



EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

2015
NATIONAL
FORUM ON
EDUCATION
POLICY

DENVER,
COLORADO
JUNE 29 - JULY 1

@EDCOMMISSION
#ECSNF15





We invite you to install a link to the National Forum on Education Policy conference app by going to events.ecs.org/events.html and following the prompts.

@EDCOMMISSION
#ECSNF15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUR SPACE	2
NETWORKING & SOCIAL MEDIA	3
SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE	4
EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES PARTNERS	6
PRE-FORUM EVENTS	9
MONDAY, JUNE 29	9
TUESDAY, JUNE 30	13
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1	22
AWARD WINNERS	26
DISTINGUISHED SENIOR FELLOWS	29
SESSION SPEAKERS	30
EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES STAFF	42
2015 STATE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR	43
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STAFF NETWORK	44

Welcome to the 2015 National Forum on Education Policy!

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate our 50th anniversary of working with state leaders to create more effective education policy. We are thrilled to have you with us as we launch into the next 50 years.

By now you have noticed that Education Commission of the States *looks* different.

For the past 50 years, we have primarily been known as a data-based organization that conducts research and produces education policy reports. While we remain the same trusted organization, we do much more than track education policy, conduct research and create insightful reports. *We are your education policy team.*

We serve as a partner to state policymakers by providing personalized support and opportunities — such as the National Forum — to come together and learn from one another. Through our programs and services, policymakers gain the insight and experience needed to create more effective education policy.

It's a new day and a new look for Education Commission of the States.

Enjoy the National Forum!



A handwritten signature of Brian Sandoval in black ink.

Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
2013-15 ECS Chair



A handwritten signature of Jeremy Anderson in black ink.

Jeremy Anderson
ECS President

National Forum Planning Committee

Special thanks and recognition go to the following Education Commission of the States Commissioners who serve on the 2013-15 planning committee and helped plan this year's National Forum.

Roy Takumi, *Chair, Education Committee,*
Hawaii House of Representatives

Patrick Gadell, *Attorney at Law, Missouri*

Adrienne Jones, *Speaker Pro Tem, Maryland House of Delegates*

James Roebuck, *Democratic Chair, Education Committee,*
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Patricia Wright, *Former Superintendent of Public Instruction,*
Virginia Department of Education

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.

As your education policy team, we research, report, counsel and convene.

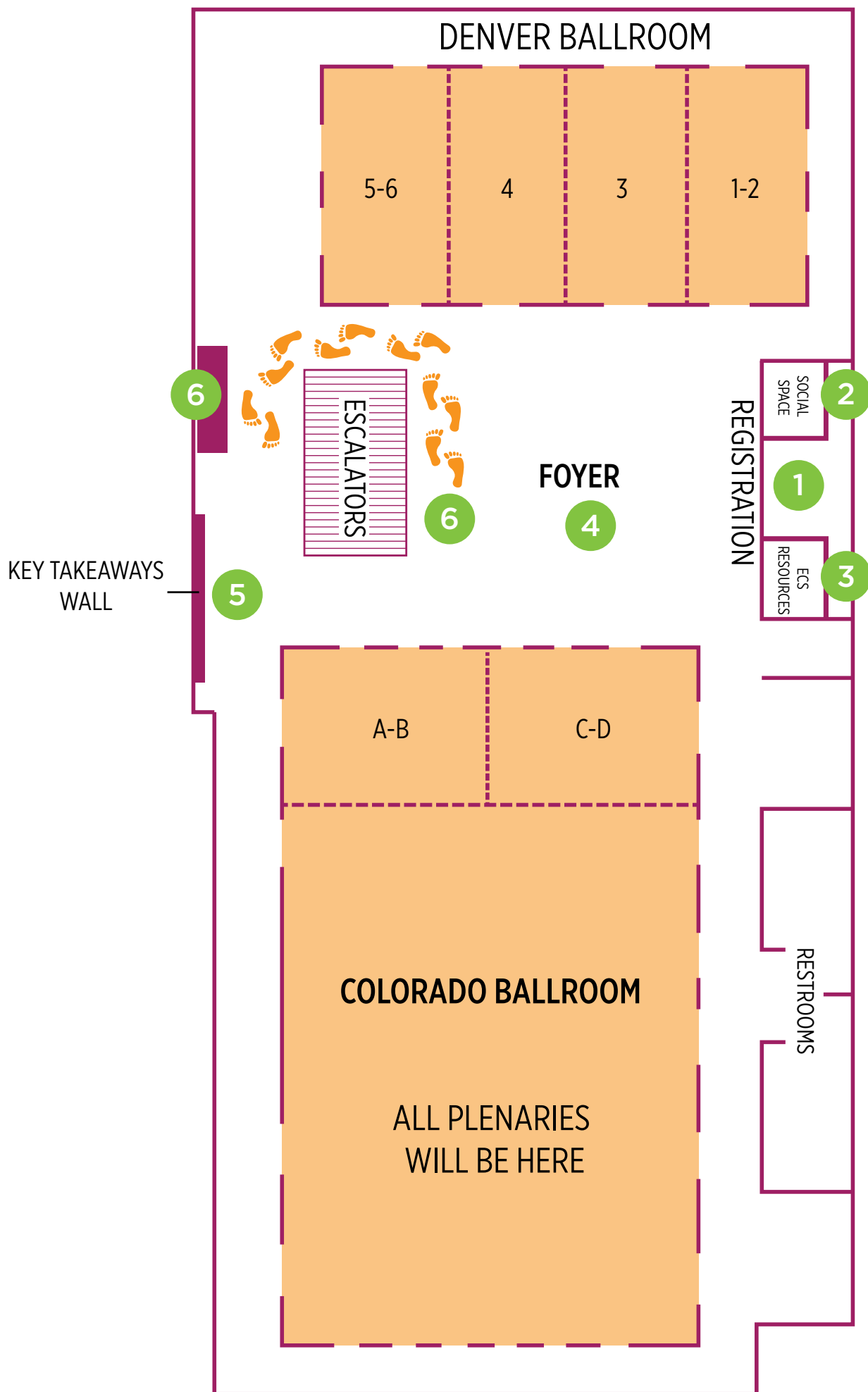
Research: We review the latest research and summarize it into concise, reader-friendly findings, policy implications and recommendations on key issues.

Report: We regularly issue reports on a wide variety of education topics. These reports provide education leaders with concise, factual overviews of specific state policies.

Counsel: We provide unbiased advice on policy plans, review and 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 create opportunities for policymakers to interact, learn and collaborate.

OUR SPACE



The most effective state education policy occurs when policymakers at every level in every state learn from one another. The National Forum on Education Policy provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with state education leaders, from governors to school administrators, from both political parties.

While you're here, be sure to make the most of every opportunity to engage with one another — across states and across the aisle. In addition to the informative sessions and evening receptions, the foyer area has several opportunities for learning and networking:

- 1 **REGISTRATION:** Check-in, get a badge, meet staff, stop by anytime and ask a question. You'll notice name badges include state flags. Have you been watching policy unfold in a certain state? Look for a name badge with that state flag and start a conversation.
- 2 **SOCIAL SPACE:** Your place to check out photos and conference tweets, charge your device, grab a snack and simply get to know the people behind the policy.
- 3 **EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES' RESOURCES:** Stop by and grab a list of links to all our reports related to National Forum sessions. Is there a topic you think we should research and write about? Stop here and let us know.
- 4 **TOPIC TABLES:** You'll notice signs with various topics from early education through postsecondary on the tall tables in the foyer. Hover around and strike up a conversation with like-minded attendees.
- 5 **KEY TAKEAWAYS WALL:** Education Commission of the States' staff wants to know what you find valuable and we also want you to benefit from other attendees' experiences. Please be sure to use the notes on session tables to write and post your thoughts often.
- 6 **KNOWLEDGE WALK (BEGINNING TUESDAY):** Your Education Commission of the States' policy team is here to support you in many ways. Are you fully utilizing our services? Take a quick walk, learn along the way and leave the National Forum knowing new ways to engage with Education Commission of the States.

50TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

Join us Tuesday evening from 5:30–7 pm in the outdoor plaza for a reception celebrating Education Commission of the States' 50th anniversary. From live music to capturing memories, this is the networking event you won't want to miss.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://twitter.com/edcommission>



<http://www.facebook.com/edcommission>



https://instagram.com/education_commission



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/education-commission-of-the-states>

@EDCOMMISSION
#ECSNF15



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 27	
2:00 – 5:15 pm	Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) Meeting (Invitation Only)
SUNDAY, JUNE 28	
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) Meeting (Invitation Only)
2:00 – 6:00 pm	National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement (NCLCE) Board Meeting (Invitation Only)
MONDAY, JUNE 29	
7:00 am – 1:15 pm	Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) Meeting (Invitation Only)
8:00 am – 5:30 pm	Registration Desk Open
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement (NCLCE) Board Meeting (Invitation Only)
11:00 am – 2:00 pm	2015 State Teachers of the Year (Invitation Only)
12:00 – 1:30 pm	Early Learning Caucus Meeting
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Orientation for ECS Commissioners (ECS Commissioners Only)
1:00 – 2:00 pm	ECS Commissioners' Business Session (ECS Commissioners Only)
2:30 – 2:45 pm	ED TALK: Education Commission of the States' Past, Present and Future: 50th anniversary
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Opening and Welcome
3:00 – 4:00 pm	11th and 12th Grade Transition Policies: What is working?
4:15 – 5:15 pm	12th Grade: Escape from a teenage wasteland Approaches to Early Learning New Standards Implementation: State and local lessons learned In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students: Removing the politics behind the policy Changes in Teacher Preparation: What K-12 reforms mean for future teacher training Education Lessons Learned from Across the Globe
Concurrent Sessions	
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Opening Reception
TUESDAY, JUNE 30	
7:00 am – 5:30 pm	Registration Desk Open
7:15 – 8:00 am	Buffet Breakfast
8:00 – 8:15 am	ED TALK: Leveraging Proximity and Partnerships to Shape Policy
8:15 – 9:15 am	Assessments and Implementation: Stories from the states
9:30 – 10:30 am	Early Learning Policies and the K-12 Divide
10:45 – 11:45 am	School Turnaround: Making efforts count early The Path Less Traveled: Reverse transfer as a pathway to degrees Civic Education: Examining accountability and assessment Identifying Effective Teaching: What works? Dual Language Immersion and the Achievement Gap Pursuing Equity through Ecosystem Interconnections
Concurrent Sessions	



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

12:00 – 1:15 pm	Education Commission of the States Awards Luncheon
1:30 – 2:30 pm Concurrent Sessions	From Combat to Coursework: Student veteran college transitions Student Health and Academic Success: Data-informed best practices Career Readiness in a Changing Marketplace State Financial Aid Redesign: Findings from national experts Student Growth in the Non-Tested Subjects and Grades: Options for teacher evaluators STEM-ming the Tide: Factors that influence decisions to major in STEM
2:45 – 3:00 pm	ED TALK: With Sen. Joyce Elliott: Her dream, her vision for America's schools
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Governors Panel on Education Leadership
4:15 – 5:15 pm Roundtables	1. Helping Underserved and Underperforming Students Succeed 2. Quantifying Reading and Mathematical Demands of Career Preparedness 3. Measuring What Matters Most: Connecting student learning outcomes to teacher preparation 4. From Fad to Outcomes: Policy and results-driven methods to digital learning adoption 5. Integrating STEM-Based Challenges into Curriculum 6. Building Capacity for Powerful School Information: How to develop your next generation school report card 7. Professional Development: Ensuring a return on your investment 8. Accountability for the Whole Child 9. How the Arts are Leading the Way for Student Success 10. Supporting Early Childhood Learning Through Systems Alignment 11. Best Practices in Charter School Authorizing: Oversight in a successful, equitable and accessible charter school sector 12. School Finance: Trends and issues
5:30 – 7:00 pm	ECS 50th Anniversary Reception
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1	
7:00 am – 1:00 pm	Registration Desk Open
7:15 – 8:00 am	Buffet Breakfast
8:00 – 9:00 am	Policy Options to Tackle the Achievement Gap
9:00 – 9:15 am	ED TALK: Education for Entrepreneurship
9:15 – 10:15 am	STEM and Innovation in the Workforce
10:30 – 11:30 am Concurrent Sessions	Designing Higher Education Accountability Through Data, Dashboards and Decisions Federal Policy Implications on States: ESEA and higher education reauthorizations Meet SARA: An update on the status and future of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Redesigning a State Funding Formula: The good, the bad and the ugly Poverty and the Achievement Gap Ensuring English Language Learners Success in the Common Core Context
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	The Next 50 Years: Where do we need to go and how can we get there? / iPad Drawing



Education Commission of the States would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to ECS and the National Forum on Education Policy.

PLATINUM

General Electric

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](https://twitter.com/GE_Foundation).



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 independent, nonprofit organization that provides assessment, research, information, and program management services in the broad areas of education and workforce development. Each year, ACT serves millions of people in high schools, colleges, professional associations, businesses, and government agencies, nationally and internationally. Though designed to meet a wide array of needs, all ACT programs and services have one guiding purpose—helping people achieve education and workplace success. For more information, please visit www.act.org.



Alliance for Early Success

The Alliance for Early Success is a catalyst for bringing state, national, and funding partners together to improve state policy for children birth through age eight. We want effective advocacy and policies that lead to improved health, family supports, and learning for young children most at risk for poor outcomes. The Alliance creates and enhances partnerships by convening leaders in innovative ways. We operate through pooled and aligned funding with investors who believe working together gets better and faster results. Our partners and investments in advocacy, policymaker leadership, and research are guided by our Birth Through Eight State Policy Framework. For more information, please visit: earlysuccess.org.



