political Science and Spanish from The George Washington University and her M.Ed. from the University of Notre Dame.



MICHAEL GRIFFITH

School Finance Strategist, Education Commission of the States

Mike has worked in the field of school finance policy for 19 years with Education Commission of the States, the consulting firm of Augenblick & Myers and the Michigan State Senate. His research has focused on the condition of state budgets, the adequacy and equity of state finance formulas and promising practices in funding programs for high-need students. Mike is an expert resource to national news media and has been quoted more than 300 times. He holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, a master's degree in Public Administration from The Ohio State University and a master's degree in Education Management from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.



SEN. RALPH HISE

North Carolina Senate

Sen. Ralph Hise is currently serving his third term as Senator for North Carolina's 47th District. He co-chairs three standing senate committees: Appropriations on Health and Human Services, Health Care, and Information Technology. He is a member of the following standing senate committees: Appropriations/Base Budget, Finance, Insurance, Redistricting, Rules and Operations of the Senate, Select Committee on Nominations and Transportation. Hise is the Senate Chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice. He holds a B.S. in Statistics from Appalachian State University and a M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from North Carolina State University.



ELIZABETH HUNTLEY

Author and Attorney, Alabama

Hunter practices law at Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC in Birmingham, Ala. Huntley speaks throughout the country and shares her inspirational story of an Alabama woman who overcame nightmarish events and tremendous adversity during her childhood to become a successful attorney, motivational speaker and member of the Auburn University Board of Trustees. She wrote a memoir about her story titled *More Than A Bird* in which she celebrates the teachers and community leaders that impacted her life. In addition to serving on several boards for multiple organizations impacting children and families, Huntley is very active in the movement to expand access to high quality pre-k to all four year olds in Alabama.



JOY HOFMEISTER

@joy4ok

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oklahoma Department of Education

Joy Hofmeister has served as Oklahoma's State Superintendent of Public Instruction since January 2015. During her tenure, Hofmeister has traveled throughout Oklahoma to advocate for schoolchildren and launch commonsense steps to improve performance of the education system. She is an advocate for solutions to Oklahoma's teacher shortage and the elimination of unnecessary mandates and assessments. A former public school teacher and small business owner, Hofmeister has served on the Oklahoma State Board of Education and holds a bachelor's degree in education from Texas Christian University, as well as teaching certificates in English and elementary education.



Session **SPEAKERS**

REP. WENDY HORMAN

Idaho House of Representatives

Rep. Wendy Horman was elected in 2012. She represents District 30 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She serves on the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. She also serves on House Local Government, House Commerce and Human Resources and the Capitol Services Committee. She serves as Commissioner for Idaho for Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and Education Commission of the States. She serves on the Board of Directors of Education Northwest in Portland, Ore. and on the University of Idaho McClure Center for Public Policy Research. Wendy is Chair of the Council of State Governments West Education and Workforce Development Committee.



DR. JOHN B. KING

@JohnKingatED

Secretary of Education

John B. King, Jr. is the secretary of education, a position he assumed upon Senate confirmation on March 14, 2016. In tapping him to lead the U.S. Department of Education, President Obama called Dr. King "an exceptionally talented educator," citing his commitment to "preparing every child for success" and his lifelong dedication to education as a teacher, principal, and leader of schools and school systems. As secretary, Dr. King brings a continued commitment to advancing excellence and equity for every student, supporting educators and elevating the teaching profession, and improving college affordability and completion rates.



AUDREY JACKSON

2016 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year

Audrey Jackson became the second Teach Plus teacher leader to be named the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. She holds master's degrees from the Boston Teacher Residency Program and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. As she went through her training, it became clear she wanted to focus on students in the public school system, particularly providing equitable access to education for children affected by trauma. Jackson chose elementary education so she could work with students at a young age to provide them with the academic and personal skills that would help them achieve their future goals.



