

2018 National Forum ON EDUCATION POLICY


YOUR EDUCATION POLICY CONVENING.

JUNE 27-29

WASHINGTON, D.C.



**EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES**
Your education policy team.

@EdCommission | #ECSNF18

Table of CONTENTS

Welcome	3
Safety Information	4
Our Space	5
Our Partners	6-8
2018 Teachers of the Year	9
Legislative Education Staff Network	10
Schedule at a Glance	11

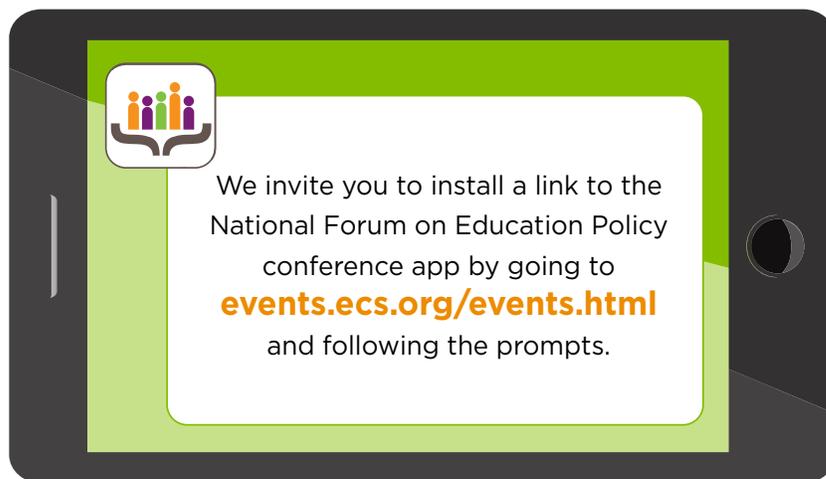
AGENDA

Pre-Forum	12
Wednesday, June 27 ...	12-14
Roundtable Discussions	15-17
Thursday, June 28	18-22
Friday, June 29	23-24

RECOGNITIONS

James Bryant Conant Award	27
Frank Newman Award for State Innovation	28
Corporate Award	29
Past Award Winners	30
2018 Distinguished Senior Fellows	31
Session Speakers	32-43
2018 Elections Infographic	44
Your Education Policy Team	45

STAY Connected



Don't Forget to Tweet!

Follow [@EdCommission](#) on Twitter and join the National Forum on Education Policy conversation using the hashtag [#ECSNF18](#)! Connect with Education Commission of the States on social media:



[Twitter.com/EdCommission](https://twitter.com/EdCommission)



[Facebook.com/EdCommission](https://facebook.com/EdCommission)



[Instagram.com/Education_Commission](https://instagram.com/Education_Commission)



[LinkedIn.com/company/education-commission-of-the-states](https://linkedin.com/company/education-commission-of-the-states)

Session Resources

Presentations and other session-related resources are available online: bit.ly/ECSNF18Resources.



Conference Wi-Fi Information

WI-FI NAME: ECSNF18

PASSWORD: EdPolicyTeam

WELCOME to the 2018 National Forum on Education Policy

We're excited to have you here in our nation's capital for one of the premier education policy convenings in the country. This year's event includes education leaders from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia — providing unparalleled opportunities for all of us to connect, converse and share. At the National Forum on Education Policy, we seek to provide you with the most up-to-date information on critical policy issues affecting your state, insight into the unique approaches and success stories playing out across the country, and space to personally connect with — and learn from — your colleagues in other states. As in past years, leaders from every tier of education policy — from governors, chief state school officers and state legislators to higher education executives, school board members and State Teachers of the Year — are represented in attendance this year. This is your convening, and we encourage you to make the most of it. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more valuable, please reach out to any member of the Education Commission of the States' team.



Phil Bryant
GOVERNOR, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
2017-19 Chair
Education Commission of the States



Jeremy Anderson
PRESIDENT
Education Commission of the States

National Forum on Education Policy Planning Committee

Special thanks and recognition go to the following Education Commission of the States Steering Committee Members, who serve on the 2017-19 planning committee and helped plan this year's convening.

CHAIR



SHIRLEY WEBER
Assemblymember, Education and Higher Education Standing Committees, California

VICE CHAIR



NANCY NORMAN
Consultant, Norman Consultant Services, Alaska

MEMBERS



KATY ANTHERS
Commissioner of Education, Colorado Department of Education



MARY FALLIN
Governor, State of Oklahoma



DOUG DUCEY
Governor, State of Arizona



JAKE YUNKER
Policy Director, Office of Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin



DAWN WALLACE
Senior Advisor, Education and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey



TAMI PYFER
Education Advisor, Office of Utah Gov. Gary Herbert

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.



RESEARCH

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



REPORT

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



COUNSEL

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



CONVENE

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

SAFETY Information

Closest Hospitals

GW Immediate & Primary Care – McPherson Square (2.1 miles from the hotel)
1101 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005 | **202.798.0100**

George Washington University Hospital (2.7 miles from the hotel)
900 23rd St. NW, Washington, DC 20037 | **202.715.4000**

Sibley Memorial Hospital (3.6 miles from the hotel)
5255 Loughboro Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20016 | **202.537.4000**

Closest Pharmacy

CVS – Woodley Park (0.2 miles from the hotel)
2601 Connecticut Ave., Washington, DC 20008 | **202.332.1446**

Hotel Security Questions and Concerns

Contact the security office at **202.359.5241** and ask for:

Shaheen Ahmadjan, Director of Safety and Security

Wayne Johnstone, Assistant Director of Safety and Security

First Aid

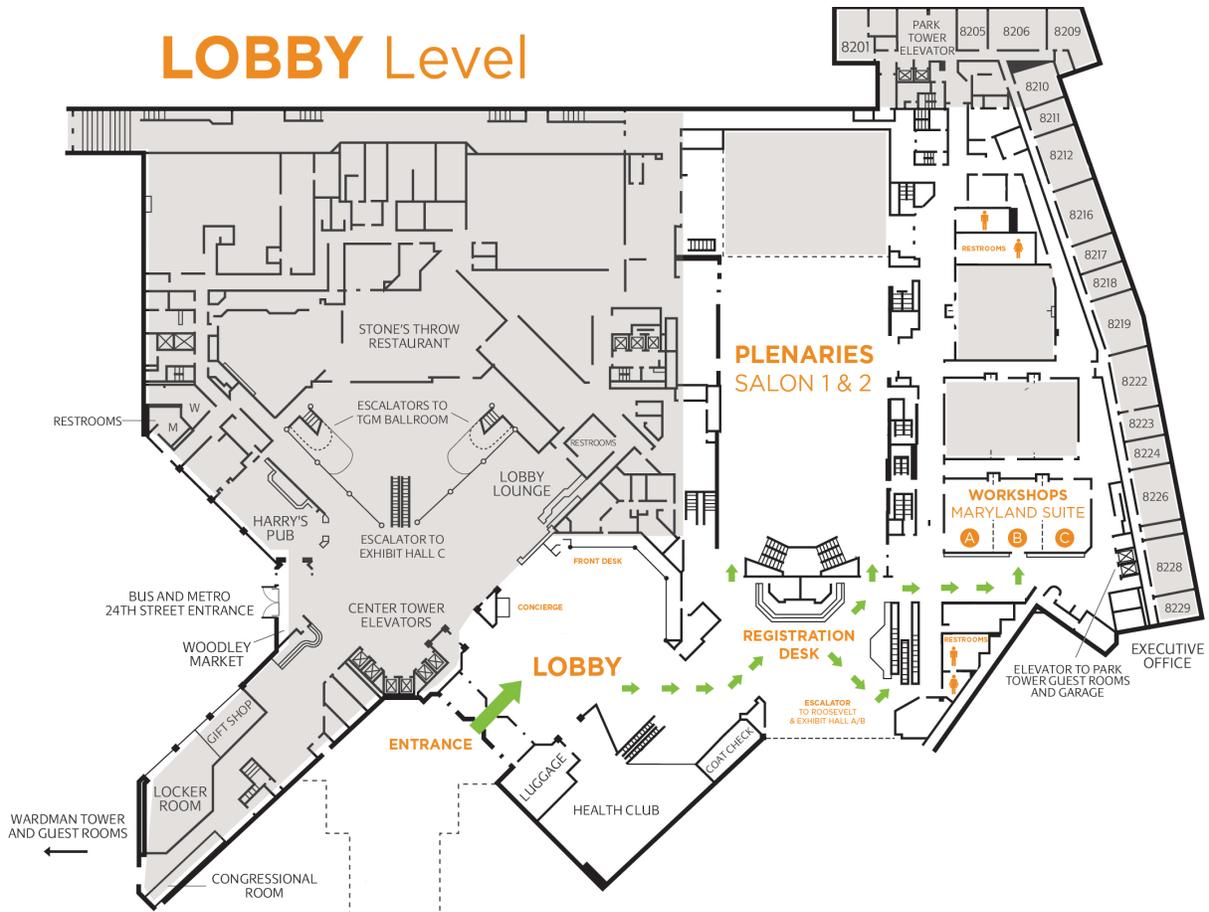
A first aid kit is available at the registration desk.