Amplify

Amplify is reimagining the way teachers teach and students learn. We enable teachers to manage whole classrooms and, at the same time, empower them to offer more personalized instruction so that students become more active, engaged learners. Our digital products are leading the way in data-driven instruction. For more information, please visit www.amplify.com.



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. For more information, please visit www.att.com.



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 more than 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions. For more information, please visit www.collegeboard.org.



Farmers Insurance

Inspired by the great work done by teachers every day, Farmers Insurance created the Thank America's Teachers initiative to say thank you to teachers across the country and give away more than \$1,000,000 in grant funding in the process. Every one of us has a teacher who has made a difference in our life and now we can make a difference in theirs by sending a heartfelt thank you note and voting for teachers at ThankAmericasTeachers.com, powered by Farmers Insurance.



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.



Renaissance Learning

Renaissance Learning™ is a leading provider of cloud-based K12 assessment and learning analytics with a presence in more than 60 countries around the world. By delivering deep insight into what students know, what they like and how they learn, Renaissance Learning enables educators to differentiate instruction and personalize practice daily. Please visit www.renaissance.com.



Scholastic Corporation

Scholastic Corporation (NASDAQ: SCHL) is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books and a leader in educational technology and related services and children's media. Scholastic creates quality books and ebooks, print and technology-based learning materials and programs, magazines, multimedia and other products that help children learn both at school and at home. The company distributes its products and services worldwide through a variety of channels, including school-based book clubs and book fairs, retail stores, schools, libraries, on-air and online at www.scholastic.com.



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.



SILVER

BloomBoard

BloomBoard is an online growth development platform that enables educators and organizations to understand some of their most pressing questions: How can we pinpoint the areas where we are excelling, as well as the areas requiring improvement? How can we save time and focus on creating learning paths to support individual and organizational growth? What resources are available to help us rapidly improve without exhausting our budget? Using BloomBoard, schools and districts are able to collect and analyze educator effectiveness data, provide targeted feedback and support, and enable educators to create personalized learning roadmaps. Most importantly, educators will access a rich marketplace of professional development resources to support growth, improve instruction and student learning. For more information, visit <http://schools.bloomboard.com>.



ENA

ENA is the nation's leading provider of **Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)** solutions to school systems, libraries and governments. The converged networks that we design, deploy and manage, as well as the digital classroom resources we offer, improve instructional capabilities and operational efficiencies. ENA currently serves more than 6.8 million customers and over 6,000 sites with best-of-breed technologies, around-the-clock network support and a commitment to outstanding customer satisfaction. For more information, visit www.ena.com.



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.



HP

HP creates new possibilities for technology to have a meaningful impact on people, businesses, governments and society. With the broadest technology portfolio spanning printing, personal systems, software, services and IT infrastructure, HP delivers solutions for customers' most complex challenges in every region of the world. More information about HP (NYSE: HPQ) is available at www.hp.com.



MetaMetrics

MetaMetrics® is an education company that develops scientific measures of student achievement and complementary technologies that link assessment with targeted instruction to improve learning. MetaMetrics has built several frameworks that allow educators to measure and track the progress of students' reading (The Lexile® Framework for Reading), writing (The Lexile® Framework for Writing) and math abilities (The Quantile® Framework for Mathematics), as well as differentiate instruction in these content areas. The company's frameworks involve a scale for measuring student ability and the complexity of materials they encounter, in addition to tools that place students and materials on the same scale. For more information, please visit www.lexile.com and www.quantiles.com.



Measured Progress

For over three decades, Measured Progress has worked with most states, hundreds of districts, thousands of teachers and millions of students through assessment programs that go far beyond filling in the bubbles. At Measured Progress, assessment is more than just a score; it's a roadmap that guides educators to adjust instruction and improve outcomes for students and teachers alike. For more information, please visit www.measuredprogress.org.



Milken Family Foundation

Since 1982, the **Milken Family Foundation (MFF)** has been at the vanguard of education reform. Whether creating the **Milken Educator Awards** to elevate the teaching profession; underscoring the importance of early childhood education; researching the effective use of education technology; or developing **TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement** (now managed by the affiliated **National Institute for Excellence in Teaching**) to provide powerful opportunities for career advancement, professional growth, teacher accountability and competitive compensation, MFF works to ensure that every student in America is afforded a high-quality educational experience. Please visit www.mff.org.



SAS

SAS Institute is a leader in advanced analytics for K-12 solutions. Using SAS, administrators can consolidate, report and analyze data to make proactive, data-driven decisions and determine probable future outcomes. **SAS EVAAS** for K-12 is the most comprehensive reporting package of student growth metrics available. **SAS Curriculum Pathways** philanthropically delivers over 1,000 of web-based curriculum supplements in all of the core disciplines, which are aligned to each state's standards and the Common Core State Standards. Please visit www.sas.com.



SATURDAY, JUNE 27

2:00 – 5:15 PM

ROOM: MATCHLESS

Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) Meeting — Early Learning (Invitation Only)

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

ROOM: MATCHLESS

Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) Meeting — Early Learning and Financial Aid (Invitation Only)

2:00 – 6:00 PM

ROOM: GOLD COIN

National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement (NCLCE) Board Meeting (Invitation Only)

MONDAY, JUNE 29

7:00 AM – 1:15 PM

ROOM: MATCHLESS

Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) Meeting — Financial Aid (Invitation Only)

8:00 AM – 5:30 PM

ROOM: FOYER

Registration Desk Open

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

ROOM: GOLD COIN

National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement (NCLCE) Board Meeting (Invitation Only)

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

ROOM: MATTIE SILKS

2015 State Teachers of the Year (Invitation Only)

12:00 – 1:30 PM

ROOM: INDEPENDENCE

Early Learning Caucus Meeting

12:30 – 1:00 PM

ROOM: DENVER 3

Orientation for Commissioners (Commissioners Only)

Commissioners' Business Session (Commissioners Only)

Commissioners are asked to join their colleagues and represent their states at the annual business meeting of the Commission.

PRESIDING:

BRIAN SANDOVAL

Governor, State of Nevada;
2013-15 Education Commission of the States Chair

OTHER OFFICERS:

ROY TAKUMI

Chair, House Education Committee,
Hawaii House of Representatives;
Vice Chair, Education Commission of the States

MELODY SCHOPP

Secretary, South Dakota Department of Education;
Treasurer, Education Commission of the States

JEREMY ANDERSON

President, Education Commission of the States

STEPHANIE BELL

Vice President, Alabama State Board of Education;
Steering Committee Member, Education Commission of the States

BREAK (30 MINUTES)

Coffee, beverages and snacks will be available in the foyer area



PRE-FORUM

JUNE 27-29



2:30 PM OPENING OF THE 2015 NATIONAL FORUM ON EDUCATION POLICY

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

2:30 – 2:45 PM **ED TALK:** Education Commission Of The States' Past, Present And Future: 50th Anniversary

Education Commission of the States President Jeremy Anderson opens the 50th anniversary celebration by highlighting key milestones of the past half century and discussing how the organization is positioning itself to meet the needs of today's education policy leaders.

JEREMY ANDERSON

President, Education Commission of the States



Opening and Welcome

BRIAN SANDOVAL

Governor, State of Nevada;
2013-15 Education Commission of the States Chair



3:00 – 3:45 PM 11TH AND 12TH GRADE TRANSITION POLICIES: WHAT IS WORKING?

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

Powerful short videos highlight challenges many students face in the transition from high school to postsecondary education. State leaders discuss ways for college readiness assessments to inform 12th grade course-taking and postsecondary enrollment decisions.



CANDICE MCQUEEN

Commissioner of Education,
Tennessee



GAVIN PAYNE

Director, U.S. Policy, Advocacy &
Communications, Bill & Melinda
Gates Foundation (moderator)



GENE SHARRATT

Executive Director, Washington
Student Achievement Council



NANCY ZIMPER

Chancellor, State University
of New York

3:45 PM OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL FORUM EVENTS

JEREMY ANDERSON

President, Education Commission of the States



12th Grade: Escape from a teenage wasteland

ROOM: COLORADO C-D

For decades, policymakers have bemoaned the “wasted senior year” of high school. Today’s college and career readiness assessments allow states to certify 11th-graders as being college ready and ensure they have advanced learning opportunities — or to inform students of the need to participate in 12th-grade interventions in English language arts and math. This session examines the successes and lessons learned from trailblazer states in providing 12th-grade interventions and advanced opportunities.

RANDY DORN

Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington

GAVIN PAYNE

Director, U.S. Policy, Advocacy & Communications,
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

JENNIFER DOUNAY ZINTH

Director of High School and STEM, Education Commission of the States (moderator)

Approaches to Early Learning

ROOM: DENVER 3

High-quality preschool programs help establish a solid academic foundation for young students, particularly those from low-income families or vulnerable communities. State policymakers are increasingly expanding access to these programs, but their approaches differ — sometimes quite widely. In this session, panelists discuss why and how they provide preschool programs for their states’ youngest learners and how quality programs impact grade-level reading.

BRUCE ATCHISON

Executive Director of Policy and Operations and Director of Early Learning, Education Commission of the States (moderator)

HOWARD STEPHENSON

State Senator, Utah

NANCY TODD

State Senator, Colorado

ARIANNE WELDON

Campaign Director, Get Georgia Reading

New State Standards Implementation: State and local lessons learned

ROOM: DENVER 4

This session explores states’ efforts to assist the field with the implementation of new state standards. Hear from several state leaders about the implementation policies. What issues are they still facing after the first rounds of implementation? What are the elements of capacity? What are the success stories and barriers?

THOMAS M. BRADY

Director, Department of Defense Education Activity

KATHY CHRISTIE

Former Vice President, Knowledge Management and Dissemination,
Education Commission of the States (moderator)

BROOKE CLENCHY

Senior Associate Commissioner of Education, Massachusetts

TONY EVERS

State Superintendent, Wisconsin

JON SUPOVITZ

Co-Director, Consortium for Policy Research in Education

In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students: Removing the politics behind the policy

ROOM: DENVER 5-6

Undocumented students are part of a growing population in the United States. Various federal attempts to pass the DREAM act have been unsuccessful, therefore, states have taken it upon themselves to create avenues for undocumented students to receive in-state tuition. The passage of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals has changed the landscape. Learn about the history of the policy, impact on states for higher education revenue, economic development and state data and program elements for admission, scholarships and financial aid.

MARCO DORADO

Student Voice, Recent Graduate of University of Colorado Boulder

STEPHEN JORDAN

President, Metropolitan State University of Denver

ALEJANDRA RINCÓN

Chief of Staff to the Vice-Chancellor, Office of Diversity and Outreach at University of California, San Francisco

TONETTE SALAZAR

Director of State Relations, Education Commission of the States (moderator)



Changes in Teacher Preparation: What K-12 reforms mean for future teacher training

ROOM: DENVER 1-2

Research predicts 60 percent of the teaching workforce will retire in 10 years and nearly half of new teachers will quit within five years of entering the profession. Given this decline and the challenge of new college and career readiness standards, the pipeline and quality of teachers and leaders is quickly becoming a top priority for higher education and alternative preparation programs. This session explores how states and systems are adapting teacher preparation and development to rise to these challenges and opportunities.

EMMY GLANCY

Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States
(moderator)

KATE WALSH

President, National Council on Teacher Quality

NANCY ZIMPER

Chancellor, State University of New York

Education Lessons Learned from Across the Globe

ROOM: COLORADO A-B

Ever wonder how the top-performing countries in education are getting it done? What is working and what can policymakers in the United States learn from these countries? Learn about fundamental principles that support reform in successful countries and are relevant for states. This session looks at what has been learned by legislators in a study group sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

LUTHER OLSEN

State Senator, Wisconsin

JULIE PELEGRIN

Office of Legislative Legal Services, State of Colorado (moderator)

JACQUELINE SLY

Representative, South Dakota State Legislature

ROY TAKUMI

Representative, State of Hawaii

OPENING RECEPTION

Please join us Monday evening from 5:30–6:30 pm
in the foyer for our opening reception.

@EDCOMMISSION
#ECSNF15



7:00 AM – 5:30 PM

ROOM: FOYER

Registration Desk Open

7:15 – 8:00 AM

ROOM: FOYER/COLORADO BALLROOM

Buffet Breakfast

8:00 – 8:15 AM

ED TALK: Leveraging Proximity and Partnership to Shape Policy

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

As the National Teacher of the Year, Sean McComb spent 2014-15 working with education stakeholders at all levels across four continents and nearly 30 states. He will talk about how working in partnership with those in proximity to our challenges can illuminate difficulties and generate solutions, helping us move education forward.

SEAN MCCOMB

2014 National Teacher of the Year



8:15 – 9:15 AM

ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION: STORIES FROM THE STATES

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

With the rollout of new assessments aligned to the Common Core, 2015 has seen outspoken parents, policymakers and practitioners express concern about the appropriate role of tests in our schools. In this session, three state education leaders share their thoughts on the issue.



MITCHELL CHESTER

Commissioner of Education,
Massachusetts



MICHAEL KIRST

Professor Emeritus of Education
and Business Administration,
Stanford University



HANNAH SKANDERA

Secretary of Education,
New Mexico



LIZ WILLEN

Education Reporter,
The Hechinger Report
(moderator)

9:30 – 10:30 AM

EARLY LEARNING POLICIES AND THE K-12 DIVIDE

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

Rhian Evans Allvin, executive director of the country's largest education association working on behalf of young children, talks about the disconnect between early childhood education and the K-12 system, providing examples of why continuous quality matters and the effective ways that education leaders can help to bridge the two systems, thereby enhancing student success for all.