ALLYSON KNOX

Director of Education Policy, Microsoft

Allyson Knox serves as advocate at the federal and state levels for the company's positions on STEM education, technology in education and student privacy. She has testified before the U.S. Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade about computer science and workforce development and the U.S. House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education about student privacy. On behalf of Microsoft, she has spearheaded education projects such as InterroBang, CareerForward and co-developed the Scaling-Up Innovation toolkit for educators with Dr. Chris Dede from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



NATHAN JAMES

Deputy Executive Director for Legislative Affairs, Tennessee Board of Education

Prior to his current role, Nathan James served as Policy Advisor for Education and the Workforce to Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana. From 2008-2013, Nathan served the Tennessee Senate as the Research Analyst of the Senate Education Committee during a time of extraordinary reform in all areas of K-12 and higher education. His career has centered on the making of law and policy since 1998 in the non-profit, health, state and federal sectors. He holds a bachelor's in History and Political Science from Lambuth University and a Master of Public Administration from the Tennessee State University Institute of Government.



DR. CHRISTOPHER A. KOCH

President, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)

Koch was appointed as President of CAEP in October 2015. He served as Illinois State Superintendent of Education from December of 2006 until May of 2015 and served in a variety of administrative capacities at the Illinois Education Agency, including Director of Special Education and the state's Chief Education Officer since 1994. Dr. Koch has experience as a special educator having taught in four states in various settings, including an Outward Bound program, a college preparatory school, a youth detention center and a psychiatric hospital.



Session **SPEAKERS**

AKUA KOUYATE-TATE

Senior Director, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

Akua Kouyate-Tate oversees all of Wolf Trap's Education Programs including the nationally acclaimed Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts and Wolf Trap Internship Program. She has led major education initiatives since 2001, including Wolf Trap Early Childhood STEM Learning Through the Arts, a \$1.15 million grant project funded by the U.S. Department of Education. As an administrator, university lecturer and professional artist, Akua regularly presents at national and international conferences on arts education. She holds an M.A. in Art Management and B.A in Dance from American University and is a recipient of a Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Award.



TRACY LAFRENIERE

2016 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year

Tracy Lafreniere has been a Reading Specialist for 18 years in North Smithfield, R.I. She earned her undergraduate degree from Rhode Island College in 1998 and her Master's in Literacy from Lesley University in 2003. She is an adjunct professor for the Providence College Graduate Literacy Program and most recently has been named 2016 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year. In her role as Teacher of the Year, she has founded the Rhode Island Literacy Cohort, a learning community for literacy professionals in Rhode Island and is an active member of the Rhode Island Campaign for Grade Level Reading.



PAIGE KOWALSKI

Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, Data Quality Campaign (DQC)

Kowalski leads a team of advocates to advance education data policies at the local, state and federal levels. Paige was previously DQC's director of state policy and advocacy and managed DQC's efforts to support state policymakers and help them understand their roles and responsibilities in effective data use at all levels. She led DQC's work to inform state and national teacher effectiveness policies and supported state efforts to effectively implement data-related provisions of the 2009 federal stimulus act. Previously, Paige managed national data initiatives for the Council of Chief State School Officers and was a managing partner of DQC.



FREDI LAJVARDI

STEM Educator, Carl Hayden Community High School

Lajvardi has engaged, motivated and challenged students by making science fun and introducing them to the field of robotics. He drew national attention when he entered his diverse high school team in a university level national underwater robotics competition where they placed first, defeating leading universities including MIT. Their inspiring story drew attention from media outlets and led to the acclaimed documentary, Underwater Dreams. Honored with numerous awards, he continues to be a significant contributor to the increasing interest and awareness of STEM education nationwide. With an effective leadership philosophy, he offers valuable and inspiring insight to help individuals realize and maximize their potential.