General Safety Tips

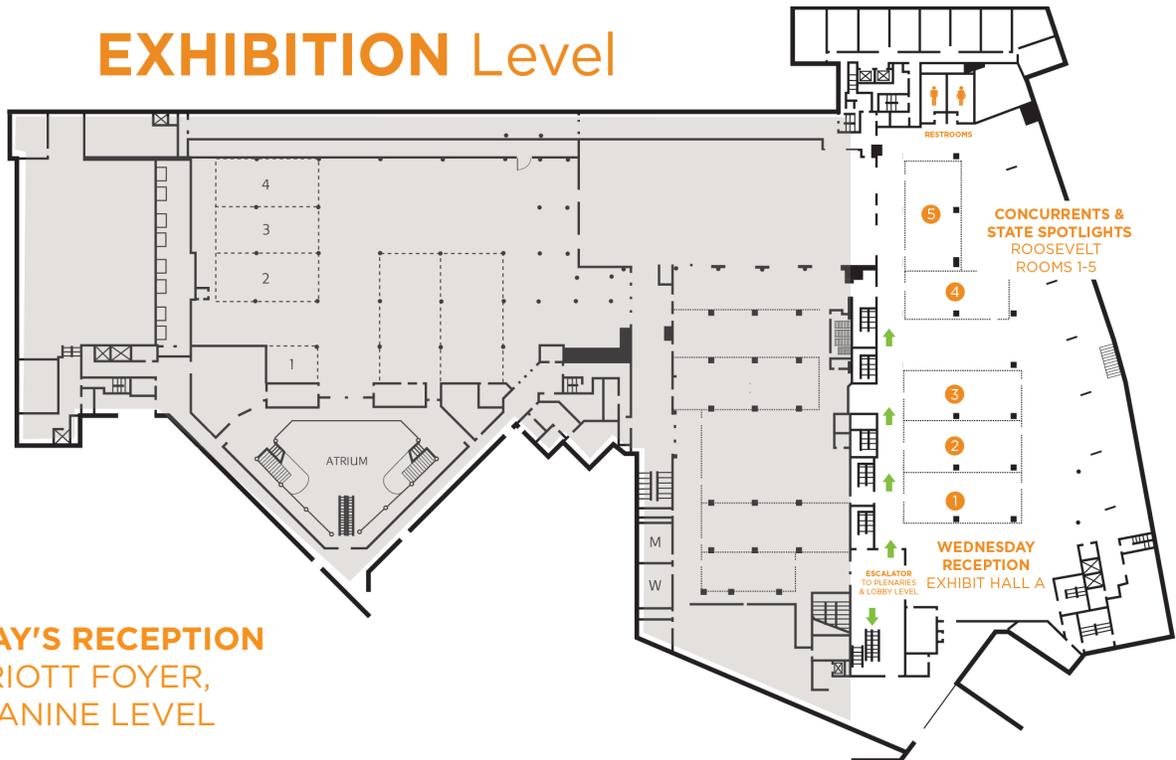
- Upon arrival, please notify the hotel front desk staff if you require special evacuation assistance or any other general assistance.
- Familiarize yourself with the nearest emergency exits.
- Check the floor plan, located on the back of your hotel room door.
- Explore the hallways and count the doors to the closest exits.
- Place all valuables in the safe-deposit box in your hotel room.
- Make sure to keep your personal items, such as laptops and phones, with you. Do not leave items unattended in public and/or unsecured areas.

Our SPACE

LOBBY Level



EXHIBITION Level



THURSDAY'S RECEPTION
MARRIOTT FOYER,
MEZZANINE LEVEL

Our PARTNERS

Platinum



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



Strada Education Network, formerly USA Funds, is a new kind of nonprofit organization that takes a fresh approach to improving the college-to-career connection. Through a unique combination of strategic philanthropy, research and insights, and innovative solutions, Strada Education Network advances Completion With a Purpose, building a more purposeful path for America's students to rewarding careers and fulfilling lives. Learn more at www.stradaeducation.org and follow Strada Education on Twitter @StradaEducation.



The Wallace Foundation is a national philanthropy that seeks to improve learning and enrichment for disadvantaged children and foster the vitality of the arts for everyone. For more information, please visit www.wallacefoundation.org.



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

Gold



ACT is an international, mission-driven, nonprofit organization providing high-quality assessments grounded in more than 50 years of research. The ACT® test is the most widely used U.S. college

admissions test, taken in 2015 by 1.9 million high school seniors. Our ACT Aspire® assessment system measures student growth from grades 3 to 10 and links to the ACT to build a complete picture of college and career readiness. More than 3 million people have earned the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate™ — powered by ACT WorkKeys® — to demonstrate they have foundational workplace skills. Learn more at www.act.org.



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



The College Board is a mission-driven, not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than 7 million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools. Learn more at www.collegeboard.org.



Recognizing that an effective teacher is the most important school-based factor impacting student achievement, the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching is committed to ensuring a highly skilled, strongly motivated and competitively compensated teacher for every classroom in America. NIET supports states, districts and schools in attracting, developing, supporting and retaining high-quality human capital in order to raise achievement levels for all students. Learn more at www.niet.org.

Our PARTNERS

 **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** Renaissance Learning is a leading provider of cloud-based assessment and teaching and learning solutions that fit the K-12 classroom, improve school performance and accelerate learning for all. Renaissance Learning enables educators to deliver highly differentiated and timely instruction while driving personalized student practice in reading, writing and math, every day. For more information, please visit www.renaissance.com.

 **SCHOLASTIC** 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.

 **HMH** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH®) is a global learning company, specializing in world-class content, services and cutting-edge technology solutions that enable learning in a changing landscape. We provide dynamic, engaging and effective solutions across a variety of media and in four key focus areas: early learning, K-12 core and intervention, professional services and beyond the classroom. Dedicated to lifelong learning, HMH offers content that meets the needs of students, educators, parents and lifelong learners — anytime, anywhere. Visit www.hmhco.com to learn more.

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

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

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

 **edmentum** Edmentum provides research-based adaptive curriculum, assessments and practice items aligned to state standards and designed to engage all students. Edmentum's powerful learning solutions blend technology with individual teaching approaches, and we are committed to making it easier for educators to individualize learning for every student. Learn more at www.edmentum.com.

 **nwea** NWEA™ is a research-based, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by creating assessment solutions that precisely measure growth and proficiency — and provide insights to help tailor instruction. For 40 years, NWEA has developed pre-K-12 assessments and professional learning offerings to help advance all students along their optimal learning paths. Our tools are trusted by educators in 140 countries and more than half of the schools in the U.S. Learn more at www.nwea.org.

Our PARTNERS



Project Lead The Way provides transformative learning experiences

for K-12 students and teachers across the U.S. We create an engaging, hands-on classroom environment and empower students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills they need to thrive. We also provide teachers with the training, resources and support they need to engage students in real-world learning. Learn more at www.pltw.org.



Some educators see data as facts and figures.

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



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.



Western Governors University is an online, nonprofit university founded in 1997 by 19

U.S. governors who saw advancement in technology as an opportunity to expand access to higher education by making it possible to study and learn independent of time and place. The university offers more than 60 bachelor's and master's degree programs in key workforce areas, including business, information technology, K-12 teacher education and health professions including nursing. WGU's 96,000 students and 105,000 graduates reside in all 50 states. WGU's nationally recognized Teachers College prepares students for licensure in all 50 states, and currently has more than 20,000 students enrolled. Visit www.wgu.edu to learn more.

Bronze



Founded in 1969, Curriculum Associates is a leading educational technology and publishing company with a mission to make classrooms better places for students and teachers. Its research-based, award-winning print and digital instruction and assessment products provide educators with the tools necessary to personalize learning for every student and help all students become college and career ready. Learn more at www.cainc.com.



Education Networks of America® is the leading provider of Infrastructure as a Service solutions to K-12 schools, higher education institutions and libraries. Since 1996, we have worked with our customers to ensure they have the robust and reliable high-capacity broadband, Wi-Fi/LAN, communication and cloud solutions they require to meet the present and emerging technology needs of the communities they serve. For more information, please visit www.ena.com.



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 — including the TOEFL® and TOEIC® tests, the GRE® tests and The Praxis Series® assessments — in more than 180 countries, at more than 9,000 locations worldwide. For more information, visit www.ets.org.



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

2018 TEACHERS of the Year



Mandy Manning

Congratulations to 2018 National Teacher of the Year Mandy Manning, of Joel E. Ferris High School – Newcomer Center in Spokane, Wash.

2018 State Teachers of the Year

ALABAMA
Chasity Collier

ALASKA
Ben Walker

AMERICAN SAMOA
Rosalee
Tela-Shoulders

ARIZONA
Joshua Meibos

ARKANSAS
Randi House

CALIFORNIA
Brian McDaniel

COLORADO
Christina Randle

CONNECTICUT
Erin Kathleen
Berthold

DELAWARE
Jinni Forcucci

**DEPT. OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY**
Kara Ball

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA**
Paul Howard

FLORIDA
Tammy Jerkins

GEORGIA
John Tibbetts

GUAM
Mabel Uncangco

HAWAII
Vanessa Ching

IDAHO
Becky Mitchell

ILLINOIS
Lindsey Jensen

INDIANA
Jerome
Flewelling

IOWA
Aileen Sullivan

KANSAS
Sam Neill

KENTUCKY
Kellie Clark

LOUISIANA
Kimberly Eckert

MAINE
Kaitlin Young

MARYLAND
Josh Carroll

MASSACHUSETTS
Cara Pekarcik

MICHIGAN
Luke Wilcox

MINNESOTA
Corey Bulman

MISSISSIPPI
Lucas Daniels

MISSOURI
Beth Davey

MONTANA
Melissa Romano

NEBRASKA
Michelle Helt

NEVADA
Pilar Biller

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Heidi Crumrine

NEW JERSEY
Amy Andersen

NEW MEXICO
Ivonne Orozco

NEW YORK
Christopher
Albrecht

NORTH CAROLINA
Lisa Godwin

NORTH DAKOTA
Leah Juelke

**NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS**
Antenille Santos

OHIO
Jonathan
Juravich

OKLAHOMA
Jon Hazell

OREGON
Matthew
Bacon-Brenes

PENNSYLVANIA
Michael Soskil Sr.

RHODE ISLAND
Kristin
Hayes-Leite

SOUTH CAROLINA
Erin Fox

SOUTH DAKOTA
Rachel Schaefer

TENNESSEE
Cicely Woodard

TEXAS
Tara Bordeaux

UTAH
Aaryn Birchell

VERMONT
Linda
Cloutier-Namdar

VIRGINIA
Michelle
Cottrell-Williams

WASHINGTON
Mandy Manning

WEST VIRGINIA
Katlin Thorsell

WISCONSIN
Matthew Miller

WYOMING
Sara Reed

Legislative Education STAFF NETWORK

2018 Summer Seminar

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

Thanks to generous support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Education Commission of the States invited 40 members of the Legislative Education Staff Network to participate in a two-day professional development seminar in conjunction with the National Forum on Education Policy. Staff heard from experts on an array of topics the LESN identified as key areas of interest, including teacher recruitment and retention, school improvement and accountability, career technical education and postsecondary affordability. Staff also took advantage of networking and general professional development opportunities.

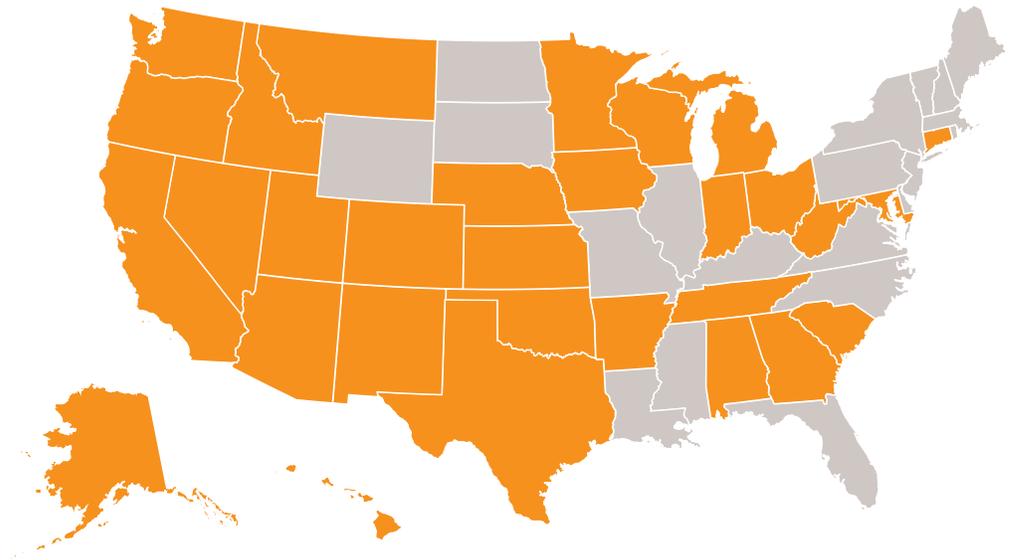
The LESN is supported through a joint partnership between Education Commission of the States and the National Conference of State Legislatures. The network annually recognizes a legislative education staff member who provides exemplary service to the legislative process. The 2018 award recipient is Patricia Walker, legislative assistant in the Alaska State Legislature. Congratulations, Patricia!