RHIAN EVANS ALLVIN

Executive Director, National Association for the Education of Young Children



BREAK (15 MINUTES)

Coffee, beverages and snacks will be available in the foyer area



TUESDAY

JUNE 30



School Turnaround: Making efforts count early

ROOM: DENVER 1-2

Current measures of success in school turnaround efforts are largely limited to standardized test scores starting in 3rd grade. By limiting metrics to test scores and excluding the earlier grades, promising turnaround efforts taking place are going unnoticed. These limitations not only give an incomplete picture of a school's success but also discourage investments in the K-2 years and promising early learning programs. This session explores the past, present and future of school turnaround efforts and how they can positively impact early learning.

MARK MAUTONE

State Teacher of the Year, New Jersey

KIMBERLY NELSON

Executive Director of Early Childhood, Rockford School District

BLYTHE KEELER ROBINSON

President and CEO, Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers

ELLIOT REGENSTEIN

Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Policy,
Ounce of Prevention Fund

The Path Less Traveled: Reverse transfer as a pathway to degrees

ROOM: COLORADO C-D

With an estimated 65 percent of jobs requiring a postsecondary credential by 2020, states need to find innovative ways to help students move toward degree completion, especially adult students, underrepresented populations and non-completers. Reverse transfer policies and initiatives provide a less conventional road to degree completion and possible career pathways. This session discusses the “new” definition of reverse transfer and how states and organizations are advancing this innovative policy.

LEXI ANDERSON

Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States (moderator)

RUSTY MONHOLLON

Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs,
Missouri Department of Higher Education

HOLLY ZANVILLE

Strategy Director, Lumina Foundation

Civic Education: Examining accountability and assessment

ROOM: DENVER 4

The 2015 legislative session saw a flurry of bills related to assessment and accountability for civic education. Most notably, the Joe Foss Institute, through its Civics Education Initiative, pushed to have states require that students pass the U.S. Citizenship Test as a requirement for high school graduation. This session looks at the issues of accountability and assessment in civic education and offers comment from state leaders and civic education experts about what states are currently doing on this issue along with recommendations for best practice.

EMMA HUMPHRIES

Civic Engagement Coordinator, Bob Graham Center,
University of Florida

KEI KAWASHIMA-GINSBERG

Director, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)

TED MCCONNELL

Executive Director, Campaign for the
Civic Mission of Schools (moderator)

SAM STONE

Executive Director, Civics Education Initiative
at the Joe Foss Institute



Identifying Effective Teaching: What works?

ROOM: COLORADO A-B

Over the past five years there has been a dramatic shift rarely seen in education policy — the widespread adoption of more rigorous educator evaluation policies by nearly every state. As they move from policy development to implementation, states and local districts are finding that building new systems to assess teaching effectiveness is a complex enterprise. This session looks at both the challenges and lessons learned as new evaluation systems are launched.

ANDY BAXTER

Vice President Educator Effectiveness,
Southern Regional Education Board (moderator)

SANDI JACOBS

Vice President and Managing Director for State Policy,
National Council on Teacher Quality

JAMES E. FORD

State Teacher of the Year, North Carolina

LAURA SCHNEIDER

Special Assistant, Educator Effectiveness,
Delaware Department of Education

Dual Language Immersion and the Achievement Gap

ROOM: DENVER 5-6

As interest in dual language immersion programs has increased, a less obvious benefit is emerging — closing the achievement gap. State and district leaders are increasingly finding that dual immersion programs also benefit students from traditionally low-performing groups. In this session, panelists discuss some of these benefits and how state leaders can craft policies to support dual language immersion programs.

CHRISTOPHER T. CROSS

Chairman, Cross & Joftus, LLC (moderator)

ESTER DE JONG

Professor of ESOL/Bilingual Education, Director of the School
of Teaching and Learning, University of Florida

MARJORIE MYERS

Principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary School,
Arlington, Virginia

VALERIA SILVA

Superintendent, Saint Paul Public Schools, Minnesota

Pursuing Equity through Ecosystem Interconnections

ROOM: DENVER 3

The coming decade holds great potential for education stakeholders to create diverse learning ecosystems that are learner-centered, equitable, modular and interoperable, and resilient. But we might be more likely to create fractured landscapes in which only those learners whose families have the time, money and commitment to customize or supplement their learning journeys have access to high-quality personalized learning that reflects their interests and meets their needs. This session will engage participants in grappling with how any given learning ecosystem of the future could look quite different than a typical school district, even one with extensive community partnerships, looks today.

KATHERINE PRINCE

Senior Director, Strategic Foresight, KnowledgeWorks

@EDCOMMISSION
#ECSNF15

TUESDAY

JUNE 30



12:00 – 1:15 PM

AWARDS LUNCHEON

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

All attendees are invited as we recognize this year's winners of the James Bryant Conant Award and the Frank Newman Award for State Innovation.

James Bryant Conant Award: Dr. William Sanders

WILLIAM L. SANDERS

Statistician, Developer of the Educational Value-Added Assessment System

His wife, Dr. June Rivers, will accept on his behalf.



Frank Newman Award for State Innovation: Kentucky

Accepting Award:

TERRY HOLLIDAY

Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

ROGER MARCUM

Chair, Kentucky Board of Education

MARY ANN MILLER

Policy Advisor, Commissioner's Office,
Kentucky Department of Education



Gavel Exchange

Education Commission of the States is privileged to have a governor serve as chair and provide leadership for our organization. We are thankful for the tremendous engagement and direction that Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval provided as the 2013-15 Chair. Today we are honored to welcome Montana Gov. Steve Bullock as he officially takes the reigns as the 2015-17 Chair.



JEREMY ANDERSON

President, Education Commission
of the States



STEVE BULLOCK

Governor, State of Montana;
2015-17 Education Commission
of the States Chair



BRIAN SANDOVAL

Governor, State of Nevada;
2013-15 Education Commission
of the States Chair

@EDCOMMISSION
#ECSNF15



From Combat to Coursework: Student veteran college transitions

ROOM: COLORADO C-D

With more and more U.S. military veterans entering and returning to college campuses, states need to consider the unique needs of this population. This session reviews recent policies affecting student veterans and how states are working toward a more inclusive campus climate. Policy topics include veteran in-state tuition, veteran services on campus and military credit counting toward degree requirements.

LEXI ANDERSON

Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States (moderator)

CHANDA LOWRANCE

Student, Metropolitan State University of Colorado

D. WAYNE ROBINSON

President, Student Veterans of America

CHRISTOPHER STOLLE

Member – 83rd District, Virginia House of Delegates

Student Health and Academic Success: Data-informed best practices

ROOM: DENVER 3

Student health is a multi-faceted issue with wide-ranging consequences, including impacts on student attendance, social and emotional well being, and academic achievement. States have worked to improve school health environments in a variety of ways, including increasing physical activity requirements, providing healthier school food options and requiring that schools provide health and nutrition education. This session examines how improvements to school health policies can contribute to the creation of healthier learning environments and lead to measureable gains in student outcomes.

CHARLES BASCH

Richard March Hoe Professor of Health and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University (moderator)

LORI PAISLEY

Executive Director, Coordinated School Health, Tennessee Department of Education

CYRUS WEINBERGER

Founding Principal, Red Hawk Elementary School, Erie, Colorado

Career Readiness in a Changing Marketplace

ROOM: DENVER 4

It is important that policymakers continue to make high school graduates' career readiness a priority. At this session, learn about critical policy levers for improving career readiness in your state, as well as what states are doing and lessons learned from career readiness initiatives in other states.

DALE ERQUIAGA

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education

TERRY HOLLIDAY

Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

HANNA SKANDERA

Education Secretary, New Mexico Department of Public Education

MATT GANDAL

President, Education Strategy Group (moderator)



State Financial Aid Redesign: Findings from national experts

ROOM: DENVER 5-6

As college prices climb, states are seeking new ways to assist students and families priced out of higher education. Over the past six months, Education Commission of the States has engaged national experts in state financial aid to craft redesign principles for state aid programs. This session covers promising directions for states to pursue in redesigning aid programs for 21st century postsecondary students.

CHERYL BLANCO

Vice President for Postsecondary Education,
Southern Regional Education Board

MONNICA CHAN

Director of Policy & Research,
New England Board of Higher Education

BRYCE FAIR

Associate Vice Chancellor for Scholarships and Grants,
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

SARAH PINGEL

Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States (moderator)

Student Growth in the Non-Tested Subjects and Grades: Options for teacher evaluators

ROOM: DENVER 1-2

The increasingly widespread use of student performance results in teacher evaluations has led to growing recognition of the special challenges associated with this practice for the majority of teachers — those who teach courses and grades not subject to state standardized tests. In this session, an assessment expert, a researcher and a school district representative report on research, development and implementation efforts involving three different approaches to using student academic growth for teacher evaluations. These approaches include end-of-course tests, student learning objectives and student work on performance tasks used for formative purposes.

RUTH CHUNG WEI

Director for Assessment Research and Development,
Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity

MICHAEL COHEN

Manager of Assessment Support, Department of Assessment,
Research & Evaluation, Denver Public Schools

STUART KAHL

Founding Principal and former CEO, Measured Progress
(moderator)

STEM-ming the Tide: Factors that influence decisions to major in STEM

ROOM: COLORADO A-B

Policymakers are seeking ways to increase the number of college graduates with STEM degrees. Research indicates more students switch out of a STEM major than switch in — and that numerous factors influence students' decisions to major in (or drop a major in) a STEM subject. This session explores why students at a university serving predominately underrepresented minorities changed into or out of STEM majors, and policy approaches to help students make informed decisions about choosing a STEM degree.

HAROLD STANISLAW

Professor of Psychology, California State University Stanislaus

ROY TAKUMI

Representative, State of Hawaii

URI TREISMAN

Founder and Director, Charles A. Dana Center,
The University of Texas at Austin (moderator)

BREAK (15 MINUTES)

Coffee, beverages and snacks will be available in the foyer area



2:45 – 3:00 PM

ED TALK: With Sen. Joyce Elliott: Her dream, her vision for America's schools

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

Sen. Joyce Elliott, an American, a Southerner, an Arkansan, and an African American woman committed herself to public school desegregation as a child. Hear why it mattered then, and why it still matters today.

JOYCE ELLIOTT

State Senator, Arkansas



3:00 – 4:00 PM

GOVERNORS PANEL ON EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

Communications guru Andy Plattner digs into the thoughts of Governors Brian Sandoval and Steve Bullock, Lt. Governors Joe Garcia and Kim Reynolds, and others on current and emerging education issues facing policymakers in all states. Hear candid and unscripted comments on what's working and how they, in their leadership roles, direct and promote effective education policy.



STEVE BULLOCK

Governor, State of Montana;
2015-17 Chair, Education
Commission of the States



JOE GARCIA

Lt. Governor,
State of Colorado



BRIAN SANDOVAL

Governor, State of Nevada;
2013-15 Chair, Education
Commission of the States



ANDY PLATTNER

President, Plattner
Communications & Public Affairs
(moderator)



JUNE 30

TUESDAY



ROOM: DENVER BALLROOM

Roundtable sessions are designed for small-group discussion on specific issues or opportunities. A resource leader will facilitate the discussion at each table. Join your peers in this informal opportunity to explore the topic of your choice, share and learn from other participants interested in the issue, and get answers to your questions.

1. Helping Underserved and Underperforming Students Succeed

Join a discussion about how the Institute for Student Achievement partners with schools and districts, using a customized approach based on seven research-based principles, to transform public high schools so that they graduate students who are traditionally underserved and underperforming prepared for success in college.

GERRY HOUSE

President, Institute for Student Achievement (ISA),
a division of Education Testing Service (ETS)

2. Quantifying Reading and Mathematical Demands of Career Preparedness

The reading and mathematical demands for entering college are fairly well understood. But what about the demands necessary to enter a variety of different careers? Explore MetaMetrics' new research on using Lexile and Quantile measures to quantify growth towards career preparedness.

MALBERT SMITH III

President and Co-Founder, MetaMetrics

PATRICIA I. WRIGHT

Former Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction

3. Measuring What Matters Most: Connecting student learning outcomes to teacher preparation

As educator preparation programs continue to evaluate what is working well and what needs improvement, student outcome data can help provide another piece to the puzzle. What data is available for teacher preparation programs and how can this data ultimately impact improved student outcomes?

NADJA YOUNG

Education Specialist, SAS State and Local Government Practice

4. From Fad to Outcomes: Policy and results-driven methods to digital learning adoption

While states and local school districts struggle with infrastructures for digital assessment requirements, the next challenge to be faced is far more impactful. Schools and states will be challenged to create visions for digital learning, as well as the need to ease the transition from traditional lecture-based classrooms to collaborative, blended learning models.

MIKE BELCHER

Education Solutions Manager for the Americas, Hewlett Packard

5. Integrating STEM-Based Challenges into Curriculum

The opportunity for learners to be introduced to STEM and to practice STEM skills comes in a variety of formats. One method for integration is through the use of rapid problem-based learning where learners in the classroom can gain quick, firsthand experience with STEM application and evaluation.

KRIS BEISEL

Director, Global Affiliate Strategy and Administration,
Destination Imagination

JOHNNY WELLS

Board of Trustees Vice Chair, Destination Imagination

6. Building Capacity for Powerful School Information: How to develop your next-generation school report card

Learn how to use the results of ExcelinEd's school report card competition to re-imagine your state's school report card into a user-friendly tool with functionality and creative visualization of school data.

ELIZABETH EMERY

Policy Project Manager, Foundation for Excellence in Education

TOM VANDER ARK

Author and CEO, Getting Smart

7. Professional Development: Ensuring a return on your investment

Many schools and districts struggle with knowing whether their professional development efforts are working. Join a discussion on how to use data to measure the effectiveness of your professional development budget and identify opportunities for growth at a district, school and teacher level.