KRISTEN KRAMER, PH.D.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner of College Readiness & Success, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. Kramer oversees policy and programming development regarding college access initiatives, college and career readiness, P-16 alignment, developmental and adult education, student success and postsecondary completion initiatives. Dr. Kramer has more than a decade of experience teaching undergraduates and working with middle and high school students at risk of dropping out of school.



PAUL K. LEATHER

Deputy Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Education

Leather served for 18 years as the Director of the Division of Career Technology and Adult Learning for the Department. In 1997, Mr. Leather began to create a state model for a competency-based student transcript. This resulted in the development and implementation of the state's competency based assessment system and the student mastery model as part of the state's school approval standards. He led the development of a next generation educational accountability model, Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE) with four districts in March 2015.



Session **SPEAKERS**

DR. ERNEST LEE

2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year

2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year, Ernie Lee, was a corporate lawyer for more than 20 years before becoming a public school teacher. After completing an alternative preparation program, Lee started out as a special education co-teacher. He now teaches International Baccalaureate History and American Government at Windsor Forest High School in Savannah, Ga. His experience explaining complex legal concepts to clients paved the way for instructional techniques that not only challenge but treat students with a high level of care and respect. Lee holds a B.A. in Psychology from Mercer University and a J.D. from Samford University.



MEREDITH LUDWIG, ED.D.

Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research (AIR)

Meredith Ludwig, Ed.D., has worked at AIR since 1996, focusing on changes in teacher preparation and the impact of professional development on K-12 teachers. Dr. Ludwig led two studies exploring professional development and teacher practices: one National Science Foundation funded study and one U.S. Department of Education funded study. She also co-authored a concept paper about professional development implementation in school districts. Most recently, Dr. Ludwig coordinated a study group with the American Educational Research Association focusing on problems of clinical practice in teacher preparation.



COLLEEN LENNON

Principal, Emily G Wetherbee School

Lennon is the principal of the Emily G. Wetherbee School in Lawrence, Mass.; it is a K-8 urban school of 745 students and 104 staff. Prior to state receivership, the school was a Level 3 school in a 5 level system and has been a Level 1 school (the highest on the state accountability system) for the past three years. The school has narrowed the achievement gap for minority students over the past few years. Mrs. Lennon has her Masters in Educational Leadership.



EVAN MARWELL

CEO and Founder, EducationSuperHighway

Evan is a serial entrepreneur, having started companies over the last 25 years in the telecom, software, hedge fund and consumer retailing industries including INFONXX (now KGB) and Criterion Capital Management. Collectively, these businesses created thousands of jobs and generated billions of dollars of revenues and investment returns. Evan founded the non-profit EducationSuperHighway in 2012. In its first three years, the organization helped shape President Obama's ConnectED initiative and served as a catalyst for modernization of the Federal Communications Commission's \$3.9 billion E-rate program, earning Evan the 2015 Visionary of the Year award from the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Evan is an honors graduate of Harvard College '87 and Harvard Business School '92.



TERESA LUBBERS

Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Teresa Lubbers was appointed in 2009 to serve as Commissioner for Indiana's Commission for Higher Education, the coordinating agency charged with ensuring the state's postsecondary education system is aligned to meet the needs of students and the state. Prior to joining the Commission, Lubbers served in the Indiana State Senate for 17 years, leading on education and economic development issues as Chair of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee. She is a member and chair on a number of boards and currently serves as a Commissioner for Education Commission of the States.



DR. SHARMILA B. MANN

@ SharmilaMann

Senior Project Manager and Policy Analyst, Postsecondary & Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States

In her role, she manages the Blueprint for College Readiness project and serves as a resource on education policy in the high school to college transition space. Prior to joining Education Commission of the States, Dr. Mann spent 10 years at the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association working on college readiness, access and success policy. She holds a B.A. in biology from Cornell University as well as an M.S. and a Ph.D. in human genetics from the University of Michigan.