PATRICIA WALKER
Legislative Assistant, Alaska Legislature

Welcome, Legislative Staff!

We are pleased to have
40 LESN members from
30 states in attendance!



Schedule at a GLANCE

WEDNESDAY

Opening Plenary 1 – 2:15 p.m.

- John B. King Jr.
- Michelle Weise

Break | 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Workshop 2:30 – 4 p.m.

- Financing Dual Enrollment: Innovative State Strategies

Concurrents 2:30 – 3:40 p.m.

- Early Childhood Alignment From Pre-K Through Third Grade
- Is Our Governance Right? Education Governance Structures and Policymaking

State Spotlights 2:30 – 3:10 p.m.

- Integrating Workforce Development Conversations in Oregon
- Innovative Assessments in K-12 Education

State Spotlights 3:20 – 4 p.m.

- More With Michelle R. Weise
- Paying for College: Addressing Affordability in Connecticut

Break | 4 – 4:15 p.m.

Roundtables 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

- ACT | Beyond Definitions: Career Pathway Benchmarks for Student Readiness
- AdvancED | Authentic Student Engagement = Results!
- Edmentum | Deploying Virtual Learning Capabilities to Address Teacher Shortages and Course Availability Challenges
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt | State ESSA Plan Approved. What Now?
- KnowledgeWorks | Competency-Based Education and Personalized Learning
- MetaMetrics | Accelerating Reading Growth in Early Education
- NWEA | What Evidence Do We Have That We Are Preparing Students to Succeed in Life?
- Project Lead the Way | Problem-Based Learning for Career Readiness
- Renaissance | How Learning Progressions Show the Way Forward
- SAS | If “All Students” Means “All Students,” What Will It Take?
- Western Governors University | Legislation and Policy to Address Teacher Shortages

Break | 5:15 – 5:30 p.m.

Networking Reception

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Commissioners Business Breakfast or Networking Breakfast 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Break | 8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Morning Plenary 8:45 – 10:15 a.m.

- Carol D’Amico
- Brandon Busteded
- Responding Panel With State Education Leaders

Break | 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Workshop 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- 27 Is the New 18: Supporting Adult Learners

Concurrents 10:30 – 11:40 a.m.

- Funding K-12 Education: State Experiences in Strengthening School Funding Formulas
- A State Policy Approach to Strengthening School Leadership

State Spotlights 10:30 – 11:10 a.m.

- Redefining High School Graduation Pathways
- Public-Private Partnerships to Support a P-12 Approach to Education in Arizona

State Spotlights 11:20 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- Systemic Reforms to Address Achievement Gaps in the State University of New York
- Using State-Level Advisory Councils as Policy Drivers

Break | 12 – 12:15 p.m.

Networking Lunch 12:15 – 1 p.m.

Plenary Session 1 – 2:15 p.m.

- James J. Heckman
- Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant
- Sydney Chaffee

Break | 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Workshop 2:30 – 4 p.m.

- Where Have All the Teachers Gone? State Strategies to Recruit, Cultivate and Retain High-Quality Teachers

Concurrents 2:30 – 3:40 p.m.

- Basic Needs as Prerequisites to Learning: Food and Financial Instability Facing Postsecondary Students

- Developing the Next Dr. Science: Enhancing STEM in P-3 Environments

State Spotlights 2:30 – 3:10 p.m.

- Using State Data for Program Improvement
- Intentionality in Addressing the Equity Imperative in Higher Education

State Spotlights 3:20 – 4 p.m.

- Turnaround Strategies That Drive Excellence
- Arts Education and ESSA in Illinois

Break | 4 – 4:15 p.m.

Reception 4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Networking Breakfast

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Morning Plenary 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

- James H. Johnson Jr.
- James Bryant Conant Award Presented to Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam

Break | 9:30 – 9:45 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Workshop 9:45 – 11 a.m.

- Education Policy Leadership in Times of Political Change

Concurrents 9:45 – 11 a.m.

- Beyond the Metro: Accessing Quality Education Services in Rural Environments
- Career and Technical Education: A Critical Component of State Workforce Readiness
- School Choice: Private Choices in Public Education
- Developing Civic Competencies Through Education

Break | 11 – 11:15 a.m.

Closing Plenary

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

- Mick Zais
- Kenneth Trump
- Kevin Kruger
- Jennifer McCormick

Pre-FORUM

TUESDAY

GOVERNORS' EDUCATION POLICY ADVISORS

3 - 5 p.m.

ROOM: MARYLAND A

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STAFF NETWORK

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ROOM: VIRGINIA A & B

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

ROOM: VIRGINIA C

STRONG START TO FINISH EXPERT ADVISORY BOARD

1:30 - 5 p.m.

ROOM: MARYLAND C

STRONG START TO FINISH FUNDER ADVISORY BOARD

1:30 - 5 p.m.

ROOM: MARYLAND B

WEDNESDAY

GOVERNORS' EDUCATION POLICY ADVISORS

8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

ROOM: MARYLAND A

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STAFF NETWORK

8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

ROOM: VIRGINIA A & B

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

ROOM: VIRGINIA C

QUICK LOOK

WEDNESDAY

● Opening Plenary 1 - 2:15 p.m.

John B. King Jr. and Michelle R. Weise

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

● Breakout Sessions



Workshop

2:30 - 4 p.m.

Financing Dual Enrollment: Innovative State Strategies

ROOM: MARYLAND



Concurrents

2:30 - 3:40 p.m.

Early Childhood Alignment From Pre-K Through Third Grade

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 1

Is Our Governance Right? Education Governance Structures and Policymaking

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 2



State Spotlights

2:30 - 3:10 p.m.

Integrating Workforce Development Conversations in Oregon

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

Innovative Assessments in K-12 Education

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4



State Spotlights

3:20 - 4 p.m.

More With Michelle R. Weise

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

Paying for College: Addressing Affordability in Connecticut

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

● Roundtable Discussions

4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

● Networking Reception

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

ROOM: EXHIBIT HALL A

Agenda WEDNESDAY

Opening Plenary 1 - 2:15 p.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2



John B. King Jr. is the president and CEO at The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to identify and close opportunity and achievement gaps from preschool through college. As leader of Ed Trust and former U.S. secretary of education, King will look back at how far we've come in education policy and look ahead to what's in store.



Michelle R. Weise is the senior vice president of workforce strategies and chief innovation officer at Strada Education Network, leading the organization's workforce alignment initiatives and innovation and thought leadership priorities. Weise will discuss the future of education and the workforce by elaborating on the theories of disruptive innovation.

Break 2:15 - 2:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions



Workshop 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Financing Dual Enrollment: Innovative State Strategies

ROOM: MARYLAND

Research shows that, all other factors being equal, dually enrolled students are more likely than their peers to finish high school and experience postsecondary success. As a result, states are increasingly viewing dual enrollment as a postsecondary attainment and workforce readiness strategy. Yet in many locales, tuition and other costs pose barriers to low-income students' participation, and approaches that pass costs to districts or postsecondary institutions hinder program growth. This session highlights strategies in Georgia and Kentucky to minimize financial barriers to dual enrollment participation, and provides a workshop opportunity for participants to discuss potential solutions in their state.

Dianne Lassai Barker, Director of Secondary Education Initiatives and Dual Enrollment, Technical College System of Georgia

Dawn CheNeen Offutt, Senior Associate in Academic Affairs, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Jennifer Zinth, Principal, High School and STEM, Education Commission of the States



Concurrents 2:30 - 3:40 p.m.

Early Childhood Alignment From Pre-K Through Third Grade

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 1

Early childhood education initiatives are typically fragmented across state departments, the private sector and local efforts. In the past 10 years, many states have made alignment and governance changes that involve creating new agencies focused on early childhood programs or consolidating multiple early childhood programs into the same department. Mississippi is making great strides in its alignment work, and Alabama has achieved a model that is working in its state. Come and learn about the challenges, opportunities and successes of transforming a non-system of early childhood education into a system that works.

Jeana Ross, Secretary, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi Department of Education

Is Our Governance Right? Education Governance Structures and Policymaking

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 2

As state leaders work toward improving student results and meeting education goals, they often are hindered by a system that is not designed to coordinate decisions and align policies — whether across or within education levels. Should states consider reorganizing their education governance systems to counter these barriers? Is ongoing and intentional collaboration a more effective strategy? Are there other alternatives? This session will discuss the necessity of clarifying the problems states are trying to resolve; and how governance structures, the policy process and policies may factor into possible solutions.

Stephen Bowen, Deputy Executive Director of State Leadership, Council of Chief State School Officers

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Christopher T. Cross, Chairman and Co-Founder, FourPoint Education Partners

Kathy Hebda, Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Education

Mike Krause, Executive Director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

4:15 - 5:15 p.m. ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

Beyond Definitions: Career Pathway Benchmarks for Student Readiness

There are many definitions of readiness, which create confusion for students, teachers, education leaders and policymakers. This session will present a new comprehensive framework of readiness for measuring success in education and the workplace — with a particular focus on how Career Pathway Benchmarks (empirically derived benchmarks based on ACT WorkKeys data) can help better align K-12 student performance with industry needs.

Matt Frankenbery, Vice President of Education, Pitsco Education

Mary LeFebvre, Principal Research Scientist of Workforce Policy, ACT

Authentic Student Engagement = Results!

Student engagement is a key lever for increasing academic achievement. Being engaged adds to the foundation of skills and dispositions that are essential to a productive and satisfying life. Amy L. Reschly and Sandra L. Christenson said it best in their research: “Engagement not only drives learning but also predicts school success.” Join this roundtable discussion to explore findings from more than 250,000 observations of students in their learning environments, and to learn about valid and reliable student engagement tools that provide meaningful data and can be leveraged by state education agencies to support continuous improvement and accountability.