JASON LANGE

CEO and Co-Founder, BloomBoard

8. Accountability for the Whole Child

How well are states supporting the whole child? Get a first look at ASCD's 50-state 2015 Whole Child Snapshots, which feature data that provide a more comprehensive picture of child performance and well being. Also discuss and hear examples of local and state efforts to implement next-generation school accountability systems.

MELISSA MELLOR

Manager, Public Policy Outreach, ASCD



9. How the Arts are Leading the Way for Student Success

Discuss the role and contribution of the arts in preparing all students for success in college, careers and life. Hear about Art Education Partnership's 2020 Action Agenda that outlines goals and strategies for advancing the arts in education and talk about the benefits of learning in and through the arts.

SCOTT D. JONES

Senior Associate for Research and Policy, Arts Education Partnership (AEP), Council of Chief State School Officers

SANDRA RUPPERT

Director, Arts Education Partnership (AEP), Council of Chief State School Officers

10. Supporting Early Childhood Learning Through Systems Alignment

The research and data are in. Early childhood education is essential for success along the path toward college, career and life. How can we put the systems and policies in place that ensure children get the best start possible? The answer lies in innovative partnerships involving government, schools, communities and families.

SCHOLASTIC

11. Best Practices in Charter School Authorizing: Oversight in a successful, equitable and accessible charter school sector

Come engage in a discussion with charter school authorizing experts about how authorizing shapes the charter community. Bring your thorniest questions and get ready to talk about topics like school accountability, student equity, discipline and much more.

ALEX MEDLER

Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, National Association of Charter School Authorizers

AMANDA FENTON

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

12. School Finance: Trends and issues

Education Commission of the States' national school finance expert hosts a discussion about school funding trends and issues from around the country. Bring questions and hear what peers are doing to reform school funding in their states.

MICHAEL GRIFFITH

Senior Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

50TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

Join us Tuesday evening from 5:30–7 pm in the outdoor plaza for a reception celebrating the Education Commission of the States' 50th anniversary. From live music to capturing memories, this is the networking event you won't want to miss.

@EDCOMMISSION
#ECSNF15

TUESDAY

JUNE 30



7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

Registration Desk Open

7:15 – 8:00 AM

ROOM: FOYER/COLORADO BALLROOM

Buffet Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 AM

POLICY OPTIONS TO TACKLE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

An expert on diversity in education, Pedro Noguera examines the hurdles faced in the efforts to provide equal education to all – and then he unveils the solutions that are already working to overcome them.

PEDRO NOGUERA

Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education, New York University



9:00 – 9:15 AM

ED TALK: Education for Entrepreneurship

Alex Wirth, the co-founder of Quorum, shares his thoughts on why we want all of our students to be entrepreneurs in whatever they do, whether it is starting a company or simply succeeding in the workplace, and how we can get them there.

ALEX WIRTH

Co-Founder, Quorum



9:15 – 10:15 PM

STEM AND INNOVATION IN THE WORKFORCE

ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

Education advocate and author Tom Vander Ark leads a dialogue with state and business leaders on the current and projected skills gap, and what states can do to address this gap, including in STEM occupations and industries.



TOM VANDER ARK

Author and CEO, Getting Smart



KELLI WELLS

Director, U.S. Education, GE Foundation

BREAK (15 MINUTES)

Coffee, beverages and snacks will be available in the Pre-function area



Designing Higher Education Accountability Through Data, Dashboards and Decisions

ROOM: DENVER 1-2

Several states, the U.S. Department of Education and various organizations have undertaken efforts to hold postsecondary institutions and systems more accountable for student outcomes and meeting state goals. This session engages participants in an interactive exercise and discussion on the accountability metrics they have and would like to have in their states, and the problems they are trying to resolve. Participants also explore the cyclical nature of how policy can drive postsecondary accountability measures and respond to the results.

ARCHIE CUBARRUBIA

Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Miami Dade College

MARY FULTON

Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States (moderator)

DAVID GARDNER

Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy, Chief Academic Officer, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Federal Policy Implications on States: ESEA and higher education reauthorizations

ROOM: COLORADO A-B

Federal lawmakers are once again tackling the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 with one version (and its 29 amendments) successfully moving through the Senate HELP committee and a House bill awaiting a final passage floor vote. Meanwhile, Congress is likely to move forward on amendments to the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965 this year, with draft bills possible later this year. This session focuses on the progress and challenges policymakers face with both efforts. Find out the latest news and what's on the horizon for ESEA and HEA reauthorizations.

SARAH BOLTON

Education Policy Director for Minority Staff, U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

CHRISTOPHER T. CROSS

Chairman, Cross & Joftus, LLC (moderator)

MARTIN WEST

Associate Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Meet SARA: An update on the status and future of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

ROOM: DENVER 4

Cross-state online education offered by colleges and universities is expanding dramatically, highlighting the need for states to develop effective ways to oversee the delivery of high-quality postsecondary distance education programs. This session focuses on the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), a voluntary agreement among states to create consistent and comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. National and regional experts answer questions, share updates on state adoption of the voluntary standards and discuss state experiences and processes in making determinations about joining SARA.

PAM GOINS

Director of Education Policy, The Council of State Governments

MARSHALL HILL

Executive Director, National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements

PAUL SHIFFMAN

Chief Executive Officer, The Presidents' Forum at Excelsior College

BRIAN SPONSLER

Director of Postsecondary and Workforce Development, Education Commission of the States (moderator)



Redesigning a State Funding Formula: The good, the bad and the ugly

ROOM: COLORADO C-D

The process of redesigning a K-12 funding system is no easy feat. This session discusses how and why states are reshaping their funding systems as they strive to improve student education outcomes. Specifically, attendees will learn about recent changes in California's funding system, their process for changing the funding formula and how they got buy in from stakeholders.

MICHAEL GRIFFITH

Senior Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

JANNELLE KUBINEC

Program Director of Comprehensive School Assistance Program, WestEd

Poverty and the Achievement Gap

ROOM: DENVER 5-6

Poverty can impede children's ability to learn and contribute to social, emotional and behavioral problems. More than 16 million children in the United States — 22 percent of all children — live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. The achievement gap for low-income young children starts early in life, and is difficult to reverse. The research is clear that early school success for low-income young children also depends on efforts to increase family economic security. Join in a dialogue with national experts on the issues and potential solutions.

PEDRO NOGUERA

Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education, New York University

SHANNA PEEPLES

2015 National Teacher of the Year, Texas

RENÉE WILSON-SIMMONS

Director, National Center for Children in Poverty

Ensuring English Language Learner Success in the Common Core Context

ROOM: DENVER 3

The new, more rigorous standards states are implementing aim to hold all students to the same high expectations. However, in the absence of guidance on developing teachers, programs and curricula to deliver instruction aligned to these standards, English language learners (ELLs) may be left behind. This session provides context on how states can ensure alignment between ELL programs and college and career readiness standards, the unique risks ELLs face as rigorous standards are implemented and the state approaches that have proven effective to support ELLs in mastering rigorous standards.

DALE ERQUIAGA

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education

SHIRLEY WEBER

Assemblymember, State of California

JOANNE WEISS

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

@EDCOMMISSION
#ECSNF15



ROOM: COLORADO BALLROOM

The Next 50 Years: Where do we need to go and how can we get there?

Education Commission of the States closes its 50th Anniversary celebration by looking forward. Several past winners of our James Bryant Conant Award offer their thoughts on the future of education across the states.



JEREMY ANDERSON
President, Education Commission
of the States (moderator)



JAMES COMER
Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry,
Yale Child Study Center; Associate Dean,
Yale School of Medicine



KATI HAYCOCK
President, The Education Trust

*“Behold the turtle:
He makes progress only when
he sticks his neck out.”*

JAMES BRYANT CONANT (1893-1978)

JAMES BRYANT CONANT AWARD

William L. Sanders

Statistician, Developer of the Educational Value-Added Assessment System

Education Commission of the States is proud to announce Dr. William L. Sanders as the 2015 recipient of the James Bryant Conant Award, one of the most prestigious honors in the education community.

Sanders is a statistician, former professor and director of the Value-Added Assessment Center at the University of Tennessee, and the former leader of the EVAAS group at SAS Institute, Inc. He developed the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS), also known as the Educational Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS), a method for measuring a teacher's effect on student performance by tracking the progress of students against themselves over the course of their school career with their assignment to various teachers' classes.

"Dr. William Sanders has been a national leader in value-added assessments and his work has been a key policy discussion in states across the nation. His achievements are a perfect fit for the James Bryant Conant Award, and especially timely given the 50th anniversary of Education Commission of the States," said Jeremy Anderson, president of ECS.

Sanders stands for a hopeful and controversial view: teacher effectiveness dwarfs all other factors as a predictor of student academic growth. His position challenges decades of assumptions that student family life, income or ethnicity has more effect on student learning. Sanders believes, in brief, that teachers matter most.



His work is the foundation of the entire accountability system in Tennessee. Since 1992, it's been changing the way that teachers assess students, the way that principals assess teachers and the way that superintendents assess principals.

"With regard to student academic progress, the effectiveness of adults within buildings is more important than the mailing addresses of their students," Sanders said.

With a lifetime of work dedicated to enabling citizens and lawmakers to better assess how effectively teachers teach, William Sanders epitomizes the spirit of James Bryant Conant.

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. Dr. William L. Sanders joins an esteemed list of past recipients, including Thurgood Marshall, E. D. Hirsch, Fred (Mr.) Rogers and Lamar Alexander. Marc Tucker, president and CEO of the National Center on Education and the Economy, was presented with the award in 2014.



For Outstanding Contributions to American Education

FRANK NEWMAN AWARD FOR STATE INNOVATION

Kentucky *ACCEPTING AWARD:*

TERRY HOLLIDAY

Commissioner, Kentucky Department Education

ROGER MARCUM

Chair, Kentucky Board of Education

The Education Commission of the States is proud to announce the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its Department of Education as the 2015 recipient of the Frank Newman Award for State Innovation for the comprehensive work that has dramatically increased college and career readiness in the Bluegrass State.

Kentucky's ambitious initiative, Unbridled Learning: College/ Career-Readiness for All, incorporates continuous improvement, identifies student learning gaps, emphasizes student achievement growth measures and holds districts accountable for improving student performance and providing quality learning opportunities.

"The work being done in Kentucky to boost college and career readiness has been tremendous. The impact of the Unbridled Learning model is being felt not only in the commonwealth, but also across the nation. It is an honor for Education Commission of the States to recognize the years-long efforts of Kentucky and its Department of Education," said Jeremy Anderson, president of Education Commission of the States.

Unbridled Learning has boosted student achievement in several ways, including:

- More than 62 percent of all graduates in 2014 were considered ready to take credit-bearing college courses or a postsecondary training program, up from 34 percent in 2010.

MARY ANN MILLER

Policy Advisor, Commissioner's Office,
Kentucky Department of Education

- The percentage of recent high school graduates who entered college in Kentucky and met statewide standards for readiness in English, math and reading increased from 52 percent in 2010-11 to more than 68 percent in 2012-13.

There have been many visible effects of these and other initiatives led by the Kentucky Department of Education. The commonwealth's 4th- and 8th-graders continue to outperform their peers nationally in reading and score significantly above the national average in science. Overall student performance improved in 2013-14, with the percentage of Proficient and Distinguished students increasing in nearly every subject area and grade level on state assessments. And more students, including more minority students, are taking Advanced Placement tests and scoring higher.

The actions and policies of the Department of Education have made a remarkable difference in the lives and success of Kentucky's students.



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.



For Outstanding Innovations in State Education Policy

JAMES BRYANT CONANT AWARD

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

FRANK NEWMAN AWARD FOR STATE INNOVATION

2014	<i>Illinois (for preparation and support of effective school principals)</i>
2013	<i>Delaware (for multiple initiatives)</i>
2012	<i>New Hampshire (for high school reforms)</i>
2011	<i>New England Secondary School Consortium</i>
2010	<i>Ohio (for legislative reforms)</i>
2009	<i>Tennessee (for multiple initiatives)</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>
2004	<i>North Carolina (NC TEACH) and South Carolina (The Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement)</i>
2003	<i>Maryland (Visionary Panel for Better Schools)</i>
2002	<i>Alabama (Alabama Reading Initiative) and Texas (Texas Reading Initiative)</i>
2001	<i>Georgia (Universal Preschool Program)</i>
2000	<i>Connecticut (Beginning Educator Support and Training [BEST] Program)</i>
1999	<i>North Carolina (North Carolina Community College System)</i>
1998	<i>Oregon (Students Recycling Used Technology [STRUT])</i>



DISTINGUISHED SENIOR FELLOWS 2015

Education Commission of the States is honored to have four education policy veterans serving as Distinguished Senior Fellows in 2015. 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*.



JOAN LOMBARDI

Director, Early Opportunities LLC

Joan Lombardi serves as senior advisor to The Buffett Early Childhood Fund on national initiatives and to the Bernard van Leer Foundation on global child development strategies. She also directs Early Opportunities LLC, focusing on innovation, policy and philanthropy. Over the past 40 years, she has made significant contributions in the areas of child and family policy as an innovative leader and policy advisor to national and international organizations and foundations and as a public servant. Lombardi served in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the first deputy assistant secretary for Early Childhood Development in the Obama administration, as the deputy assistant secretary for policy and external affairs in Administration for Children and Families, and the first commissioner of the Child Care Bureau, among other positions during the Clinton administration.



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.





RHIAN EVANS ALLVIN
@RHIANNAEYC

Executive Director, National Association for the Education of Young Children

Rhian Evans Allvin is responsible for guiding the strategic direction of NAEYC as well as overseeing the daily operations. Prior, she was a guiding force in Arizona's early childhood movement for more than 15 years. In 2006 she co-wrote the citizen's ballot initiative that created First Things First (FTF), and then Gov. Janet Napolitano appointed her to FTF's state board. She has authored a number of white papers, articles, policy briefs and reports on various topics. Allvin holds a master's degree in business administration from Arizona State 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 ECS during her term as ECS Chair. He is the eighth president of ECS since its establishment in 1965.