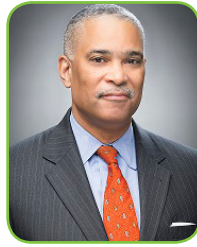


Session **SPEAKERS**

DR. KENT MCGUIRE

President and CEO, Southern Education Foundation (SEF)

Prior to joining SEF, Dr. McGuire served as Dean of the College of Education at Temple University, held positions as Senior Vice President at MDRC, Assistant Secretary of Education during the Clinton administration, Education Program Officer for the Philadelphia-based Pew Charitable Trusts and the Education Program Director for the Eli Lilly Endowment. McGuire was appointed to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans. Dr. McGuire received his doctorate in public administration from the University of Colorado, his master's degree in education administration and policy from Columbia University Teacher's College and his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan.



DR. CANDICE MCQUEEN

@McQueenCandice

Commissioner of Education, Tennessee Department of Education

During her tenure, McQueen has led a statewide effort to create a new strategic plan and vision for Tennessee's schools, Tennessee Succeeds, with goals, priorities and strategies aligned to college and career readiness for all of Tennessee's students. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Dr. McQueen served as senior vice president and dean of the college of education at Lipscomb University. Under her leadership, Lipscomb's college of education was consistently highlighted as one of the top teacher training programs for quality and effectiveness. Dr. McQueen holds a B.A. from Lipscomb, an M.S. from Vanderbilt and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas.



PETER MCWALTERS

Consultant and Advisory Board Member, Education Reimagined

Peter McWalters is currently a consultant to, and an Advisory Board Member of, Education Reimagined. He served as the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for the State of Rhode Island, from 1992-2009 and has served as a Board Member and past President of CCSSO. He started teaching in Rochester, N.Y., in 1970 and served in the Rochester Public Schools from 1985-1992.



DR. DEMARÉE K. MICHELAU

Director of Policy Analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Michelau manages WICHE's Policy Analysis and Research unit and oversees externally-funded projects related to a variety of higher education policy issues. She has experience in policy issues, including transfer, equity and attainment, accelerated learning, college affordability, common academic standards and K-16 reform. She worked for the National Conference of State Legislatures as a policy specialist. Michelau received her BA in public law from Northern Illinois University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from University of Colorado-Boulder.



JESSE O'CONNELL

Strategy Officer, Lumina Foundation

Jesse O'Connell works to advance federal policy to increase higher education attainment and create new models of student financial support. Prior to joining Lumina's Washington, D.C., team Jesse served as the Assistant Director for Federal Relations at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. Jesse began his career as a financial aid administrator at Georgetown University and holds both a master's and bachelor's degree from Georgetown.



PHILLIP OLIFF

Research Manager, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Phillip Oliff is a research manager for Pew's fiscal federalism initiative, examining the fiscal and policy relationships between the federal and state governments. Oliff oversees development of a range of analyses that explore and explain the various aspects of the state-federal relationship with a focus on the funding of higher education and surface transportation. Oliff holds a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University's College of Social Studies and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



Session **SPEAKERS**

ANTHONY OWEN

@AnthonyOwenADE

**Coordinator of Computer Science,
Arkansas Department of Education (ADE)**

Owen began his career in education as a math and science teacher in 2006. From 2011-July 2015, he served as ADE's K-12 Mathematics Specialist. In his current role, Owen coordinates with Gov. Hutchinson's Computer Science Task Force to identify Arkansas' needs and connects with multiple partners to ensure ADE's efforts in computer science are relevant. Owen received a B.S. in mathematics with a minor in education and computer science and a M.S.E. in Educational Leadership from Henderson State University. He received a J.D. from the U.A.L.R. Bowen School of Law in 2013 and was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in 2014.



SCOTT PATTISON

**Executive Director and CEO, National Governors
Association (NGA)**

Pattison works with governors to identify and prioritize issues facing states, identifies challenges and solutions to those issues and oversees day-to-day operations.