Fiona Hinds, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships, AdvancED

Heather Kinsey, Chief Operations Officer, AdvancED

Deploying Virtual Learning Capabilities to Address Teacher Shortages and Course Availability Challenges

This conversation will explore how local and state education agencies are deploying virtual learning capabilities to meet the needs of students and families everywhere — whether the challenge is rural districts that cannot recruit to their communities; urban districts with high turnover rates; or the traditionally hard-to-staff disciplines of math, science and some career technical education courses.

Patrick Hockey, Vice President of Virtual School Services, Edmentum

Marcus S. Lingenfelter, Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, Edmentum

State ESSA Plan Approved. What Now?

Is your state’s ESSA plan approved? As a policymaker, what do you need to know — and more importantly — how will you know it when you see it? This lively discussion will include insights and common threads from approved ESSA plans. Effective implementation is vital. As former education commissioner for Maine and policy director for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, Sue brings a unique perspective to this roundtable. Hear about the most successful schoolwide practices and policies for achieving rigorous and relevant curricula for all students.

Sue Gendron, President, International Center for Leadership in Education

Competency-Based Education and Personalized Learning

This discussion will explore the effective design and implementation of state-level pilot programs for competency-based education and personalized learning. Join us as we share a nationwide perspective and lessons learned from pilot programs across the country. We will unpack best practices in program design and implementation, including discussions on the case for pilots as entry points, elements for application templates and processes, regulatory flexibility, requirements and guardrails for pilot districts, professional development, and funding mechanisms and incentives.

Tyler Barnett, Director of State Policy, KnowledgeWorks

Sarah Jenkins, Senior Manager of Research and Advocacy, KnowledgeWorks

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

4:15 - 5:15 p.m. ROOM: SALON 1 & 2



MetaMetrics. **Accelerating Reading Growth in Early Education**

The importance of reading proficiently by third grade is well-documented, in terms of its effects on graduation rates, college and career readiness and a host of other variables. In this session, we will explore the alignment of policies, strategies and research that enable educators to optimize reading growth throughout the lifespan of learners. We will discuss how to build a comprehensive P-3 framework through the alignment of standards, curricula and assessments.

Malbert Smith, President and Co-Founder, MetaMetrics

Carey M. Wright, Mississippi State Superintendent of Education



nwea **What Evidence Do We Have That We Are Preparing Students to Succeed in Life?**

This roundtable explores the knowledge, skills and attitudes students need to develop to best prepare for career success and engaged citizenship. We will preview results from the forthcoming Gallup-NWEA national survey that examines what teachers, district leaders and parents identify as the most important academic and non-academic skills, and how we measure the outcomes that matter most. These findings have important implications for education policy leaders striving to build equity-focused systems that set high expectations for all students, to offer the resources necessary for meeting those expectations, and to measure and report progress.

Brandon Busted, Executive Director of Education and Workforce Development, Gallup

Melissa Johnston, Chief Strategy Officer, NWEA

Beth Tarasawa, Director of Education Research Partnerships, NWEA



PLTW **Problem-Based Learning for Career Readiness**

As states continue to emphasize preparing students for success in the workforce, career readiness programs must empower students and develop skills that are transportable across multiple sectors. Employers tell us that students need skills in problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, collaboration and communication to be competitive in the workforce. Project Lead The Way meets these needs through hands-on, activity-, project- and problem-based learning experiences, where students solve real-world challenges and develop in-demand skills. Join us to learn more about how this approach impacts students and learning, and to see exciting developments in areas such as problem-based, pre-K STEM learning and new initiatives in computer science education.

David L. Dimmett, Senior Vice President and Chief Engagement Officer, Project Lead The Way

Will Krebs, Vice President of Policy and Government Relations, Project Lead The Way

Ginger M. Teague, Senior Director of Professional Development, Project Lead The Way

RENAISSANCE* **How Learning Progressions Show the Way Forward**

For years, educators have relied on learning progressions for planning instruction and addressing gaps in student learning. But many still have questions. How are progressions created? Who determines the skills' order? And how do you know a progression truly aligns with your state's standards? In this roundtable, we will discuss how to map the path forward for all students, no matter their starting point; balance the teachable order of skills with your state's requirements; show prerequisite skills within and across domains, along with the most critical skills at each grade level; and help balance grade-level instruction with a focus on students' specific learning needs.

Paula O'Gorman, Senior Vice President, Renaissance

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

4:15 - 5:15 p.m. ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

If “All Students” Means “All Students,” What Will It Take?

States across the country have committed to removing systemic inequities and barriers to achievement, and to focusing on the success of every student. What does committing to the success of each child entail? During this roundtable session, participants will discuss strategies to improve equitable educational opportunities for all students. Topics will cover how some states integrate early learning, eliminate educator-equity gaps for low-income and minority students, and enroll students in rigorous coursework.

Katrina Miller, Education Industry Consultant

Margie Vandeven, Director of Educational Partnerships, SAS

WGU. Legislation and Policy to Address Teacher Shortages

Are your policies complicating your ability to address teacher shortages in your state? We will use samples of legislation and policies, often conflicting, to ignite a conversation about how state language can impact teacher shortages. We will also share an alignment of state legislation and policies for teacher licensure in special education to illuminate how state language can build bridges or barriers to address shortages. Come prepared to share your state’s perspective, explore potential obstacles and consider solutions for your state with other participants.

Angie Besendorfer, Chancellor, WGU Missouri

Chris Bonnell, Vice President of External Affairs, Western Governors University

Deb Eldridge, Academic Vice President, Teachers College

Jimmy Sheppard, Director of External Affairs, Western Governors University

Break | 5:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Networking Reception 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

ROOM: EXHIBIT HALL A

Be sure to stop by the **Edu-Bars** hosted by our Partners:



QUICK
LOOK

THURSDAY a.m.

● Morning Plenary 8:45 – 10:15 a.m.

Carol D'Amico and Brandon Busteed
Responding Panel
ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

● Breakout Sessions

90 MIN Workshop 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

27 Is the New 18: Supporting Adult Learners
ROOM: MARYLAND

70 MIN Concurrents 10:30 – 11:40 a.m.

Funding K-12 Education: State Experiences in Strengthening School Funding Formulas
ROOM: ROOSEVELT 1

A State Policy Approach to Strengthening School Leadership
ROOM: ROOSEVELT 2

40 MIN State Spotlights 10:30 – 11:10 a.m.

Redefining High School Graduation Pathways
ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

Public-Private Partnerships to Support a P-12 Approach to Education in Arizona
ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

40 MIN State Spotlights 11:20 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Systemic Reforms to Address Achievement Gaps in the State University of New York
ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

Using State-Level Advisory Councils as Policy Drivers
ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

● Networking Lunch 12:15 – 1 p.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

Agenda THURSDAY

Commissioners Business Breakfast 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

ROOM: MARYLAND

Networking Breakfast 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

● Break | 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Morning Plenary 8:45 – 10:15 a.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2



Carol D'Amico plays a key role at Strada Education Network in developing national and state philanthropic initiatives involving higher education, business and workforce development. She joins us to introduce the Strada-Gallup Education Consumer Survey, an innovative strategy for collecting groundbreaking consumer insights to strengthen education to employment pathways.



Brandon Busteed leads Gallup's work across K-12 and higher education. He will discuss the recent report, *On Second Thought: U.S. Adults Reflect on Their Education Decisions*, focusing on adults who previously enrolled in or completed postsecondary education or training. The report asks U.S. adults, if they were to do it over again, whether they would pursue the same level of education, area of study and institution. These insights provide a better understanding of the critical decisions and nuances that shape many complex issues in postsecondary education.

Responding Panel With State Education Leaders

Katy Anthes, Commissioner of Education, Colorado Department of Education

Barbara Damron, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department

● Break | 10:15 – 10:30 a.m. ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Breakout Sessions

90 MIN Workshop 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

27 Is the New 18: Supporting Adult Learners

ROOM: MARYLAND

As states face increasing pressure to reach attainment goals, the focus has shifted to student populations outside of the traditionally aged student. Adult learners come to postsecondary education with life circumstances and

Agenda THURSDAY

needs that differ from those of traditionally aged students. This session aims to highlight progress, innovations and opportunities for improvement in serving adult learners. Session goals and objectives include knowledge-building (regarding adult students needs in postsecondary education), identifying policy barriers and shortcomings, and identifying collaborative solutions for adult student success.

Lexi Anderson, Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

Matt Bergman, Research Faculty and Program Director, University of Louisville

Amy Ellen Duke-Benfield, Senior Policy Analyst, CLASP's Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success

Sean Tierney, Associate Commissioner for Policy and Research, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Concurrents 10:30 – 11:40 a.m.

Funding K-12 Education: State Experiences in Strengthening School Funding Formulas

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 1

When states set policy priorities, school funding is almost always near the top of the agenda. Nearly every state is working, in some way, toward strengthening its state funding formula. Some states achieve meaningful change, while others do not. What makes the political environment ready for school finance reform? Two states share their stories.

Kara Lynn Belew, Senior Education Policy Advisor, Texas Public Policy Foundation

Emily Parker, Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

Matthew Willmarth, Senior School Finance Analyst, Wyoming Legislative Service Office

A State Policy Approach to Strengthening School Leadership

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 2

Research shows that school leaders play a critical role in ensuring quality instruction and improving student outcomes. Among school-related factors, leadership is found to have one of the greatest impacts on student learning — second only to classroom instruction. However, many states continue to experience high turnover that often results in inexperienced principals leading high-need schools. State policies that support school leaders along all stages of the career continuum — from preparation to evaluation — are key to preparing, supporting and retaining effective principals. In this

session, hear from state education leaders and practitioners on how their states have developed and implemented policies to better equip school leaders for success.

Paul Fleming, Assistant Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Education

Nicholas Pelzer, Senior Program Officer, The Wallace Foundation

Brittany Slagle-Maxwell, Principal, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

State Spotlights 10:30 – 11:10 a.m.

Redefining High School Graduation Pathways

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

Effective this year, Ohio transitioned from a model where students graduate based on seat time and a passing score on a graduation test to a model in which all students must demonstrate college and career readiness through one of three pathways. Options include attainment of industry-recognized credentials and ACT WorkKeys success, performance on end-of-course exams or ACT/SAT scores that guarantee students' placement into credit-bearing courses at Ohio public two- and four-year institutions. How did Ohio arrive at this graduation model? What implementation challenges did the state face? What lessons can be learned?

Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ohio Department of Education

Public-Private Partnerships to Support a P-12 Approach to Education in Arizona

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

Arizona has developed a comprehensive strategic plan with specific goals, from pre-K through postsecondary, to be achieved by 2030. Learn more about these goals, how they are measured through the Education Progress Meter, and how a concerted effort among public-private partnerships (including over 70 education, business, philanthropic and community organizations, as well as the state board of education and the governor's office) helped to accelerate these goals. This session will focus on Arizona's K-3 and third-grade reading proficiency initiatives, which are one of nine identified pathways.