LEXI ANDERSON
@LANDERSON313

Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

Lexi Anderson works as a policy analyst in the Postsecondary and Workforce Development Institute for Education Commission of the States. Her role includes working with Lumina Foundation on the Strategy Labs project, tracking enacted and pending legislation, creating trend reports and preparing legislative summaries. Anderson earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Loyola University Chicago, her master's degree in leadership in higher education from the University of St. Thomas and is working on her Ed.D. in higher education at the University of Denver.



BRUCE ATCHISON
@BNATCHISON

Executive Director of Policy and Operations and Director of Early Learning, Education Commission of the States

Bruce Atchison brings more than 25 years of experience working in the field of early childhood. He was the chief of staff for Colorado Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien during Gov. Bill Ritter's administration and served as the executive vice president of the state's child advocacy organization. He taught in kindergarten and early childhood classrooms for more than 10 years and was a child development instructor at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Most recently, Atchison received the Edna Oliver Nancy Swank Early Childhood Lifetime Achievement Award.



CHARLES E. BASCH

Richard March Hoe Professor of Health and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University

Dr. Charles E. Basch specializes in planning and evaluating programs to reduce health and educational disparities. During his 30-plus years at Columbia University, he has directed approximately \$20 million in grants and contributed 150-plus publications. He enjoys speaking throughout the United States on the strong link between health and learning. Basch collaborates with the Children's Health Fund to implement "Healthy and Ready to Learn," an initiative to reduce health barriers to learning in Title I schools in New York City and across the nation.



ANDY BAXTER
@ANDYBAXTERSREB

Vice President for Educator Effectiveness, Southern Regional Education Board

Dr. Andy Baxter came to SREB in 2012 from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina, where he served as director of human capital strategies. In this role, he led the district's work to measure, improve and reward the effectiveness of teachers, with a goal of creating an environment where people can get even better at what they do. Prior, he held a two-year fellowship at CMS as a strategic data fellow through the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard. Baxter holds a doctorate in public policy from University North Carolina Charlotte.



CHERYL BLANCO

Vice President for Postsecondary Education, Southern Regional Education Board

Dr. Cheryl Blanco oversees special initiatives on college readiness and college completion and develops new projects at SREB. Prior, she served as vice president for national college access programs and executive director of the Pathways to College Network at TERI. She has held senior positions in policy and research at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and the Florida Postsecondary Education Planning Commission. Blanco received her Ph.D. in higher education leadership from Florida State University.



SARAH BOLTON

Education Policy Director for Minority Staff, U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

Sarah Bolton advises Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) and members of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on early childhood, elementary and secondary, and higher education issues. Prior, she was a senior budget and policy advisor for the Senate Budget Committee, leading the committee's work on issues related to education, poverty and nutrition. Bolton, a native of North Carolina, has a M.Ed. in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the University of South Carolina.





THOMAS M. BRADY

Director, Department of Defense
Education Activity

Thomas M. Brady has oversight of all 179 K-12 schools worldwide, in 14 districts, serving more than 78,000 students. He has extensive experience as an educational leader, most recently as a former superintendent of Providence, R.I., Public Schools. Prior to his leadership in Providence, he was the chief executive officer for the School District of Philadelphia and chief operating officer for the D.C. Public Schools and Fairfax County Public Schools. Brady's public service includes 25 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Army.



STEVE BULLOCK @GOVERNORBULLOCK

Governor, State of 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. In addition, he has secured historic levels of funding for the state's elementary, middle and high schools, and he 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.



MONNICA CHAN

Director of Policy & Research,
New England Board of Higher Education

Monnica Chan oversees NEBHE's Policy & Research department, which focuses on synthesizing education and demographic data into compelling regional analyses with public policy implications. Prior to joining NEBHE — a nonprofit, congressionally authorized agency that promotes greater educational opportunities and services for New England residents — she coordinated the Bonner AmeriCorps Leaders Program at Burlington County College, where she helped initiate the college's service-learning program. She holds a bachelor's degree from Barnard College and a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



MITCHELL D. CHESTER

Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Dr. Mitchell Chester began his tenure as Massachusetts commissioner of elementary and secondary education in 2008. From 2001-08, he worked for the Ohio Department of Education, where he was the second ranking educator. He served as the executive director for accountability and assessment for the School District of Philadelphia from 1997-2001. Prior, he was chief of the Bureau of Curriculum and Instructional Programs of the Connecticut State Department of Education. Chester holds a doctorate in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



KATHY CHRISTIE

Former Vice President, Knowledge
Management & Dissemination, Education
Commission of the States
Kathy Christie retired in December 2014
after 25 years with Education Commission
of the States. In addition to her role as

a vice president, she directed the organization's Information Clearinghouse, focused on matters relating to educational problems and how they are being met in states across the nation. Prior, she worked as a freelance writer, a secondary language arts teacher, juvenile detention center counselor and for the National Conference of State Legislatures. She served three terms as a district school board member.



BROOKE CLENCHY @BCLENCHY

Senior Associate Commissioner,
Massachusetts Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Brooke Clenchy has spent her entire career in education. She was trained as a high school teacher but early on discovered the joys of teaching at the middle school level. Clenchy has served as a principal for three schools and recently finished more than a decade of service as a district superintendent of schools. In her current position in Massachusetts, her work focuses on teaching, learning and program improvement. Clenchy continues to have a passion for education and a thirst for learning.



MICHAEL I. COHEN

Manager of Assessment Support,
Department of Assessment, Research &
Evaluation, Denver Public Schools

Dr. Michael I. Cohen is manager of assessment support in the Department of Assessment, Research & Evaluation at Colorado's Denver Public Schools. Prior to moving to Colorado in 2013, he served in two New Jersey public school districts in the capacity of high school English language arts teacher, district supervisor of English language arts, and assistant principal of curriculum and professional development in a high school. Cohen earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, Management & Policy at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.



JAMES P. COMER @DRJAMESCOMER

Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry,
Yale Child Study Center; Associate Dean,
Yale School of Medicine

Dr. James Comer first joined the faculty at Yale University and founded the Comer School Development Program in 1968, a program designed to improve scholastic performance of children from lower-income and minority backgrounds in particular. In 2014 President Barack Obama appointed him to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans. He has written numerous articles and books on education, human development and race relations and served on several university, foundation and private sector boards. Comer received an M.P.H. from the University of Michigan.





CHRISTOPHER T. CROSS
@CTCROSS

Chairman, Cross & Joftus, LLC
Christopher T. Cross is chairman of Cross & Joftus, LLC, an education consulting firm, and serves as a consultant to the Broad Foundation and the C.S. Mott Foundation. He also 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 Policy. Previously, Cross served as president and chief executive officer of the Council for Basic Education.



ARCHIE P. CUBARRUBIA

Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness,
Miami Dade College (Florida)

Dr. Archie P. Cubarrubia provides leadership for Miami Dade College's research, planning and assessment activities. Prior to joining the college, he

spent close to a decade at the U.S. Department of Education, leading several of the agency's high-profile and high-priority activities related to postsecondary access, affordability and accountability under the Obama and Bush administrations. Cubarrubia began his career in higher education directing student success programs at Boston University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Rhode Island. He received his doctorate from The George Washington University.



ESTER J. DE JONG

Professor of ESOL/Bilingual Education,
Director of the School of Teaching and Learning, University of Florida

Ester J. de Jong is professor of ESOL/Bilingual Education and director of the School of Teaching and Learning at

the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla. She has worked extensively in the area of two-way bilingual education, particularly in Massachusetts and Florida. Her book, *Foundations of Multilingualism in Education: From Principles to Practice*, focuses on creating equitable learning environments for bilingual learners in K-12 schools.



MARCO DORADO

Student Voice, Recent Graduate of
University of Colorado Boulder

Marco Dorado was born in the colonial city of Jerez, Zacatecas, in central Mexico. In fall 1995, his family relocated to United States, where he began his educational

journey. He graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He gained professional experience as an intern at the Colorado Latino Forum, the Colorado State Legislature and Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. He also served as president of external affairs for the University of Colorado Student Government. Dorado has begun his career in the financial services sector.



RANDY DORN
@RANDYDORN2012

Superintendent of Public Instruction,
State of Washington

Randy Dorn has been an elementary and middle school teacher, a principal and a legislator. For nine years he was executive

director of Public School Employees of Washington, the second largest educational employee's organization in Washington state. In 2008, he was elected superintendent of public instruction. In his years as state superintendent, Dorn has replaced the existing state assessment system with a shorter system, argued successfully against cuts to education funding, expanded early learning opportunities for all students and championed an updated teacher and principal evaluation system.



JOYCE ELLIOTT
@XJELLIOTT

State Senator, Arkansas

Sen. Joyce Elliott is serving her first term in the Arkansas Senate. She is the Senate Majority Whip for the 88th General Assembly and currently represents District

33 in Little Rock. She was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2000 and finished her final term in the House due to term limits in 2006. Civically, Elliott is a member of the NAACP, the Arkansas Women's Forum and the Arkansas Women's Leadership Forum, and she serves on the board of directors for several organizations.



DALE ERQUIAGA
@NVSUPT

Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Nevada Department of Education

Dale Erquiaga was appointed superintendent of public instruction by Gov. Brian Sandoval in 2013. Prior, he

worked in school district- and state-level education policy in Nevada. He previously served as the senior advisor to Gov. Sandoval, providing general policy advice and serving as the governor's speech writer and spokesman. In this role, he was the governor's primary education policy advisor. His education policy experience also includes service with the Clark County School District, where he worked as the executive director of government affairs, public policy and strategic planning.



TONY EVERS
@WISUPTONYEVERS

State Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Wisconsin

Dr. Tony Evers was elected to the office of state superintendent of public instruction in April 2009 and re-elected in April 2013. He

has dedicated his life to public education in Wisconsin, working with the students, parents and citizens for more than 38 years as a teacher, principal, superintendent and regional administrator. The focus of his administration has been Agenda 2017, which advances reforms that will ensure every child graduates college and career ready. To advance this agenda, initiatives have increased rigor in standards and innovation in instruction.





BRYCE L. FAIR

Associate Vice Chancellor for Scholarships and Grants, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Bryce Fair has been employed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education since 1991 and has held his current position since 2000. He is responsible for the administration of approximately \$100 million in state-funded student financial aid programs. The state's largest program, Oklahoma's Promise, is an early-commitment tuition scholarship program for which students apply in the 8th, 9th or 10th grade. He has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan since 1998. Fair earned a master's degree in history from Vanderbilt University.



JAMES E. FORD

@JEFORDNCTOY

North Carolina Teacher of the Year

James E. Ford of Garinger High School is the 2014-15 North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Charlotte Magazine's Charlottean of the Year, and the National Alliance of Black School Educators' Teacher of the Year. Prior, he worked as a truancy intervention specialist in high schools. He was also director of a teen center that provided educational and after-school activities for youth at risk of dropping out of school. Ford earned a master's degree in teaching from Rockford University in Illinois.



MARY FULTON

Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

Mary Fulton works in the Postsecondary and Workforce Development Institute and focuses on remedial education, college readiness and completion, governance and accountability, and also serves as a higher education generalist. She tracks and analyzes state and postsecondary system policies, produces policy papers and provides assistance to state leaders. She has been involved in several projects, most recently the Blueprint for College Readiness and Strategy Labs, and was the lead author for the Developmental Strategies for College Readiness and Success resource guide. Fulton is a proud Colorado native.



MATT GANDAL

President, Education Strategy Group

Matt Gandal is president of Education Strategy Group, a strategic consulting organization that works with states, national organizations and foundations committed to dramatically improving the capacity and performance of K-12 and postsecondary education systems. Prior, he served as a senior official at the U.S. Department of Education, where he was asked by Secretary Arne Duncan to lead a new division responsible for providing policy and implementation support to Race to the Top states. Before that, Gandal was executive vice president of Achieve.



JOSEPH GARCIA

@LTGOVGARCIA

Lieutenant Governor, State of Colorado

Joe Garcia has been passionate about education and public service during his time as Colorado's lieutenant governor, where he has served since 2010. Prior, he was president of Colorado State University-Pueblo, helping the university overcome a number of issues through aggressive marketing and non-traditional solutions. While there, he also served as co-chair of the governor's P-20 Education Task Force, helping guide the development of a significant education reform agenda. Garcia earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



DAVID GARDNER

Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy, Chief Academic Officer, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. David Gardner leads the Academic Quality and Workforce, College Readiness and Success, Strategic Planning and Funding, and Innovation and Policy Development Divisions for THECB. His primary responsibilities include coordination of the efforts toward the Texas Higher Education Strategic Plan. He provided leadership for initiatives such as Texas' higher education plan Closing the Gaps by 2015, the college and university electronic library resource sharing consortium, the Texas Accountability System for Higher Education, and the Texas Public Education Information Resource. Gardner received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.



EMMY GLANCY

Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

Emmy Glancy's work focuses on K-12 and higher education alignment policies and partnerships. Her diverse background encompasses a number of facets of state education policymaking — but started when she was a researcher and graduate from the School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado Denver. Glancy has managed the Blueprint for College Readiness initiative for Education Commission of the States.



PAM GOINS

@PAMGOINS1709

Director of Education Policy, The Council of State Governments

Pam Goins has been with CSG since 2005 and currently leads implementation of the Common Core State Standards Policy Initiative educating state and local policymakers on the national effort for states to adopt common English language arts and mathematics academic standards. She also led a six-state effort to reduce childhood obesity through policymaking through a project with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Goins holds a master's degree in education from the University of Kentucky.





MICHAEL GRIFFITH

Senior Policy Analyst,
Education Commission of the States
Michael Griffith has worked in school finance policy for the past 15 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. Griffith holds 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.