He brings a wealth of pioneering experience in tackling trade issues, financial and resource planning, and understanding the nuanced relationship between state and federal governments. Prior to joining NGA, he served for more than 14 years as director of the National Association of State Budget Officers. He is a graduate of George Washington University and received his J.D. from the University of Virginia.



SHANNA PEEPLES

2015 National Teacher of the Year

Shanna Peeples, the 2015 USA National Teacher of the Year, believes in public education. Shanna is an English teacher at Palo Duro High School in Amarillo, Texas, where she teaches Advanced Placement students, English Language Learners who speak a total of 27 languages, and struggling students in both day school and the school's evening credit recovery program. Peeples writes professionally as a blogger for the *Huffington Post* and as a contributor to education publications. She is a 2016 National Education Association Global Learning Fellow, a member of the Global Teacher Prize Academy, recipient of the Texas A&M University Outstanding Educator Award and the Texas State Teachers Association's Instructional Advocacy Award.



MIKE PETRILLI

President, Thomas B. Fordham Institute

Mike Petrilli is also a research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and the executive editor of *Education Next*. An award-winning writer, he is the author of *The Diverse Schools Dilemma* and editor of *Education for Upward Mobility*. Petrilli has published opinion pieces in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg View* and *Slate*, and appears frequently on television and radio. Petrilli helped to create the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement, the Policy Innovators in Education Network, and, long, long ago, Young Education Professionals. He serves on the advisory boards of the Association of American Educators, MDRC and the Texas Institute for Education Reform. He lives with his family in Bethesda, Md.



SARAH PINGEL, ED.D.

@sarah_pingel

**Policy Analyst, Postsecondary & Workforce
Development Institute, Education Commission
of the States**

Sarah supports states by providing analysis tailored to student financial aid and college affordability policies. A data wonk at heart, she also prepares research, authors reports and organizes convenings designed to help policy leaders learn from one another. Prior, she held various positions within three institutional financial aid offices. She holds a doctorate in higher education from the University of Denver.



RICHARD POHLMAN

Executive Director, Thurgood Marshall Academy

Mr. Pohlman is an experienced leader with more than a decade of experience in the Washington, D.C., education, legal and policy sectors. He formerly served as the Chief of Operations and Policy at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, overseeing the daily operations and budgets across three schools, and served as its Acting Head of School with the departure of founder Jennie Niles. He previously worked at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education as a legal advisor. Prior to his work there, he was a Presidential Fellow at the U.S. Department of Education. His current role is the Executive Director of Thurgood Marshall Academy.



Session **SPEAKERS**

KELLY POLLITT

Chief Strategist, Policy and Alliances, National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)

Kelly leads NAESP's policy, advocacy and project-based initiatives on behalf of Pre-K-8 principals. Her work advances federal policy and public affairs efforts on issues of national significance, with emphasis on supporting the role of elementary and middle level principals as the catalysts for school improvement. Kelly also manages a portfolio of project-based efforts focused on cultivating resources and support for principal leadership to create the optimum conditions for teaching and learning. Areas of emphasis in her work include Pre-K-3 alignment, student mental health and well-being, technology and personalized learning, arts-integration, and other interventions and programs that provide students with a well-rounded and successful educational experience.



SHANNON RILEY-AYERS, PH.D.

@riley_ayers

Associate Research Professor, The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), Rutgers University

Shannon Riley-Ayers conducts research in preschool through grade three with a focus on teaching quality, assessment and professional learning. She is part of the senior management team at The Center for Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes where she provides technical assistance to state education agencies in early childhood education. Before joining NIEER, she was co-director of the Office of Early Literacy at the New Jersey Department of Education and she is a certified teacher and reading specialist with several years of classroom experience.