Janice Palmer, Vice President of Public Policy, Helios Education Foundation

Dawn Wallace, Senior Advisor, Education and Strategic Initiatives, Office of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey

Agenda THURSDAY



State Spotlights

11:20 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Systemic Reforms to Address Achievement Gaps in the State University of New York

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

There's momentum in higher education to better serve all students, regardless of their academic preparation, income, age or race. Strong Start to Finish — an initiative of Education Commission of the States — aims to significantly increase the number of low-income students, students of color and returning adults who succeed in college math and English and enter a program of study in their first year of college. This session provides an in-depth look at the work supported by SSTF in the State University of New York system by engaging with the leaders responsible for designing and implementing educational reforms at scale.

Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline, State University of New York

Christopher M. Mullin, Director, Strong Start to Finish, Education Commission of the States

Using State-Level Advisory Councils as Policy Drivers

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

State-level advisory councils can be a valuable vehicle for bringing together diverse stakeholders to reach consensus on and recommend state action, oversee implementation of key initiatives and facilitate critical two-way feedback between regional and state players. The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council has made Iowa a national leader in expanding access statewide to high-quality, business-engaged programming that is achieving positive outcomes across numerous student and teacher metrics related to STEM awareness, engagement and achievement. Learn more about Iowa's successful STEM approaches and, importantly, the secrets to the council's success that are transferable to advisory councils focused on other issues.

Jeff Weld, Senior Policy Advisor and Assistant Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Break | 12 - 12:15 p.m.

Networking Lunch 12:15 - 1 p.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

QUICK
LOOK

THURSDAY p.m.

● Plenary Session 1 - 2:15 p.m.

James J. Heckman, Gov. Phil Bryant and Sydney Chaffee

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

● Breakout Sessions



Workshop

2:30 - 4 p.m.

Where Have All the Teachers Gone? State Strategies to Recruit, Cultivate and Retain High-Quality Teachers

ROOM: MARYLAND



Concurrents

2:30 - 3:40 p.m.

Basic Needs as Prerequisites to Learning: Food and Financial Instability Facing Postsecondary Students

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 1

Developing the Next Dr. Science: Enhancing STEM in P-3 Environments

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 2



State Spotlights

2:30 - 3:10 p.m.

Using State Data for Program Improvement

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

Intentionality in Addressing the Equity Imperative in Higher Education

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4



State Spotlights

3:20 - 4 p.m.

Turnaround Strategies That Drive Excellence

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

Arts Education and ESSA in Illinois

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

● Reception 4:15 - 5:30 p.m.

ROOM: MARRIOTT FOYER

Agenda THURSDAY

Plenary Session 1 – 2:15 p.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2



James J. Heckman joins us to share his professional expertise on the great economic gains that come from investing in early-childhood development.



Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant and James J. Heckman continue the early learning conversation, with the governor highlighting his 2017-19 Education Commission of the States Chair's Initiative.



Sydney Chaffee reflects on her experiences as the 2017 National Teacher of the Year.

Break | 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Breakout Sessions



Workshop 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Where Have All the Teachers Gone? State Strategies to Recruit, Cultivate and Retain High-Quality Teachers

ROOM: MARYLAND

States and districts continue to grapple with significant deficits in teacher supply and are implementing a variety of policy strategies to recruit, cultivate and retain high-quality teachers. In this session, participants will hear about the policy initiatives in three states, and will engage in small- and large-group discussions to identify effective strategies and challenges to addressing teacher shortages and maintaining workforce quality.

Katy Anthes, Commissioner of Education, Colorado Department of Education

Candice McQueen, Commissioner of Education, Tennessee Department of Education

Ryan Wise, Director, Iowa Department of Education



Concurrents 2:30 – 3:40 p.m.

Basic Needs as Prerequisites to Learning: Food and Financial Instability Facing Postsecondary Students

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 1

Over half of community college students are food insecure, 1 in 10 are homeless, and up to 35 percent are in unstable housing situations. This session will draw from student voices to examine financial instability in postsecondary education, and generate discussion about ways that policy leaders can act to meet basic needs in institutions across their states.

Brenda Dann-Messier, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education, Rhode Island

Jeff Webster, Director of Research, Trellis Company

Developing the Next Dr. Science: Enhancing STEM in P-3 Environments

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 2

Many state STEM initiatives lean toward a focus on secondary and postsecondary students. Yet research indicates early math achievement is a better predictor of third-grade reading proficiency than early reading skills, and that high-quality, early learning experiences in math and science lead to success in other areas. Early exposure to high-quality STEM education may also encourage more females and students of color into STEM majors and careers. This session will provide an overview of research that can inspire and inform your state's P-3 STEM efforts, and offer successes and lessons from the latest state-level, early STEM initiatives.

Michael Connor, State Program Coordinator, Early Learning Division, Oregon Department of Education

Lisa Guernsey, Deputy Director of the Education Policy Program and Director of Learning Technologies, New America

Michael Lach, Director of STEM Education and Strategic Initiatives, University of Chicago

Agenda THURSDAY



State Spotlights 2:30 – 3:10 p.m.

Using State Data for Program Improvement

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

The UNC Educator Quality Dashboard is an interactive, online tool that displays four categories of data (recruitment and selection, educator preparation, performance and employment, and university-school partnerships) for each of 15 teacher preparation institutions in the University of North Carolina system. The dashboard exemplifies the Southern Regional Education Board's four promising practices for educator data systems (longitudinal data, outcome measures, data integration and accessibility) and forms the basis for program improvement discussions within and across UNC schools of education. In this session, representatives from the UNC system present the dashboard as a strategic tool for effective state-level data use.

Alisa Chapman, Education Consultant

Aimee Rogstad Guidera, President, Guidera Strategy

Diana B. Lys, Assistant Dean for Educator Preparation and Accreditation, UNC-Chapel Hill

Intentionality in Addressing the Equity Imperative in Higher Education

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

Advancing equity-based agendas is a necessity in higher education. Institutions and systems are looking toward state examples for best practices in galvanizing support and action to best support students. The Center for Urban Education has been leading system and state efforts to document and implement equity policy development. Its efforts specifically focus on leading conversations about race and equity, advancing the use of data to better support student pathways and developing recommendations for policy and practice. This session will provide an overview of lessons learned to support more equity-minded state and system actions.

Estela Mara Bensimon, Professor at the Rossier School of Education and Director of the Center for Urban Education, University of Southern California



State Spotlights 3:20 – 4 p.m.

Turnaround Strategies That Drive Excellence

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

The passage of the Massachusetts Achievement Gap Act of 2010 allowed the state to intervene in struggling schools. Since that time, the state has seen significant improvements, including increases in the number of students scoring proficient or advanced on state assessments, improved graduation rates and decreased dropout rates. Work is still needed to increase capacity to sustain progress and to continue to improve, and your colleagues in Massachusetts have lessons to share with other states doing the important work of turning around schools to better serve students.

Erica Champagne, Director of the Office of Effective Practices in Turnaround, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Susan Bowles Therriault, Managing Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Arts Education and ESSA in Illinois

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

This session will focus on the intersection of arts education and public policy. The arts bring color, light, life and vibrancy to schools and are important to a complete, competitive education for all students. What policy steps can advance arts education in your state? This session explores how to harness ESSA opportunities — updated arts learning standards, professional development, school accountability and support, and more — to increase access to quality arts learning and bring arts' transformative benefits to students. Illinois will serve as a case study, sharing lessons from its experience.

Jason Helfer, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Illinois State Board of Education

Jonathan VanderBrug, Policy and Research Director, Arts Alliance Illinois

● Break | 4 – 4:15 p.m. ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Reception 4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

ROOM: MARRIOTT FOYER, MEZZANINE LEVEL

● **Networking Breakfast**
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

● **Morning Plenary**
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

● **Breakout Sessions**



Workshop
9:45 – 11 a.m.

Education Policy Leadership in Times of Political Change

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 5



Concurrents
9:45 – 11 a.m.

Beyond the Metro: Accessing Quality Education Services in Rural Environments

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 1

Career and Technical Education: A Critical Component of State Workforce Readiness

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 2

School Choice: Private Choices in Public Education

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

Developing Civic Competencies Through Education

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

● **Closing Plenary**
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

Agenda FRIDAY

Networking Breakfast 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

Morning Plenary 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2



James H. Johnson Jr.’s presentation, “Disruptive Demographics That Will Change America Forever,” is based on his leading research interest in community and economic development — specifically, the effects of demographic changes on the U.S. workplace, inter-ethnic minority conflict in advanced industrial societies, urban poverty and public policy in urban America, and workforce diversity issues.



James Bryant Conant Award Presented to Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam

● Break

| 9:30 – 9:45 a.m.



Workshop 9:45 – 11 a.m.

Education Policy Leadership in Times of Political Change

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 5

Fostering positive, large-scale change in education takes time. This session will explore the implications of the 2018 elections and help participants think about how to sustain initiatives through this period of uncertainty and turnover.

Jillian Balow, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Wyoming Department of Education

Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

Laurie Smith, Senior Policy Advisor, Education and Workforce Development, Office of Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant



Concurrents 9:45 – 11 a.m.

Beyond the Metro: Accessing Quality Education Services in Rural Environments

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 1

Rurality has continued to be a well-known challenge for breadbasket and western states that have traditionally possessed small and geographically isolated populations. More recently, governors of states that are growing in population and economic diversity have acknowledged

Agenda **FRIDAY**

that similar challenges exist beyond their major population centers. Rural communities are strained by declining county and municipal tax bases, reductions in baseline public services and the budget consequences of dated state funding formulas. This session will focus on state policy and initiatives targeted at rural areas, specifically those providing rural students access to quality programs from early learning through workforce.

Katy Anthes, Commissioner of Education, Colorado Department of Education

Geoff Coltrane, Senior Education Advisor, Office of North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper

Rep. D. Craig Horn, North Carolina House of Representatives

Career and Technical Education: A Critical Component of State Workforce Readiness

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 2

States are now well into efforts to re-tool career and technical education offerings to better align high school pathways to postsecondary programs and occupational demands. Delaware and Indiana undertook massive CTE redesign efforts in 2013 and 2014, involving players at state and regional levels. As a result, significantly more students are graduating high school with meaningful workplace experiences and industry-recognized credentials aligned with state and regional workforce needs. Come hear how these states accomplished what they have, lessons learned and what work remains to ensure students are well-prepared for postsecondary and careers.

Jennifer McCormick, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana Department of Education

Luke Rhine, Director of Career and Technical Education and STEM Initiatives, Delaware Department of Education

Jennifer Zinth, Principal, High School and STEM, Education Commission of the States

School Choice: Private Choices in Public Education

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 3

In recent policy discussions on school choice, the most intense debates have centered on the creation or expansion of state programs that allow public funds to be used for private school education. The three core policy avenues states have pursued in this area are vouchers, education savings accounts and tax credit scholarship programs. In this session, representatives from states that implemented these

policy options will reflect on the development and impact of these programs for students, parents, districts and their states' public education systems.