KATI HAYCOCK

President, The Education Trust
Kati Haycock is one of the nation's leading advocates in the field of education and currently serves as president of The Education Trust. Prior, she served as executive vice president of the Children's Defense Fund, the nation's largest child advocacy organization. A native Californian, she founded and served as president of The Achievement Council, a statewide organization that provided assistance to teachers and principals in predominantly minority schools in improving student achievement. Haycock has received numerous awards for her service on behalf of our nation's youth.



MARSHALL A. HILL

Executive Director, National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements
Dr. Marshall A. Hill is executive director of NC-SARA, which provides a voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of postsecondary distance education. His involvement spans work with the Presidents' Forum/Council of State Governments drafting team, the development of SARA agreements with the country's four regional higher education compacts and membership on the National Commission on Regulation of Postsecondary Distance Education. Prior, he served eight years as executive director of Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Hill earned a Ph.D. in music education from Florida State University.



TERRY HOLLIDAY @KYCOMMISSIONER

Kentucky Commissioner of Education
Dr. Terry Holliday was selected as Kentucky's fifth commissioner of education in 2009; he plans to retire this year. Prior, he served as superintendent of the more than 20,000-student Iredell-Statesville school district from 2002-09. Under his leadership, the school district received the 2008 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. He was named to the board of directors for the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in 2010. Holliday earned a master's degree and education specialist degree from Winthrop University, and a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina.



EMMA HUMPHRIES @EKHUMPHRIES

Civic Engagement Coordinator, Bob Graham Center for Public Service, University of Florida
Emma Humphries currently designs, implements and evaluates innovative civic learning opportunities for young people. Her recent projects include an award-winning online civics course and a "Healthy Civic Campus and Community" grant program. Throughout her professional career, she has collaborated with numerous organizations dedicated to civic education, including iCivics, the Bill of Rights Institute and the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship. Humphries' research interests include civic learning, online learning and the intersections of new technologies and civic engagement.



SANDI JACOBS

Vice President and Managing Director for State Policy, National Council on Teacher Quality
Sandi Jacobs is the vice president and managing director for state policy at NCTQ. Prior, she worked at the U.S. Department of Education as a senior education program specialist for the Reading First and Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration programs. Prior to that, she taught 4th and 5th grade for nearly a decade in Brooklyn, N.Y. She was a presidential management intern and a charter corps member of Teach For America. Jacobs holds a master's degree in sociology of education from Columbia University's Teachers College.



STEPHEN M. JORDAN

President, Metropolitan State University of Denver
President Stephen M. Jordan has led MSU Denver on a rapid trajectory toward becoming one of the preeminent public urban universities in the nation since 2005. Under his leadership, MSU Denver has achieved university status and improved higher education access for undocumented students through its leadership in passing the ASSET bill. Currently, he serves as chair of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Presidents Council. He is the chair of the Voluntary System of Accountability Oversight Board. Jordan holds a doctorate in public administration from the University of Colorado Denver.



STUART KAHL

Founding Principal and former CEO, Measured Progress
Dr. Stuart Kahl is the founding principal and former CEO of Measured Progress, an educational testing company with contracts for state testing programs in more than 20 states. An advisor to various education agencies and a frequent speaker, he has more than 35 years of experience in large-scale assessment. He was recognized by the Association of Test Publishers with the 2010 ATP Award for Professional Contributions and Service to Testing. A former elementary and secondary teacher, Kahl earned degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Colorado.





KEI KAWASHIMA-GINSBERG
@CIVICYOUTH

Director, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)
Dr. Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg became the director of CIRCLE in 2015, where she is focused on the organization's mission

and strategies by working with various stakeholders and overseeing CIRCLE's key research and dissemination efforts. She applies her expertise in positive youth development and community psychology to youth civic and political development and seeks to understand how diverse young people interact with the community and cultural contexts as they learn to participate in civic life. Kawashima-Ginsberg earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University Chicago.



MICHAEL W. KIRST
@MICHAEL_KIRST

Professor Emeritus of Education and Business Administration, Stanford University

Dr. Michael W. Kirst has been on the Stanford faculty since 1969. In 2011, he became the president of the California State

Board Of Education for the second time. He was a member of the California State Board of Education from 1975-82 and its president from 1977-81. Before joining the Stanford University faculty, he held several positions with the federal government, including staff director of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Manpower, Employment and Poverty. Kirst received his Ph.D. in political economy and government from Harvard University.



JANNELLE KUBINEC

Program Director of Comprehensive School Assistance Program, WestEd

Jannelle Kubinec is a nationally recognized expert on the effective use of resources to support district and school improvement. She currently is working on behalf of the

California State Board of Education to support the design and implementation of new policies and practices to implement California's Local Control Funding Formula. As program director of the Comprehensive School Assistance Program at WestEd, she leads the federally funded California Comprehensive Center and provides oversight and support to the Region IX Equity Assistance Center, Migrant Student Information Network and Center on School Turnaround.



CHANDA LOWRANCE

Student, Metropolitan State University of Denver (Class of 2017)

Chanda Lowrance is a soldier in the Colorado Army National Guard, having served for five years so far. She decided to return to school three years into her service

with the Guard and is now studying computer science and chemistry at Metropolitan University of Denver. She is a member of the Student Veterans Club and a peer mentor for the Office of Veteran and Military Student Affairs. Lowrance also is a tutor and a researcher in the university's chemistry department.



MARK MAUTONE

New Jersey Teacher of the Year

Mark Mautone, a teacher of preschool students with autism at Wallace Elementary School in New Jersey, is the 2015 New Jersey Teacher of the Year.

He leads his district's Applied Behavior

Analysis Program. He has been working in special education since 1995, when he began his career as a one-to-one aide for a child with Angelman Syndrome at Bergen County Special Services School District. He also created an app to assist his students academically and with life and social skills and he is a strong proponent of using technology to educate students with special needs.



SEAN MCCOMB
@MR_MCCOMB

2014 National Teacher of the Year

Sean McComb teaches students English and college readiness at Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts in Baltimore County, Md. He has also supported

his school as a staff development teacher, his district as a curriculum writer and his profession as an adjunct faculty member at Towson University's School of Education. McComb is the recipient of a dozen awards for teaching, leadership and community service, headlined by his selection as the 2014 National Teacher of the Year.



TED MCCONNELL
@CIVICEDNOW

Executive Director, Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools

Ted McConnell guides the work of a coalition of more than 60 national organizations committed to improving the

quality and quantity of civic learning in our nation's schools. Prior to his work at CMS, he directed the Campaign to Promote Civic Education, a 50-state effort to revitalize and strengthen civic education at the state and district levels. McConnell has served on staff for the presidential campaigns of presidents Gerald R. Ford, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.



CANDICE MCQUEEN
@MCQUEENCANDICE

Commissioner of Education, Tennessee

Dr. Candice McQueen was sworn in as Tennessee's commissioner of education in 2015. Prior, she served as senior vice president and dean of the college of education at Lipscomb University in

Nashville, Tenn. She began her career as a classroom teacher, teaching in public and private elementary and middle schools. She also served as a higher education faculty member and department chair. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the University of Tennessee and the Board of the Tennessee Board of Regents. McQueen has a Ph.D. from the University of Texas.





RUSTY MONHOLLON

Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Missouri Department of Higher Education
Dr. Rusty Monhollon's work at the MDHE includes implementation of several statewide initiatives, such as reverse transfer, transfer course library, remedial

education and increased educational attainment for all Missourians. Prior, he was associate professor of history and director for the Masters of Arts in Humanities program at Hood College in Frederick, Md. He also has held teaching appointments at Washburn University, Rockhurst University, the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri-Columbia. Monhollon earned his doctoral degree in history from the University of Kansas.



MARJORIE L. MYERS

Principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary School (Arlington, Virginia)

Dr. Marjorie L. Myers has been a principal since 1994, both in D.C. Public Schools and Arlington Public Schools in Virginia. She has taught kindergarten through higher

education and has worked as a Spanish teacher, an ESOL teacher, a bilingual counselor, central office program manager for ELL students, an assistant principal and a principal. She has taught and been a school administrator in Florida, Georgia, Venezuela, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Myers holds a Doctorate of Education in Bilingual Special Education from The George Washington University.



KIMBERLY NELSON

Executive Director of Early Childhood, Rockford (Illinois) Public School District

Kimberly Nelson is the executive director of Early Childhood for the Rockford Public School District. She is also an adjunct professor for Rockford University. Prior,

she spent more than 20 years in the Rockford School District working with early childhood special education students, both as a self-contained teacher and a resource teacher. She also has experience working as a home visitor in Early Intervention. While teaching in a self-contained early childhood classroom, Nelson was one of five teachers that received a Golden Apple Award in 2001.



PEDRO ANTONIO NOGUERA @PEDROANOGUERA

Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education, New York University

Dr. Pedro Noguera is a sociologist whose scholarship and research focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by

social and economic conditions and the factors that obstruct and promote student achievement. He holds tenured faculty appointments in the departments of Teaching and Learning and Humanities and Social Sciences at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Development at NYU. Noguera appears as a regular commentator on educational issues and other topics on CNN, National Public Radio and other national news outlets.



LUTHER OLSEN

State Senator, Wisconsin

Sen. Luther Olsen was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 2004 and served in the state Assembly for 10 years. He has been a champion of education issues in Wisconsin and currently serves as chair

of the Senate Committee on Education, vice chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, vice chair of the Senate Insurance and Housing Committee and is a member of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. Olsen graduated from Berlin High School and has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



LORI PAISLEY

Executive Director, Coordinated School Health, Tennessee Department of Education

Lori Paisley leads Tennessee Coordinated School Health, which provides a state-funded initiative in every school district. Prior to becoming executive director of

coordinated school health, she served as director of special projects for the Office of Safe and Supportive Schools at the Tennessee Department of Education. She was a CSH coordinator for Putnam County Schools in Tennessee for five years and has been a special education supervisor, compliance specialist and special education teacher. Paisley is a single mother of twin 19-year-old boys.



GAVIN PAYNE @GPAYNEEDU

Director, U.S. Policy, Advocacy & Communications, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Gavin Payne leads the team responsible for developing and executing national

and state engagement strategies to support the scaling and sustainability of the foundation's work in education. His team also manages a wide range of large, visible and inter-related advocacy and programmatic activities. Prior, his national education consultancy provided strategic counsel, advocacy and technical support to government and non-profit organizations; guided transformation in state education agencies; and built coalitions to implement college and career ready standards. Payne was a fellow in public affairs with the prestigious Coro Foundation in San Francisco.



SHANNA PEEPLES

2015 National Teacher of the Year

Shanna Peebles, the 2015 National Teacher of the Year, is an English teacher and instructional coach at Palo Duro High School in Amarillo, Texas. She believes in promoting hope to students, a precious

commodity in her Title I school where, along with poverty as a critical issue, 12 percent of the students are refugees from multiple countries worldwide and who as a group encompass 28 languages. Peebles holds master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Texas at Arlington.





JULIE PELEGRIN

Office of Legislative Legal Services,
State of Colorado

Julie Pelegrin has worked with the Office of Legislative Legal Services for the General Assembly in Colorado for 24 years, drafting legislation pertaining to criminal law and education. During her career, she has been active with the National Conference of State Legislatures, presenting education programs at many meetings throughout the country and serving as a steering committee member of the Legislative Education Staff Network and a member of the NCSL Executive Committee. Pelegrin graduated from the University of Denver College of Law in 1989.



SARAH PINGEL

@SARAH_PINGEL

Policy Analyst, Education Commission
of the States

Sarah Pingel is a policy analyst in the Postsecondary and Workforce Development Institute at Education Commission of the States. She supports states by providing analysis tailored to student financial aid and college affordability policies. A data work at heart, she also prepares research, authors reports and organizes convenings designed to help policy leaders learn from one another. Pingel holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, a master's degree from Bryn Mawr College and is currently completing her doctoral dissertation at the University of Denver.



ANDY PLATTNER

President, Plattner Communications
& Public Affairs

Andy Plattner has helped clients 'listen' to key audiences, craft clear, effective messages and develop realistic strategies to sustain public support for better schools for more than two decades. He served as a senior consultant to the National Center on Education and the Economy in Washington, D.C., where he helped bring the public's voice into the development of rigorous academic standards and high-quality tests. Plattner has worked on education issues since 1990. Before that he spent 18 years as a journalist covering politics, the last several of those years with U.S. News & World Report.



KATHERINE PRINCE

Senior Director, Strategic Foresight,
KnowledgeWorks

Katherine Prince, one of the United States' foremost educational futurists, leads KnowledgeWorks' exploration of the future of learning. She speaks and writes about the trends shaping education over the next decade and helps education stakeholders strategize about how to become active agents of change in pursuing their ideal visions for the future learning ecosystem. Since 2007, Prince has worked with education stakeholders around the country to explore how they might transform education so as to create better possibilities for all young people.



ELLIOT M. REGENSTEIN

Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Policy,
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Elliot M. Regenstein leads the Ounce of Prevention Fund's national policy consultation practice and coordinates its overall state and national policy efforts. He has extensive experience in working directly with states on policy development and is a frequent speaker and author on topics including governance, data systems and linkages between early learning and K-12. He also partners with the First Five Years Fund to support policy change at the federal level. Regenstein holds a law degree from the University of Michigan.



ALEJANDRA RINCÓN

Chief of Staff to the Vice-Chancellor, Office
of Diversity and Outreach at University of
California, San Francisco

Dr. Alejandra Rincón is the author of *Undocumented Immigrants and Higher Education: ¡Sí se puede!* This is the first book on the topic to chronicle the historic struggle of undocumented students and their supporters to gain equal access to higher education through in-state tuition laws. Her advocacy was recognized in a 2009 feature article in *People en Español*. Rincón also is the 2006 recipient of the Human Relations Award of the National Association of College Admissions Counseling for her national advocacy work.