DEREK REDELMAN

@derekredelman

Senior Program Director, USA Funds

As a senior program director, Derek Redelman is responsible for assessing the landscape for USA Funds' grant-making in support of its mission and focus on Completion With a Purpose. His primary focus is on measuring college value and employer engagement. Prior to joining USA Funds in 2014, Mr. Redelman was vice president of education and workforce development policy for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Redelman also served for seven years on Indiana's state workforce board. Mr. Redelman holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chicago and bachelor's degrees from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



PEDRO A. RIVERA

Secretary of Education, Pennsylvania

Rivera was nominated to serve as Pennsylvania Secretary of Education in 2015. Prior, he served as Superintendent of the School District of Lancaster, where he developed and implemented a new curriculum, an aggressive professional development plan and innovative teacher observation tools. He was honored by the White House as a Champion of Change for his efforts to transform urban education – one of 10 recipients nationwide to receive the prestigious honor. He brings extensive experience in public education to his role as Secretary of Education and has spent his entire career helping students, including serving as a classroom teacher.



LT. GOV. KIM REYNOLDS

Lieutenant Governor, Iowa

Reynolds serves as Iowa's 45th Lieutenant Governor, first elected in 2011 and re-elected in 2014. Reynolds has a passion for and works tirelessly to promote STEM programs for students, especially the underrepresented and underserved. She co-chairs the Governor's STEM Advisory Council in Iowa. She is also chairing the development and implementation of the statewide Energy Plan, which will continue Iowa's leadership on the renewable energy front, and position Iowa for continued economic development success. On the national front she currently serves as the Chair of the National Lieutenant Governors Association.



REP. DENNIS ROCH

Deputy Chair, House Education Committee, New Mexico

Rep. Roch serves as Deputy Chair of the House Education Committee, member of the House Appropriations & Finance Committee and member of the House Rules & Order of Business Committee. Roch is a lifelong educator and strongly supports New Mexico's small, rural schools. He cosponsored legislation calling for 50 percent of the state's annual budget to be appropriated to K-12 public education and advocates for local control in student assessment and teacher evaluation. Roch is a Steering Committee member of Education Commission of the States. He received his teaching degree from Eastern New Mexico University and his M.A. while working for U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici.



Session **SPEAKERS**

REP. SHARON TOMIKO SANTOS

Chair, House Education Committee, Washington

Elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1998, Sharon Tomiko Santos serves as chair of the House Education committee and on the Washington State Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability committee. She is a lifelong advocate of quality public education for all students, of the education profession and of closing educational opportunity gaps. Santos authored omnibus state legislation enacted in 2016 to remediate and rectify the institutional inequities in education that disproportionately impact students of color. In addition to education, her policy interests include civil rights, women's rights, economic and environmental justice, and affordable housing.



ELLEN SHERRATT, PH.D.

Deputy Director, Center on Great Teachers and Leaders (GTL Center), American Institutes for Research

Sherratt's areas of expertise include teacher shortages, teacher compensation, views of teachers from Generation Y, teacher voice and equitable access to effective teachers. She led the launch of the GTL Center practitioner advisory group, the Equitable Access Toolkit and the From Good to Great study of excellent teachers' perspectives on improving teacher effectiveness. She earned her BA in economics from Cornell University and her Ph.D. in education from the University of Oxford. Her dissertation explored teacher shortages from international and historical perspectives.



MANDY SCHAUMBURG

Education Deputy Director and Senior Counsel for Chairman Kline on the Committee on Education and the Workforce

In her role, Schaumburg focuses on general oversight of education and human services policy as well as policy issues, including child nutrition, parent involvement, charter schools and privacy. She previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development. Prior, she worked for Congressman Mark Green of Wisconsin as his Legislative Counsel working on judiciary issues, health care and the faith-based initiative. Mandy graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.A. in Political Science and from Hamline University School of Law with a J.D.

MARK SCHNEIDER

Vice President and Institute Fellow, AIR and President, College Measures

Dr. Schneider served as Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics from 2005-2008. In 2013, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* selected him as one of the 10 people who had the most impact on higher education policy that year. He is the author of numerous article and books on education policy. His most recent book, *The University Next Door*, edited with KC Deane, was published in 2014. *Getting to Graduation*, edited with Andrew Kelly, was published in 2012, and *Higher Education Accountability*, edited with Kevin Carey, in 2010.