Andrew Bernlohr, Staff Attorney in the Office of Legal Affairs, Indiana Department of Education

Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ohio Department of Education

Laura Mazyck, Director of Scholarship Programs, Florida Department of Education

Micah Ann Wixom, Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

Developing Civic Competencies Through Education

ROOM: ROOSEVELT 4

The context and best practices of civic learning and engagement within postsecondary education has changed over time, and there continues to be a debate about its current utility across the education pipeline. With a call from practitioners to increase citizenship or civic participation, states have begun to leverage their decision-making to support development of civic literacy programs and participation. This session will provide a brief overview of the importance of civics education, review current state legislative efforts and offer discussion about barriers and lessons learned in implementing P-20 state policies and programs that drive development of civic competencies.

Jonathan R. Alger, President, James Madison University

Bill Bolling, Chairman, Virginia Mainstream Project

Break | 11 - 11:15 a.m.

Closing Plenary 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

ROOM: SALON 1 & 2

Mick Zais, U.S. deputy secretary of education, will provide an overview of the federal perspective on school safety.



Kenneth Trump, **Kevin Kruger** and **Jennifer McCormick** will continue

the conversation on school safety, including how to be prepared and respond to such issues as gun violence and mental health. What's working? What's not? How can we best leverage resources, and who needs to be at the table when it comes to creating policies that keep students safe?

Thank you for attending!
Mark your calendar for next year.

2019 National Forum ON EDUCATION POLICY



YOUR EDUCATION POLICY CONVENING.

JULY 10-12 | DENVER

Visit bit.ly/ECSNF18Resources for session resources from the 2018 National Forum on Education Policy.



States are leading to improve education for all kids.

The Every Student Succeeds Act is just the beginning. From expanding early childhood education to diversifying the teacher workforce, state policies are helping to advance achievement and equity.

To learn more, visit StatesLeading.org and follow the conversation on social media at [#StatesLeading](https://twitter.com/StatesLeading).



Photos Courtesy of Allison Shelley/The Verbatim Agency for American Education: Images of Teachers and Students in Action

James Bryant CONANT AWARD

Gov. Bill Haslam

State of Tennessee

Education Commission of the States is pleased to announce Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam as the 2018 recipient of the James Bryant Conant Award, one of the most prestigious honors in the education community, for his leadership in bridging the gap between education and the workforce.

Haslam has earned a reputation as the education governor for his innovation around and commitment to educational attainment in Tennessee. He started the Drive to 55, a comprehensive effort to increase the number of Tennesseans with a postsecondary degree or credential to 55 percent by 2025, which will assist the state in meeting its future workforce demands.

Haslam created Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect, scholarship programs that offer two years of postsecondary education free of tuition and fees to high school graduates and adults, respectively, who have not yet obtained a degree. Tennessee became the first state in the nation to implement this practice, and 18 states have since created similar programs.

His commitment to education has yielded impressive results in a short time frame. From 2011 to 2016, Tennessee was one of the fastest improving states in the nation in K-12 student performance and remains a leader in student progress. In 2016-17, Tennessee's high school graduation rate rose to 89 percent — the highest on record for the state. Additionally, entering college freshmen remediation rates have dropped by more than 12 percentage points since 2011.

“Gov. Haslam’s unwavering commitment to educational attainment — and providing all students with the opportunity for a quality postsecondary education — is admirable,” said Jeremy Anderson, president of Education Commission of the States. “The Drive to 55 and programs such as Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect exemplify his visionary leadership and set the bar for excellence in education around the country.”

In receiving the James Bryant Conant Award, Haslam joins the prestigious ranks of distinguished professionals in education, including Lowell Milken (2017), Sal Kahn (2016), Linda Darling-Hammond (2010), Thurgood Marshall (2004) and Marian Wright-Edelman (1987).



ABOUT THE AWARD

Named after the co-founder of Education Commission of the States and former president of Harvard University, the Conant Award recognizes extraordinary individual contributions to education in our nation.

Frank Newman Award for **STATE INNOVATION**

Tennessee

Education Commission of the States is proud to announce Tennessee as the 2018 recipient of the Frank Newman Award for State Innovation for its Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support (SAILS) program, which aligns K-12 and postsecondary standards to help students avoid math remediation in college.

“Members of our Nominating Committee recognize the innovative strategies inherent in the Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support program, which deserves national recognition,” said Jeremy Anderson, president of Education Commission of the States. “Tennessee has cultivated strong partnerships between K-12 and higher education, and the benefits are plentiful.”

Research indicates a low success rate for students who begin their postsecondary education in remedial courses, and SAILS aims to change this trajectory by integrating postsecondary remedial coursework into students’ senior year of high school. Courses are the result of collaboration between high school teachers and college faculty to satisfy both high school math standards and college competencies. In 2012, SAILS was expanded statewide and is now available to approximately half of public school students who are not college-ready in math.

SAILS has maintained an average 89 percent success rate statewide since its inception. In 2016-17, 99 percent of students in Shelby County completed the SAILS program, and 40 percent who completed SAILS in the fall semester enrolled in a dual enrollment math course in the spring — a significant achievement for students previously told they were not college-ready.

SAILS is part of Gov. Bill Haslam’s Drive to 55, which seeks to have 55 percent of Tennesseans with a postsecondary credential by 2025. Through a recurring state allocation, SAILS is offered at no cost to students and is accepted at all 13 community colleges.



ABOUT THE AWARD

The Frank Newman Award for State Innovation — created in 2005 in honor of the late Frank Newman, president of Education Commission of the States for 14 years — recognizes states or territories for demonstrated excellence in shaping education policy.

Education Commission of the States CORPORATE AWARD

IBM Foundation

Education Commission of the States is delighted to announce the IBM Foundation as the 2018 recipient of the Education Commission of the States Corporate Award for its commitment to advancing public education in communities across the country.

“IBM is known for demonstrating a deep commitment to transforming education in the United States,” said Jeremy Anderson, president of Education Commission of the States. “In particular, two programs in its Education and Workforce Development Initiative — Teacher Advisor With Watson, and the P-TECH education model — demonstrate the IBM Foundation’s commitment to both enhancing teacher quality and improving student outcomes and success.”

For educators, the IBM Foundation created Teacher Advisor With Watson, the first free, web-based tool built by and for teachers that uses IBM’s artificial intelligence to assist with planning and instruction in K-5 math (K-8 math by August 2018). Teachers receive confidential access to vetted lesson plans and professional development resources to help save them time in planning quality lessons for all types of students.

Meanwhile, for students, the IBM Foundation founded and continues to steward the P-TECH education model, which aligns education to labor market needs and helps fill the many vacant “new collar,” middle skill jobs. P-TECH schools provide underserved students with a high school diploma and free, two-year, STEM-focused postsecondary degree, useful for multiple industries. Public schools partner with community colleges and the private sector, which provide mentorships, paid internships and job interviews.

The P-TECH model is expected to have been replicated at approximately 120 schools in eight states by this autumn, in partnership with approximately 70 community colleges and 450 affiliated companies.



ABOUT THE AWARD

The Education Commission of the States Corporate Award — created under the leadership of former Wyoming Gov. Jim Geringer, who served as the 1999–2000 Education Commission of the States Chair — honors organizations that have demonstrated a sustained commitment to investing in and improving public education, especially in underserved communities.

POLICY EXPERTISE at Your Fingertips

Whether you have a simple question or need in-depth policy research, Education Commission of the States' policy team is ready to assist. Simply complete the brief Request Assistance form on our website and receive a response, in many cases, within 24 hours.

Visit our website:

www.ecs.org/convene-counsel/request-assistance

Past Award WINNERS

JAMES BRYANT CONANT AWARD

2017	Lowell Milken	1997	Claiborne Pell
2016	Sal Khan	1996	John W. Gardner
2015	William L. Sanders	1995	Richard W. Riley
2014	Marc Tucker	1994	Ernest L. Boyer
2013	Gene Wilhoit	1993	Wilhelmina Delco
2012	E.D. Hirsch	1992	Theodore R.Sizer
2011	Ted Kolderie	1991	James P. Comer
2010	Linda Darling-Hammond	1989	Fred M. Hechinger
2009	Kati Haycock	1988	Lamar Alexander
2008	Ron Wolk	1987	Marian Wright Edelman
2007	Gaston Caperton	1986	Harold Howe II
2006	Nancy S. Grasmick	1985	Terrel H. Bell and David P. Gardner
2005	Sharon Lynn Kagan	1984	James B. Hunt Jr.
2004	Thurgood Marshall and John H. Stelle	1983	Carl Perkins
2003	Roy Romer	1982	John Brademas
2002	Robert P. Moses	1981	Terry Sanford
2001	Fred Rogers	1980	Ralph Tyler
2000	John Goodlad	1979	Francis Keppel
1999	Frank Newman	1978	Joan Ganz Cooney
1998	Robert Slavin	1977	Benjamin Mays

FRANK NEWMAN AWARD FOR STATE INNOVATION

2017	Hawaii	2007	Alaska
2016	Mississippi	2006	Kentucky
2015	Kentucky	2005	Florida and Utah
2014	Illinois	2004	North Carolina and South Carolina
2013	Delaware	2003	Maryland
2012	New Hampshire	2002	Alabama and Texas
2011	New England Secondary School Consortium	2001	Georgia
2010	Ohio	2000	Connecticut
2009	Tennessee	1999	North Carolina
2008	North Dakota	1998	Oregon

2018 Distinguished SENIOR FELLOWS

Education Commission of the States is honored to have four education policy veterans serving as Distinguished Senior Fellows in 2018. The fellows, with expertise ranging from preschool to postsecondary and beyond, serve as advisors to the organization and to member states.



CHRISTOPHER T. CROSS

Chairman and Co-Founder, FourPoint Education Partners

Cross is chairman of FourPoint Education Partners, where he contributes his considerable strategic planning, policy analysis and policy development skills. Cross also currently serves as a consultant to the Broad Foundation. Cross served as a senior fellow with the Center for Education Policy, the president and chief executive officer of the Council for Basic Education, and the president of the Maryland State Board of Education. He has written extensively on education policy throughout his career.



AIMEE ROGSTAD GUIDERA

President, Guidera Strategy

Guidera is a strategic consultant helping organizations align their efforts and impact in the service of improved student learning and outcomes. She most recently was the founder, president and CEO of the Data Quality Campaign, a national, nonprofit organization leading the effort to empower educators, students, parents and policymakers with the information they need to make the best decisions to improve student outcomes. She believes that information has the power to transform education to ensure every child in this country is prepared for success.



MICHAEL PETRILLI

President, Thomas B. Fordham Institute

Petrilli is president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and executive editor of *Education Next*. He is the author of *The Diverse Schools Dilemma* and editor of *Education for Upward Mobility*. Petrilli helped to create the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement and the Policy Innovators in Education Network.