BLYTHE KEELER ROBINSON

@BKROB75

President and CEO, Sheltering Arms
Early Education and Family Centers

Blythe Keeler Robinson is an innovative leader who has nearly 20 years of nonprofit management experience with expertise in educational programming, early care and education, program design and implementation, grant writing and contract review, and negotiation. Prior, she served as the senior vice president and chief programs officer of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Florida. She led all programming for the organization, providing services to more than 50,000 children and their families annually. Robinson earned a law degree from The Georgetown University Law Center.



D. WAYNE ROBINSON

@BKROB75

President, Student Veterans of America

D. Wayne Robinson served in the U.S. Army and rose to the pinnacle of enlisted ranks as a command sergeant major. During his career he held many leadership positions in artillery, special operations and recruiting, and he graduated from every enlisted leadership course offered by the Army. One of the highlights of his career was serving as the Liaison and Operations Sergeant for the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta (Delta Force). He has more than 39 awards recognizing his valuable contributions to multiple units.





TONETTE SALAZAR
@T2SALAZAR

Director of State Relations,
Education Commission of the States
Tonette Salazar, state relations director for Education Commission of the States, formed Salazar & Associates, an independent lobbying and political consulting firm, in 2002. During her tenure, she focused on K-12 education and higher education issues and successfully represented school districts, counselors, special education directors, career and technical educators, and community colleges on major education reform issues and significant financial restructuring. Salazar earned her law degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



BRIAN SANDOVAL
@BRIANSANDOVAL

Governor, State of Nevada;
2013-15 ECS Chair
Gov. Brian Sandoval was inaugurated as governor of Nevada in January 2011 and comes to office after a long career in public service. He was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Nevada by President George W. Bush in October 2005, becoming the state's first Hispanic federal judge. He was elected attorney general of Nevada in 2002. He served two terms in the state legislature. Sandoval continues to work for 3rd-grade reading proficiency and an end to social promotion, performance pay for educators and performance-based flexibility in school district funding. He received his law degree from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 1989.



LAURA SCHNEIDER

Special Assistant, Educator Effectiveness,
Delaware Department of Education
Laura Schneider serves with the Teacher & Leader Effectiveness Unit at the Delaware Department of Education. Her current role primarily focuses on educator evaluation policy and implementation. She began her education career as an elementary school teacher in New Jersey. She spent 13 years serving as an assistant principal and principal at school districts in New Jersey and Delaware. Schneider was also named the 2013 National Distinguished Principal for the state of Delaware.



GENE SHARRATT

Executive Director, Washington
Student Achievement Council
Dr. Gene Sharratt is the executive director for the Washington Student Achievement Council, the leading state agency bringing together all sectors of the state's education system to improve access, achievement and outcomes for all Washington citizens, from early learning through higher education. He spent 10 years as a college professor and more than 20 years as a K-12 classroom teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, school superintendent and ESD superintendent in international and public schools. Sharratt enjoys writing and has published numerous articles in professional journals and magazines.



PAUL SHIFFMAN

Chief Executive Officer, The Presidents' Forum at Excelsior College
Dr. Paul Shiffman joined Excelsior College in 2002, and currently serves as chief executive officer of the Presidents' Forum and as assistant vice president for Strategic and Governmental Relations. Prior, he served as the vice president for institutional planning and advancement at State University of New York, Rockland Community College, and as the executive associate to the president and assistant vice president for government relations at State University of New York Empire State College. Shiffman has an Ed.D. in educational psychology — classroom behavior from Temple University.



VALERIA S. SILVA
@SPPS_SUPTSILVA

Superintendent, Saint Paul Public Schools (Minnesota)
Superintendent Valeria S. Silva took the helm at Saint Paul Public Schools in 2009, following 22 years as an educator and administrator in SPPS and with the Minnesota Department of Education. Saint Paul Public Schools boasts 39,000 preK-12 students who speak more than 100 languages and dialects. In addition to her university degrees from Chile and Minnesota, Silva is a graduate of the prestigious Broad Superintendents Academy. She is a global thinker and understands the connections of one urban school district to the larger world.



JACQUELINE SLY

Representative, South Dakota State Legislature
Rep. Jacqueline Sly was a teacher for 37 years before running for the South Dakota state legislature. Much of her teaching career was in the areas of special education and alternative education. Currently she is a member of House Health and Human Services Committee and is chair of House Education Committee. She is co-chair of CSG Midwest Education Committee and also chairs CSG Education Committee. Being a member of NCSL Education committee, she has had the opportunity to be a part of the NCSL International Education Study Group. Sly has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.



HANNAH SKANDERA
@HANNASKANDERA

Education Secretary, New Mexico
Department of Public Education
Hanna Skandera was nominated by Gov. Susana Martinez in 2010 to lead the New Mexico Department of Public Education. Hailing her as a "proven reformer," Gov. Martinez again emphasized Skandera's commitment to transforming New Mexico public schools into world-class academic institutions, ensuring every student has access to a quality education. Prior, she served as Florida's deputy commissioner of education under former Gov. Jeb Bush. Most recently, Skandera served as CEO of Laying the Foundation, a national teacher-training program for teachers of English, mathematics and science in grades 6 through 12.





BRIAN A. SPONSLER
@BRIANSPONSLER

Director of Postsecondary and Workforce Development, Education Commission of the States
Dr. Brian A. Sponsler is responsible for the strategic direction of the Postsecondary and Workforce Development Institute's work, manages the institute's policy-research portfolio and maintains relationships with funding partners, policy researchers, policymakers and postsecondary administrators. His research interests include access, college rankings, geographic impediments to college-going and policy-adoption theory. Prior, he was the vice president for research and policy at NASPA and served as associate director for research at the Institute for Higher Education Policy. Sponsler holds a doctorate in higher education from The George Washington University.



HAROLD STANISLAW

Professor of Psychology, California State University Stanislaus
Dr. Harold Stanislaw is a professor of psychology at California State University Stanislaus. He is an active researcher with more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and has two decades of experience in evaluating programs for local, county and state agencies, both in the United States and abroad. Stanislaw earned a Ph.D. at UCLA.



HOWARD STEPHENSON
@SENHOWARD

State Senator, Utah
Sen. Howard Stephenson, first elected to the Utah Senate in 1992, currently serves as co-chair of the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee and is a member of the Senate Education Standing Committee and Higher Education Appropriations Committee. He was selected to be an NCSL Early Learning Fellow in 2015. He was sponsor of Utah's Charter School Program, Dual Language Immersion, and is a national leader in advancing personalized learning through high quality computer-assisted digital learning tools. Stephenson is president of the Utah Taxpayers Association.



CHRISTOPHER STOLLE
@CHRISSTOLLE

Member – 83rd District, Virginia House of Delegates
Dr. Christopher Stolle serves in the Virginia House of Delegates, where he is a member of the House Appropriations Committee. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he is the vice president of medical affairs at Riverside Regional Medical Center. He also serves on the Virginia Board of Veterans Services, which monitors the welfare of the commonwealth's military veterans and their families and sets state policies to enhance veteran services. Stolle earned his Doctorate of Medicine at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.



SAM STONE
@SAMTHEPOL

Executive Director, Civics Education Initiative at the Joe Foss Institute
Sam Stone is a political campaign consultant specializing in education and criminal justice reform policies. He is currently the executive director of the Civics Education Initiative at the Joe Foss Institute. He also is a successful small business owner, has served as director of operations for a Minor League Baseball team and has extensive experience in marketing and advertising. Dedicated to improving educational opportunities, especially for underprivileged kids, Stone lives — by choice — in a low-income community in Phoenix, Ariz. with his cat, Jazz.



JONATHAN SUPOVITZ
@JSUPO

Professor of Education Policy and Leadership, University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education
Dr. Jonathan Supovitz, in addition to his role as a professor, co-directs the Consortium for Policy Research in Education, a national collaborative effort of researchers to communicate research knowledge to inform policy and practice. He is co-editor of *Challenging Standards: Navigating Conflict and Building Capacity in the Era of the Common Core* and a co-author of www.hashtagcommoncore.com, an interactive analysis of the Common Core debate on Twitter.



ROY TAKUMI

Representative, State of Hawaii
Rep. Roy Takumi was first elected to the Hawaii House of Representatives in 1992. For the past 11 years, he has chaired the House Education Committee. He also serves as the assistant majority leader. He is a member of the Hawaii P-20 Council and the State Council on Vocational Education, among other roles. Takumi earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Hawaii.



NANCY TODD
@NANCYTODD28

State Senator, Colorado
Sen. Nancy Todd is the Colorado state senator for District 28. She was elected in 2004 to the Colorado House of Representatives, where she served four terms before being elected to the Senate in 2012. She currently serves as a member of the Senate Education Committee and the Senate Transportation Committee. A 25-year teacher in Colorado's Cherry Creek Public Schools, Todd works tirelessly to ensure that student and teacher voices are represented in education policy decisions.





PHILIP 'URI' TREISMAN

Founder and Director, Charles A. Dana Center,
The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Uri Treisman is professor of mathematics and of public affairs at The University of Texas at Austin, where he is the founder and director of the university's

Charles A. Dana Center. He served on the AACC 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges and serves on the boards of many entrepreneurial nonprofits committed to improving American education. Treisman was named a MacArthur Fellow in 1992 for his work on nurturing minority student high achievement in college mathematics and the 2006 Scientist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation.



TOM VANDER ARK

@TVANDERARK

Author and CEO, Getting Smart

Tom Vander Ark is author of *Getting Smart: How Digital Learning is Changing the World* and *Smart Cities That Work for Everyone: 7 Keys to Education & Employment*. He is

CEO of Getting Smart, an education advocacy firm. Vander Ark advocates for innovations that customize and motivate learning and extend access. Prior, he served as the first executive director of education for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Vander Ark served as a public school superintendent in Washington state and has extensive private sector experience.



KATE WALSH

@NCTQKATE

President, National Council on Teacher Quality

Kate Walsh has served as president of the National Council on Teacher Quality since 2002. Prior, she worked for The Abell Foundation, the Baltimore City Public

Schools and the Core Knowledge Foundation. Her work has tackled a broad spectrum of educational issues, with a primary focus on the needs of children who are disadvantaged by poverty and race. Walsh has authored many papers on teacher quality, with a particular interest in the impact of the policies and practices of institutions, including states, unions, districts and teacher preparation programs, on the teaching profession.



SHIRLEY WEBER

@DRSHIRLEYWEBER

Assemblymember, California State Assembly

Dr. Shirley Nash Weber was elected in November 2012. She chairs the Assembly Committee on Budget, Assembly Select Committee on Higher Education in San

Diego County and the Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate. She also serves on the Assembly committees on Education, Higher Education and Appropriations. She has translated her commitment to education into her ambitious legislative agenda. During her freshmen year in the California State Legislature, five of seven of her successful bills were related to education. Weber earned a Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles.



RUTH CHUNG WEI

Director, Assessment Research and Development, Understanding Language-Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity at Stanford University

Dr. Ruth Chung Wei has worked over the past 13 years at UL-SCALE, where she leads design and research on performance-based assessments used in K-12 schools and in teacher education programs. Her current research focuses on the potential of instructionally embedded performance assessments to serve as measures of student learning and growth, and the effectiveness of tools and protocols for improving the quality of teacher-designed performance assessments. Wei earned a doctorate in Administration and Policy Analysis from the Stanford University School of Education.



CYRUS WEINBERGER

@ELEM26PRINCIPAL

Founding Principal, Red Hawk Elementary School (Erie, Colo.)

Cyrus Weinberger has developed a rigorous academic program coupled with a comprehensive wellness program since Red Hawk Elementary opened in 2010. A cornerstone of the school is the All School Movement Program that provides students with 35-40 minutes of rigorous activity a day in addition to recess and physical education. Prior, he was assistant principal of Superior Elementary and principal of Ryan Elementary in Boulder, Colo. Weinberger received an Ed.M. in School Leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



JOANNE WEISS

Education Consultant

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



ARIANNE B. WELDON

@ABWELDON5

Campaign Director, Get Georgia Reading

Arianne Weldon serves as the director of the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, Georgia's platform for connecting people, agencies, organizations, sectors and communities to ensure that all children in the state become proficient readers by the end of 3rd grade. In that role, she uses her background in public health to encourage campaign partners to apply an epidemiological approach to promoting reading proficiency for young children. Prior, she served for the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia Family Connection Partnership. Weldon holds a Master of Public Health from Emory University.





KELLI WELLS
@KELLIWELLS

Executive Director, Education and Skills,
GE Foundation

Kelli List Wells is the executive director for education and skills for the GE Foundation. Her responsibilities include managing educational partnerships that align to employability while working with GE communities to leverage best practices around the globe. She joined GE in 1995 as an investment representative with GE Asset Management. Prior, she was appointed to Quality, where she became a Black Belt in Six Sigma. After her role in Quality she managed International Marketing at GE Financial Assurance. In 2001 she joined the Corporate Citizenship team at GE Capital.



MARTIN WEST

Associate Professor of Education,
Harvard Graduate School of Education

Dr. Martin R. West is an associate professor of education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, deputy director of the Harvard Kennedy School's Program on Education Policy and Governance, and executive editor of Education Next, a journal of opinion and research on education policy. He is also a research professor at the Ifo Institute for Economic Research in Munich, Germany. He studies the politics of American education policy in the United States and the impact of policy on student learning and non-cognitive development.