DR. DAVID B. SMITH

Superintendent, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC)

Dr. David B. Smith has served in the EVSC since 1982, officially beginning his tenure as superintendent in 2011. As superintendent, the EVSC has achieved a 300 percent increase in A/B rated schools while receiving national recognition for its utilization of student data. He led the EVSC in the development of the Transformational Zone, a state approved model for school turnaround. Additionally, the EVSC has grown cash reserves to more than 10 percent of operating funds during a period of declining revenue. Smith holds a Master of Business Operational Excellence and Black Belt in Six Sigma among other degrees.



DR. TONY SMITH

State Superintendent, Illinois

Prior to becoming State Superintendent, Smith was the executive director of the W. Clement & Jessie V. Stone Foundation. Before the Stone Foundation, he led the Oakland Unified School District in California. He served as Deputy Superintendent for the San Francisco Unified School District. He also served as Superintendent of the Emery Unified School District. He led the Math, Science and Technology Initiative at the Emeryville Citywide Initiative. He earned his BA from the University of California, Berkeley and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Cal's Graduate School of Education.



Session **SPEAKERS**

ZAKIYA SMITH

Strategy Director, Lumina Foundation

At Lumina Foundation, Smith is leading the work to develop new models of student financial support for higher education, focusing on issues of affordability. Prior, Smith served as a Senior Advisor for Education at the White House Domestic Policy Council, where she was tasked with developing President Obama's higher education policy. She also served in the Obama administration at the U. S. Department of Education, where she developed programmatic, policy and budget solutions to respond to pressing challenges in college access, affordability and completion. She has been featured on C-SPAN and Fox Business News as well as profiled in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Forbes Magazine* and *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.



DR. MARGIE VANDEVEN

Commissioner of Education, Missouri

Vandeven appointed Missouri's sixth Commissioner of Education in December 2014. During Vandeven's 10 years with the Department, she has served as a supervisor of the Missouri School Improvement Program, Director of School Improvement and Accreditation, Director of Accountability Data and Accreditation, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Quality Schools and most recently as Deputy Commissioner of Learning Services. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Vandeven assisted with the planning and implementation of the Department's Top 10 by 20 initiative, which calls for Missouri to be one of the top 10 states for education by 2020. She is passionate about ensuring all Missouri students are prepared for post-secondary success after leaving the PK-12 system.



BRIAN A. SPONSLE, ED.D.

@BrianSponsler

Director, Postsecondary & Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States

Sponsler oversees the strategic direction of the institute's work, leads the team's policy-research portfolio, and cultivates and maintains relationships with funding partners, policy researchers, policymakers and postsecondary administrators. His research interests include research utilization, policy adoption and college student safety issues. He holds a doctorate in higher education administration from The George Washington University, a master's of arts in higher education from Seattle University and a bachelor's of arts in public administration from the University of Puget Sound.



DR. KEN WAGNER

@RIDeptEd

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Rhode Island Department of Education

Commissioner Ken Wagner began his education career when he was elected to his local school committee at age 18. He has since then worked as a school psychologist, an assistant principal and a middle-school principal, and in 2009, he joined the New York State Department of Education, where he ultimately served as Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy. In August, he began his tenure as commissioner. He holds a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Hofstra University and he lives in Providence with his wife and their two standard poodles.



JIM STANTON

Executive Director, Massachusetts Computing Attainment Network (MassCAN) and Senior Project Director, Education Development Center, Inc.

MassCAN is a broad coalition of K-12, higher education, business and nonprofit leaders who are focused on two goals: (1) assure all students have access to high quality K-12 computer science education and (2) prepare and inspire a much larger and more diverse number of students to pursue postsecondary computer science degrees. To accomplish these two goals, MassCAN is focusing on a comprehensive agenda including policy, teacher and district engagement and public awareness.