PHILIP "URI" TREISMAN

University Distinguished Teaching Professor, Professor of Mathematics and of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin

Treisman is the founder and executive director of the University of Texas' Charles A. Dana Center. He serves on the boards of many entrepreneurial nonprofit organizations committed to strengthening American mathematics and science education. He was named a MacArthur Fellow (1992-97) for his work on nurturing minority student high achievement in mathematics. In 2006, he was named Scientist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation for his contributions to mathematics. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Session **SPEAKERS**



JONATHAN R. ALGER

President, James
Madison University

Alger focuses on engaged citizenship for the public good. He serves on the boards of the American Council on Education and Campus Compact, and is past board chair of the National Association of College and University Attorneys. Alger served at Rutgers University, the University of Michigan, the American Association of University Professors and the U.S. Department of Education. He is a nationally known expert on higher education law and policy, and he graduated with high honors from Swarthmore College and honors from Harvard Law School.



JEREMY ANDERSON

President, Education
Commission of the States

Anderson works with all state education leaders, from governors to chief state school officers — from both political parties — to provide unbiased information, personalized support and opportunities for collaboration. He is committed to helping states create informed education policy and better education systems for students, from early learning through postsecondary and workforce. Prior to joining Education Commission of the States in 2012, he built a strong public service record working with officials in Washington, D.C., as well as many governors, legislators and policy organizations.

🐦 [@ECS_Anderson](#) | [@edcommission](#)



LEXI ANDERSON

Policy Analyst, Education
Commission of the States

Anderson joined Education Commission of the States in August 2013 as an intern and full-time in February 2014. She works on postsecondary topics including adult learners, attainment and completion, transfer and articulation, and credit accumulation. Prior, Anderson worked on multiple college campuses in academic advising and orientation programming. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's degree in leadership in student affairs and a doctorate in higher education.

🐦 [@landerson313](#) | [@edcommission](#)



KATY ANTHES

Commissioner of
Education, Colorado
Department of Education

Anthes was named commissioner in December 2016. She has been with the Colorado Department of Education since 2011, serving as interim commissioner, chief of staff, interim commissioner for achievement and strategy and executive director of educator effectiveness. Anthes is widely respected for her commitment to listening to diverse perspectives and developing solutions that are founded on productive middle ground. She has a doctorate in public policy and a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Colorado-Denver.

🐦 [@katyanthes](#) | [@codepted](#)



JILLIAN BALOW

State Superintendent of
Public Instruction, Wyoming
Department of Education
and Treasurer, Education
Commission of the States

Balow was elected in 2014. She also sits on the board of directors for the Council of Chief State School Officers. Balow's leadership reflects her beliefs that everyone is a stakeholder in education, and all education issues matter. In 2016, Balow was recognized with the Patrick Henry Award for her contributions to the Wyoming Military Department, and in 2017, she received the State Policymaker Award from the State Education Technology Directors Association. Balow has an undergraduate degree in education from the University of Wyoming and a master's degree in education from Regis University.

🐦 [@jillian4supt](#) | [@WYOEducation](#)



DIANNE LASSAI BARKER

Director of Secondary
Education Initiatives and
Dual Enrollment, Technical
College System of Georgia

Barker has worked in the field of higher education for almost 20 years. At TCSG, she provides leadership and guidance to the dual enrollment program staff at all 22 technical colleges. Under Barker's direction, dual enrollment participation at TCSG colleges has increased over 175 percent in the past four years. Barker earned a degree in social services from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, La.

Session **SPEAKERS**



KARA LYNN BELEW
Senior Education Policy
Advisor, Texas Public
Policy Foundation

Belew is an attorney and certified public accountant. She focuses on improving student outcomes across Texas by updating the state's antiquated school finance system and ensuring access to great school options. Before joining the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Belew served as the deputy commissioner of finance at the Texas Education Agency, overseeing the state's \$60 billion annual school finance system. She also served in senior education leadership reform positions for Govs. Greg Abbott and Rick Perry.

🐦 [@TPPF](#)



ESTELA MARA BENSIMON
Professor at the Rossier
School of Education and
Director of the Center for
Urban Education, University
of Southern California

Bensimon founded the Center for Urban Education in 1999. She pioneered tools, including the Equity Scorecard, to support racial equity in higher education. Her research was recognized by an award from the American Educational Research Association, election to the National Academy of Education and appointment as a Commissioner for Education Commission of the States. She earned her doctorate in higher education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

🐦 [@ebensimon](#) | [@Center4UrbanEd](#)



MATT BERGMAN
Research Faculty and
Program Director, University
of Louisville

Bergman's research focuses on adult learner persistence, prior learning assessment and degree completion programs. Bergman's work has appeared in numerous refereed journals; and he has also been highlighted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *TIME*. In 2015, Bergman and his colleagues won the Academy of Human Resource Development's E. F. Holton III Outstanding Article of the Year. He is a Complete College America Fellow, and is the recent recipient of the 2018 ACHE South Outstanding Faculty Award.

🐦 [@MattBergman1](#)



ANDREW BERNLOHR
Staff Attorney in the Office
of Legal Affairs, Indiana
Department of Education

Bernlohr joined the Indiana Department of Education in October 2015, and specializes in various matters, including Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program, federal grants and school turnaround efforts. Prior, Bernlohr was a trial attorney in Indianapolis and Minneapolis, and worked as a student advocate in Indianapolis public high schools.



**FORMER LT. GOV.
BILL BOLLING**
Chairman, Virginia
Mainstream Project

Bolling served as lieutenant governor of Virginia from 2006 to 2014. Prior, Bolling served as a member of the Virginia Senate from 1996 to 2005. He graduated from the University of Charleston with a bachelor's degree in political science, and was the first member of his family to graduate from college.

🐦 [@lgbillolling](#)



STEPHEN BOWEN
Deputy Executive Director
of State Leadership,
Council of Chief State
School Officers

Bowen joined CCSSO in 2013, and in this role, he directs the activities of the membership services, leadership academy, and data and information system teams. Prior, he served as a senior advisor at CCSSO, working directly with chiefs and their senior staffs to improve the performance and effectiveness of their state agencies. Bowen previously served as Maine Commissioner of Education, as a state legislator, and as a middle and high school social studies teacher.

🐦 [@CCSSO](#)

Session **SPEAKERS**



GOV. PHIL BRYANT

State of Mississippi and
2017-19 Chair, Education
Commission of the States

Bryant learned the value of hard work and importance of education early in his career. He led Mississippi in implementing transformational public education reforms, promoting economic development and building a competitive business climate that attracts major employers. Before becoming the state's chief executive, Bryant was lieutenant governor from 2008-11. He served as state auditor and represented his legislative district in the House of Representatives for five years. Bryant began his career as deputy sheriff in Hinds County and later worked as an insurance investigator.

🐦 [@PhilBryantMS](#)



BRANDON BUSTEED

Partner and Executive
Director of Education
and Workforce
Development, Gallup

Busteed's mission is to help public sector organizations identify and measure the educational and social impact outcomes that matter most, to connect education to jobs and job creation and to build new multi-sector models for accelerating human development. An internationally known speaker, consultant, and author on education and workforce innovation, Busteed has delivered more than 300 keynote presentations, has consulted with more than 100 client organizations and writes for numerous publications.

🐦 [@brandonbusteed](#) | [@GallupEDU](#)



ERICA CHAMPAGNE

Director of the Office
of Effective Practices in
Turnaround, Massachusetts
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Champagne directs the state's efforts to evaluate and share best practices in school turnaround, oversees the accountability and monitoring functions for the state's turnaround schools, and manages the state's implementation of federal School Improvement Grants. Throughout her 12 years at ESE, she has led projects on principal development and cultural proficiency. Previously, Champagne served as a research associate with the Center of Criminal Justice Policy Research and the Institute on Race and Justice at Northeastern University, where she specialized in research on racial profiling.

🐦 [@MASchoolsK12](#)



ELIZABETH BURKE BRYANT

Executive Director, Rhode
Island KIDS COUNT

Bryant has served as executive director since Rhode Island KIDS COUNT began in 1994. Previous positions include policy director for the city of Providence; housing court prosecutor; and consultant to Rhode Island Housing, the Rhode Island Foundation and the Women's Prison Mentoring Project. Bryant is co-chair of the Rhode Island Early Learning Council; serves on the board of the Partnership for America's Children; and is actively involved in United Way of Rhode Island, the Alliance for Early Success and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

🐦 [@RIKidsCount](#)



SYDNEY CHAFFEE

2017 National Teacher of
the Year, Codman Academy
Charter Public School

Chaffee teaches ninth-grade humanities at Codman Academy in Boston, Mass. In the classroom, she strives to create lessons that demonstrate how education can be a transformative tool to work toward social justice, and she encourages students to see themselves as having the power to change the world. She is a National Board Certified Teacher.

🐦 [@SydneyChaffee](#) | [@CCSSO](#)



ALISA CHAPMAN

Education Consultant

Chapman has 25 years of K-16 education experience at local, regional and state levels. Her work focuses on educator preparation and improving the opportunities and outcomes of the education pipeline. Prior to completing a year-long fellowship in public policy at the Global Research Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill in January 2018, Chapman was vice president for academic and university programs for the UNC System, where she had the responsibility of advancing efforts to prepare more, higher-quality educators.

🐦 [@AlisaChapmanNC](#)

Session **SPEAKERS**



GEOFF COLTRANE
Senior Education Advisor,
Office of North Carolina
Gov. Roy Cooper

Previously, Coltrane served as the director of institutional research and strategic initiatives at the NC School of Science and Mathematics, the director of program and policy at the Hunt Institute and the director of research and communications at the NC New Schools Project. He started his career as an elementary teacher in Durham. A North Carolina Teaching Fellow, Coltrane earned an undergraduate degree in education from UNC-Chapel Hill and a master's degree in public policy from Duke University.



MICHAEL CONNOR
State Program
Coordinator, Early
Learning Division, Oregon
Department of Education

A longtime Head Start teacher and coach, Connor now coordinates Oregon's pre-K program. He co-facilitates an initiative to synthesize understanding of what great teaching and learning looks like in Oregon's early childhood settings, under the provocative and sometimes misunderstood label "Ambitious Instruction." This focus on bold early learning forms one strand of a multi-year effort to improve Oregon's public pre-K system.

🐦 [@OREarlyLearning](#)



PATRICK CRANE
Director of Community
Colleges and Workforce
Development, Oregon
Higher Education
Coordinating Commission

Crane has primary responsibility for the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's work with the state's 17 community colleges, including distributing state funds and managing federal funds for career and technical education, adult basic education and GED. He also represents Oregon's 17 community colleges to other agencies and organizations, the legislative assembly and governor; and he is a member of the Oregon Workforce System Executive Team. He holds a doctorate in higher education from the University of Georgia.