LIZ WILLEN
@L_WILLEN

Education Reporter, The Hechinger Report

Liz Willen, a longtime education reporter, leads an award-winning staff at The Hechinger Report. After working at an array of New England newspapers, she spent nearly a decade at Newsday, where she won numerous prizes for covering New York City public schools. She won several more awards, including a Polk, while covering education for Bloomberg News. Willen is a graduate of Tufts University and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, an active New York City public school parent, a bike commuter and a board member for the Spencer Education Fellowships at Columbia.



RENÉE WILSON-SIMMONS

Director, National Center for Children in Poverty

Dr. Renée Wilson-Simmons oversees NCCP, a nonpartisan public policy research center that promotes the economic security, health and well-being of low-income children and families. Prior, she was the senior associate for adolescent health and development at the Annie E. Casey Foundation and then associate director of the Evidence-Based Practice Group. She also was director of the Health Promotion Program for Urban Youth at the Boston Department of Health and Hospitals. She received her doctorate in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



ALEX WIRTH
@AMALIWIRTH

Co-founder, Quorum

Alex Wirth is the cofounder of Quorum, Washington, D.C.'s next-generation legislative strategy platform that provides quantitative insights into the U.S. Congress.

Secretary Hillary Clinton appointed him to the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, where he chairs the Youth Working Group and serves as its youngest member. He served as the inaugural chair of the Campaign for a Presidential Youth Council and as an intern in the Office of the Chief of Staff at the White House. Wirth is a recent graduate of Harvard University.



HOLLY ZANVILLE

Strategy Director, Lumina Foundation

Dr. Holly Zanville leads strategies to help create new systems of quality credentials, credits defined by competencies, transparent pathways to students and alignment with workforce needs at Lumina

Foundation. She also leads a funders collaborative supporting a national reverse transfer initiative. Most recently, she served as coordinator of Oregon's Joint Boards K-20 Redesign Initiative, senior academic officer for the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board and associate vice chancellor for academic affairs at the Oregon University System. Zanville earned her Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Minnesota.



NANCY L. ZIMPHER

Chancellor, State University of New York

Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher became the 12th chancellor of the State University of New York in June 2009. With nearly 463,000 students and 64 colleges and universities, SUNY is the nation's largest comprehensive

system of higher education. She leads a diverse set of successful initiatives at SUNY in several key areas, including research and innovation, energy, health care, global affairs and the education pipeline. Prior she served as president of the University of Cincinnati. Zimpher holds a Ph.D. in Teacher Education and Higher Education Administration from The Ohio State University.



JENNIFER DOUNAY ZINTH

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

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. She has received national recognition for her work on issues related to high school and transitions to postsecondary, including 12th-grade transitions and dual enrollment. She has contributed chapters to several books, with the most recent chapter published in 2012. Zinth has been cited by numerous media, including The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.



EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES STAFF



Jeremy Anderson
President



Lexi Anderson
Policy Analyst



Stephanie Aragon
Researcher



Bruce Atchison
Executive Director of Policy and Operations and Director of Early Learning



Paul Baumann
Director of National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement



Kym Bloom
Print & Web Designer



Jan Brennan
Project Specialist, National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement



Brady Delander
Communications Specialist



Carmen V. Fujinami
Library Technician



Mary Fulton
Policy Analyst



Antionette Garcia
Executive Office Manager and State Relations Specialist



Emmy J. Glancy
Policy Analyst



Lisa Guilfoile
State Relations Associate



John Ivey
Publications Distribution Coordinator



Carol Kreck
Researcher



Kate Lams
Communications and Social Media Strategist



Janet Martin
Accountant



Maria Millard
Policy Analyst



Zeke Perez Jr.
Researcher



Sarah Pingel
Policy Analyst



Julie Rowland
Researcher



Jolyn Ruybal
Administrative Assistant



Tonette Salazar
Director of State Relations



Amy Skinner
Director of Communications



Brian A. Sponsler
Director of Postsecondary and Workforce Development



Jennifer Thomsen
Knowledge and Research Manager/Policy Analyst



Tracy Vigil
Controller



Micah Ann Wixom
Policy Analyst



Emily Workman
Information Clearinghouse Manager/Policy Analyst



Jennifer Dounay Zinth
Director of High School and STEM



Congratulations to the 2015 State Teachers of the Year!

We are proud and grateful to have many of these extraordinary individuals with us here in Denver.

Thanks to the generous support of Farmers Insurance and Renaissance Learning who made the teachers' participation possible.



FARMERS



Congratulations to Shanna Peeples from Palo Duro High School in Texas, the 2015 National Teacher of the Year!

ALASKA

John Bruce
Romig Middle School

AMERICAN SAMOA

Monica Lui
Samoana High School

ARIZONA

John-David Bowman
Westwood High School

ARKANSAS

Ouida Newton
Poyen High School

CALIFORNIA

Maggie J. Mabery
Manhattan Beach Middle School

COLORADO

Kathleen Marie Thirkell
Lewis Palmer High School

CONNECTICUT

Cara Quinn
Sunset Ridge School

DELAWARE

Megan D. Szabo
Postlethwait Middle School

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Sarah Loomis
Kaiserslautern Elementary School

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Jennifer Ramacciotti
KIPP DC: AIM Academy

FLORIDA

Christie Crawford Bassett
Highland Grove Elementary School

GEORGIA

Amanda Miliner
Miller Elementary School

GUAM

Mary Anne M. Angeles
Oceanview Middle School

HAWAII

Catherine Caine
Waikiki School

IDAHO

Kim Zeydel
Meridian Academy High School

ILLINOIS

Steven Elza
William Fremd High School

INDIANA

Kathy Nimmer
William Henry Harrison High School

IOWA

Clemencia Spizzirri
Merrill Middle School

KANSAS

Shannon Ralph
Dodge City High School

KENTUCKY

Sarah M. Reed
Field Elementary School

LOUISIANA

Carla Zea Jackson
Bains Elementary School

MAINE

Jennifer A. Dorman
Skowhegan Area Middle School/RSU #54

MARYLAND

Jody Zepp
Hammond High School

MASSACHUSETTS

Jeffrey Shea
Belmont High School

MICHIGAN

Melody Arabo
Keith Elementary School

MINNESOTA

Thomas Rademacher
FAIR School Downtown

MISSISSIPPI

Mary Magarett King
New Albany High School

MISSOURI

Chris Holmes
Hazelwood West High School

MONTANA

Craig Beals
Billings Senior High School

NEBRASKA

Shelby Travis Aaberg
Scottsbluff High School

NEVADA

Ian Salzman
Spring Valley High School

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Elizabeth Lichtenberg
Alton Central School

NEW JERSEY

Mark Mautone
Wallace Elementary School

NEW MEXICO

Debra S. Minyard
Pojoaque Valley High School

NEW YORK

Charles Giglio
Gloversville High School

NORTH CAROLINA

James E. Ford
Garinger High School

NORTH DAKOTA

Dean Richard Aamodt
Wahpeton Public Schools

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Marvin Slone Tamangided
Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior/Senior High School

OHIO

Lori Michalec
Tallmadge High School

OKLAHOMA

Jason Proctor
Tahlequah High School

OREGON

Michael Lindblad
Gresham High School

PENNSYLVANIA

Anthony E. Grisillo
Glenwood Elementary School

RHODE ISLAND

David Moscarelli
Ponaganset High School

SOUTH CAROLINA

Jennifer Ainsworth
Socastee High School

SOUTH DAKOTA

Allen Hogie
Brandon Valley High School

TENNESSEE

Karen E. Vogelsang
Keystone Elementary School

TEXAS

Shanna Peeples
*National Teacher of the Year
Palo Duro High School*

UTAH

Mohsen Ghaffari
North Star Elementary School

VERMONT

Rebecca Haslam
Champlain Elementary School

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Jeune B. Provost
Julius E. Sprauve School

VIRGINIA

Jaclyn Marie Roller Ryan
Signal Knob Middle School

WASHINGTON

Lyon Terry
Lawton Elementary School

WEST VIRGINIA

Gail Adams
Wheeling Park High School

WISCONSIN

Diana Callope
Whitewater Middle School

WYOMING

Tyler Bartlett
Newcastle Middle School



We welcome the Legislative Education Staff Network to Denver!

Thanks to the generous support from the USA Funds and The Alliance for Early Success, Education Commission of the States has invited nearly 50 members of the Legislative Education Staff Network (LESN) to participate in a three-day professional development workshop focused on issues surrounding early learning and state financial aid.

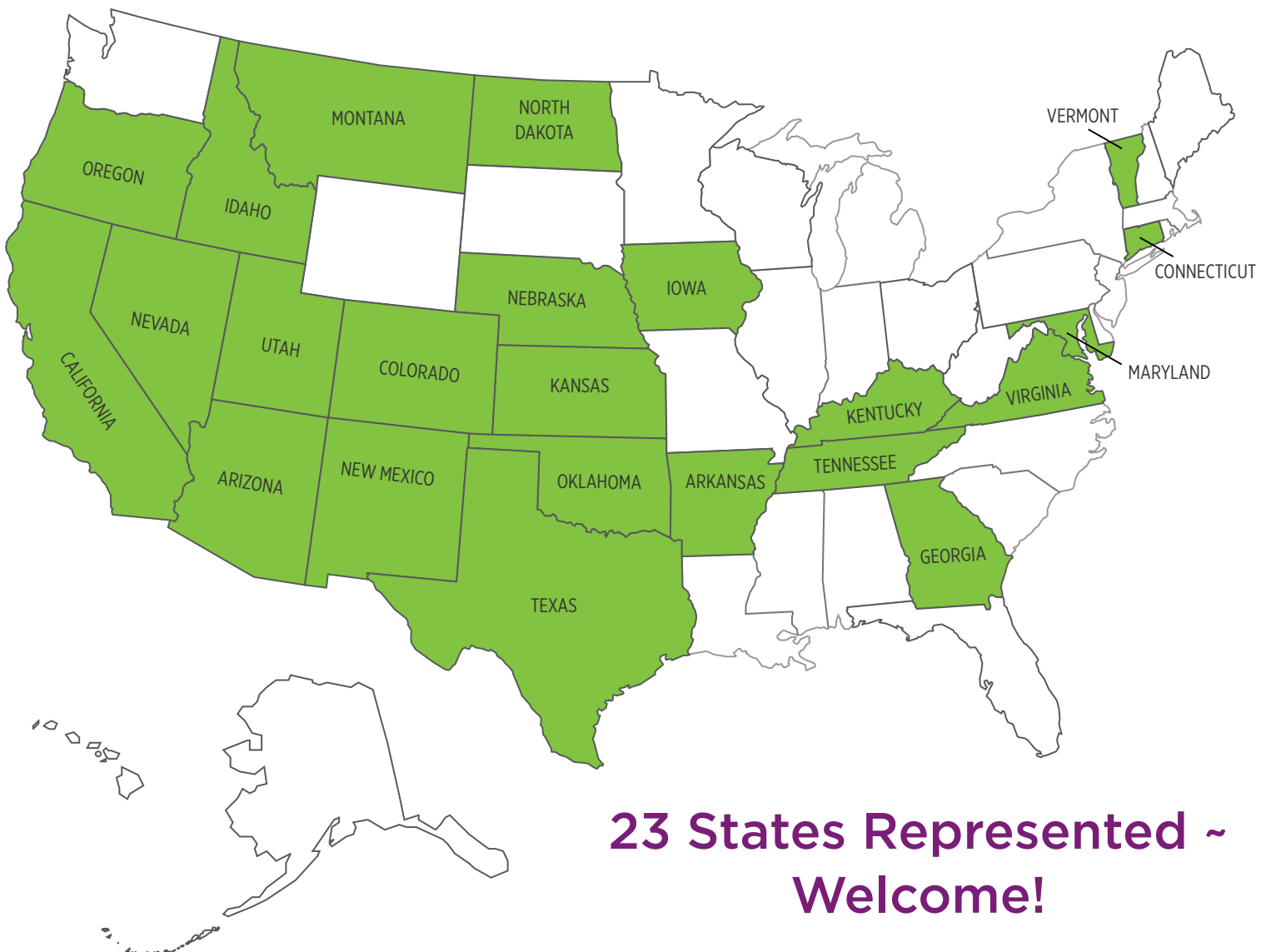
The Legislative Education Staff Network is a joint partnership between Education Commission of the States and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). LESN annually recognizes an education legislative staff member who has provided exemplary service to the legislative process and who has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



We would like to say a special thank you to USA Funds and The Alliance for Early Success for making this exciting event possible, and to extend a warm welcome to the nearly 50 LESN members who have joined us from across the country!

2015 LESN RECOGNITION AWARD

PAUL HEADLEE
Idaho Legislature, Deputy Division Manger,
Budget & Policy Analysis



**23 States Represented ~
Welcome!**

NEXT STEPS

1. Visit Education Commission of the States' website for presentations, resources, pictures and more from the 2015 National Forum on Education Policy: www.ecs.org.
2. Be sure to keep us on your radar and mark your calendar for our next two events:
 - ★ Dec. 1 & 2 Winter Commissioners' Meeting in Austin, Texas. ECS Commissioners receive priority registration.
 - ★ 2016 National Forum on Education Policy, Washington, D.C., June 28–30, 2016. Continue to network; our roster of attendees is available online.
3. Also, please complete our online surveys. Your feedback is very important to us!

We encourage you to find new ways for our staff to support you this year — never hesitate to contact us. And be sure to keep an eye out for our reports covering education trends, policy analysis, 50-state reviews, promising practices in education and much more. So far in 2015, topics have ranged from in-state tuition policies for military veterans and states' responses to assessment opt outs to the expanded role community colleges are playing in awarding bachelor's degrees.

*Keep improving education policy and remember to call us —
we are your education policy team!*



EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

SAVE THE DATE!



WASHINGTON
D.C.
JUNE 28-30



**2016
NATIONAL
FORUM ON
EDUCATION
POLICY**