REBECCA WATTS, PH.D.

@rwattsOhio

Associate Vice Chancellor for P-16 Initiatives, Ohio Department of Higher Education

She provides leadership for agency initiatives that rely on coordination between the University System of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Education. She represents the agency on educator preparation program accountability, oversees the state's GEAR UP grant and serves as the state lead for the Complete College America Mathematics Pathways initiative. She completed her associates at Lincoln Land Community College, her BA at Sangamon State University, her MA at the University of Illinois at Springfield and her Ph.D. at Ohio University.



Session **SPEAKERS**

JOANNE WEISS

@JoanneSWeiss

President, Weiss Associates

Joanne Weiss is an independent consultant to organizations on education programs, technologies and policy. For the past 15 years, she has focused on driving systems-level educational improvement through high-impact grantmaking, investing and policymaking. From 2009-2013, she served in the Obama Administration as chief of staff to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and director of the federal Race to the Top program. Prior to that, she led companies that pioneered technology-based approaches to solving teaching and learning challenges in K-12 and higher education. She has a degree in biochemistry from Princeton University and lives in Washington, D.C.



MATT WILLIAMS

Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, KnowledgeWorks

Williams is responsible for directing both federal and state policy, advocacy and strategic foresight (future of education work) on behalf of the Foundation. Matt assists KnowledgeWorks and its subsidiaries in building and maintaining relationships to advance their initiatives, advancing policy priorities and directing thought leadership for the Foundation. Matt is a former instructor in the Civic Education Department at Baylor University, where he taught leadership and service learning courses. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Master of Science in Education from Baylor University.



JULIE WOODS

@JulieRoWoods

Policy Analyst, K-12 Institute, Education Commission of the States

In her role, Julie works on a wide variety of education policy topics, with an emphasis on assessments, accountability, teacher issues and ESSA. Julie oversees the organization's constituent requests for policy information and is currently working with Education Commission of the States' ESSA team to counsel and convene policymakers on this new law. She holds a J.D. and M.A. in Education Policy from the Pennsylvania State University.



MARIA WORTHEN

Vice President for Federal and State Policy, iNACOL

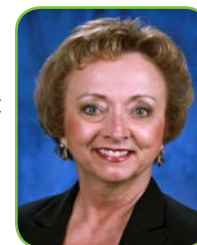
Maria Worthen has devoted her career to children's equity and opportunity. Before joining iNACOL, she was Education Policy Advisor to the Chairman of the Senate HELP Committee, working to rewrite the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. At the U.S. Department of Education, she managed programs for early literacy, safe and drug-free schools and the \$48.6 billion State Fiscal Stimulus Fund. She has published numerous papers and articles on K-12 education policy. She holds a B.A. in Government and Italian from Smith College and a M.S.W. from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.



CAREY M. WRIGHT, ED.D.

State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi

Dr. Carey M. Wright previously served as Chief Academic Officer and Deputy Chief for the Office of Teaching and Learning for the District of Columbia Public Schools and as Associate Superintendent for the Office of Special Education and Student Services for the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. A former teacher and principal, Dr. Wright has been recognized as an outstanding educator by the National Center for Culturally Responsive Systems, nominated twice for *The Washington Post* Outstanding Principal Award and awarded the Howard County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Educator of the Year.



JENNIFER DOUNAY ZINTH

Director, High School Institute and STEM Center, Education Commission of the States

In this role, Jennifer Dounay Zinth researches, writes and presents extensively, providing policy research and analysis to state education leaders and their staffs, the media and the general public. Zinth has received national recognition for her work on high school and transitions to postsecondary, including on STEM. She has contributed chapters to several books, with the most recent chapter published in 2012. She has been cited by numerous media, including the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.



YOUR Education Policy Team



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Jane R. Best
Director, Arts Education Partnership



Jan Brennan
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