CHRISTOPHER T. CROSS
Chairman and
Co-Founder, FourPoint
Education Partners

As chairman, Cross contributes his considerable strategic planning, policy analysis and policy development skills. Cross also serves as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Education Commission of the States and a consultant to the Broad Foundation. Previously, Cross served as a senior fellow with the Center for Education Policy, the president and chief executive officer of the Council for Basic Education and the president of the Maryland State Board of Education. He also has written extensively on education policy throughout his career.

🐦 [@ctcross](#) | [@FourPoint_Ed](#)



CAROL D'AMICO
Executive Vice President
of National Engagement
and Philanthropy, Strada
Education Network

D'Amico served in the U.S. Department of Education as assistant secretary for adult and vocational education from 2001-03 and is a nationally recognized expert in designing and leading strategies related to higher education, workforce development and business-led involvement in education reform. At Strada, D'Amico plays a key role in developing national and state philanthropic initiatives involving the higher education, business and workforce development sectors.



BARBARA DAMRON
Cabinet Secretary,
New Mexico Higher
Education Department

Damron oversees 28 public institutions of higher education, four tribal colleges and over 180 private and proprietary postsecondary schools. She also chairs the New Mexico Education Trust Board and is a commissioner for the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education. She most recently was associate professor at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing and at the School of Medicine at the UNM Health Science Center. She previously worked as Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/National Academy of Medicine Fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Session **SPEAKERS**



BRENDA DANN-MESSIER
Commissioner of
Postsecondary Education,
Rhode Island

Dann-Messier was appointed in August 2017. Throughout her career, Dann-Messier has focused on promoting student success and developing the workforce at every level. Under President Barack Obama, she served as assistant secretary of career, technical and adult Education (2009-14) and as acting assistant secretary for postsecondary education (2013-14). Previously, she served as president of Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center in Rhode Island. She is an alumna of Rhode Island College and earned a doctorate from Johnson & Wales University.

🐦 [@DannMessier](#) | [@HigherRI](#)



**AMY ELLEN
DUKE-BENFIELD**
Senior Policy Analyst,
CLASP's Center for
Postsecondary and
Economic Success

Duke-Benfield analyzes and advocates for postsecondary and financial aid policies that better serve low-income adults and other nontraditional students; and she provides technical assistance to federal, state and local advocates and governments in these areas. Her recent work has focused on better aligning public benefits and postsecondary policies to build a more comprehensive student aid system. She also directed CLASP's Benefits Access for College Completion initiative.

🐦 [@CLASP_DC](#)



BLAKE FLANDERS
President and CEO, Kansas
Board of Regents

The Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six universities and the coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions. Prior, Flanders served as vice president for workforce development for KBOR and provided executive leadership for the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority. He completed bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science, and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction at Kansas State University.

🐦 [@ksregents](#)



PAOLO DEMARIA
Superintendent of
Public Instruction, Ohio
Department of Education

Colleagues hail DeMaria as a passionate leader, a tireless worker, a respectful listener, a consensus-builder and a man with a great sense of humor. All are qualities DeMaria calls on daily as he works to support an education system of nearly 3,600 public schools and more than 1.6 million students. Much of DeMaria's 30-year career has focused on school finance, higher student achievement, college readiness and completion, and school choice.



**JOHANNA
DUNCAN-POITIER**
Senior Vice Chancellor for
Community Colleges and
the Education Pipeline, State
University of New York

Duncan-Poitier oversees SUNY's 30 community colleges; and supports the network of SUNY's 64 campuses, New York state's pre-K-to-12 schools and business leaders. The programs under her leadership include Smart Scholars Early College High Schools and P-TECH programs, the SUNY Empire State STEM Learning Network, a \$14.6 million TAACCCT consortium, a scale-up of Carnegie Math Pathways, a Jobs for the Future Student Success Center and a \$2.1 million Strong Start to Finish grant.

🐦 [@SUNY](#)



PAUL FLEMING
Assistant Commissioner,
Tennessee Department
of Education

Fleming is responsible for the design, implementation, evaluation and support of impactful policies, practices and programs related to teacher and leader preparation, licensure, evaluation and professional learning. Fleming developed and currently leads the Tennessee Teacher Leader Network, comprising 59 districts, and the Tennessee Transformational Leadership Alliance, which has fostered nine innovative principal pipeline models across the state.

🐦 [@PaulFlemingTN](#) | [@TNedu](#)

Session **SPEAKERS**



LISA GUERNSEY

Deputy Director of the Education Policy Program and Director of Learning Technologies, New America

Prior, Guernsey was as a staff writer at *The New York Times* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and has contributed to several other national publications. She is co-author of *Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens* (Jossey-Bass, 2015) and author of *Screen Time: How Electronic Media Affects Your Young Child* (Basic Books, 2012). She won a 2012 gold Eddie magazine award for a *School Library Journal* article and served on several advisory committees on early education.

🐦 [@LisaGuernsey](#) | [@NewAmericaEd](#)



AIMEE ROGSTAD GUIDERA President, Guidera Strategy

Guidera is a strategic consultant helping organizations align their efforts and impact in the service of improved student learning and outcomes. She most recently was the founder, president and CEO of the Data Quality Campaign, a national, nonprofit organization leading the effort to empower educators, students, parents and policymakers with the information they need to make the best decisions to improve student outcomes. She believes that information has the power to transform education to ensure every child in this country is prepared for success.

🐦 [@AimeeGuidera](#)



GOV. BILL HASLAM State of Tennessee

Haslam is the 49th governor of Tennessee. Under his leadership, Tennessee is recognized as a national leader in education, economic development, efficient and effective government, and fiscal strength. Since 2011, Tennessee students have been the fastest improving in the country in academic achievement. High school graduation rates are at an all-time high, and Tennessee is the first state in the nation to offer high school graduates and adults two years of community or technical college free of tuition and mandatory fees. Previously, Haslam was mayor of Knoxville, Tenn.

🐦 [@BillHaslam](#)



KATHY HEBDA Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Education

Hebda has worked for the department of education since 1992, beginning in the Educator Quality Division in the areas of educator certification, development and policy. After serving as deputy public schools chancellor for educator quality, she was appointed by Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart in 2013 to serve as chief of staff. Hebda began her educational career as a choral director in public schools in Florida and Georgia. She received a bachelor's degree in music education from Newberry College and a master's degree in choral music education from Florida State University.



JAMES J. HECKMAN Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, University of Chicago's Center for the Economics of Human Development

Heckman's work has focused on the impact of different social programs and the methodologies used to measure those program's effects. He has researched areas such as education, job training programs, minimum wage legislation, women's work and earnings, child care effects, anti-discrimination laws, civil rights and early childhood interventions. Additional research includes the effects of tax policy on schooling and training choices, and the formulation and estimation of general equilibrium models. Heckman received numerous honors, including the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.



JASON HELFER Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Illinois State Board of Education

Prior, Helfer was an associate professor and department chair at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. He taught at Millikin University and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He was also an elementary school teacher in Evanston, Ill., and Grapevine-Colleyville, Texas.

🐦 [@ILStateBoardofED](#) | [@ISBNews](#)

Session **SPEAKERS**



STEVEN HERNÁNDEZ
Executive Director,
Commission on Women,
Children and Seniors

As head of the Connecticut legislature's two-generational workforce and education strategy efforts, Hernández focuses his work on coordinating the state's approach to helping parents work and children thrive. He also focuses on fostering positive school climates through social and emotional skills-building and restorative practices, and by promoting equitable access to educational opportunities. Hernández previously served as director of public policy and research for the Connecticut Commission on Children, where he helped author the Achievement Gap Task Force Report to the General Assembly.

🐦 [@solek1984](#) | [@ctcwcs](#)



REP. D. CRAIG HORN
North Carolina State
Representative

Horn is a former Russian linguist with the United States Air Force Security Service and a retired food broker and businessman. Elected in 2010, Horn is now in his fourth term in the North Carolina General Assembly, representing House District 68 in Union County. He is co-chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations for Education and the House Committee for K-12 Education Policy.

🐦 [@dcraighorn](#)



JAMES H. JOHNSON JR.
Distinguished Professor
of Strategy and
Entrepreneurship and
Director, Urban Investment
Strategies Center, Kenan
Institute of Private
Enterprise at
UNC-Chapel Hill

Johnson's research interests include community and economic development, urban poverty and public policy in urban America. He is co-author of *The Economic Impact of the African American Population on the State of North Carolina*, among other publications.



JOHN B. KING JR.
President and CEO, The
Education Trust

The Education Trust is a national nonprofit organization that aims to identify and close opportunity and achievement gaps from preschool through college. King served as the U.S. secretary of education from 2016 through 2017. In tapping him to lead the department, President Barack Obama called King "an exceptionally talented educator," citing his commitment to "preparing every child for success" and his lifelong dedication to education as a teacher, principal and leader of schools and school systems.

🐦 [@JohnBKing](#) | [@EdTrust](#)



MIKE KRAUSE
Executive Director,
Tennessee Higher
Education Commission
and Tennessee Student
Assistance Corporation

Prior, Krause served as the founding executive director of Tennessee Promise and Drive to 55, where he coordinated the launch of the nation's first free community college program and other programs focused on increasing the state's higher education attainment.

🐦 [@mikekrauseTN](#) | [@TNHigherEd](#)



KEVIN KRUGER
President and CEO,
NASPA - Student Affairs
Administrators in
Higher Education

Kruger draws on more than 35 years of experience in higher education. Since 2012, he has served as president and CEO, and prior, he worked for 18 years as the associate executive director, chief operating officer and chief financial officer for NASPA. He held a range of student affairs positions at Southern Methodist University and the University of Maryland. As NASPA president, Kruger represents student affairs at a variety of national forums.

🐦 [@NASPApres](#) | [@NASPAtweets](#)

Session **SPEAKERS**



MICHAEL LACH

Director of STEM Education and Strategic Initiatives, University of Chicago

Lach conducts research and provides technical assistance focusing on large-scale improvements in mathematics and science education in the United States. Previously, he was appointed by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to lead science and mathematics education efforts at the U. S. Department of Education. Lach began his professional career teaching high school biology and general science at Alcé Fortier Senior High School in New Orleans in 1990.

🐦 [@michaellach](#)



DIANA B. LYS

Assistant Dean for Educator Preparation and Accreditation, UNC-Chapel Hill

Lys' research focuses on linking teacher candidate performance assessments to outcomes in the field. She currently chairs the American Educational Research Association's Special Interest Group for Accreditation, Assessment and Program Evaluation Research in Educator Preparation. Prior, Lys taught middle school science and social studies, and worked with migrant communities in North Carolina.

🐦 [@Lys_Morrison](#) | [@UNCSchoolofEd](#)



LAURA MAZYCK

Director of Scholarship Programs, Florida Department of Education

Mazyck has served in this role for nine years, overseeing both the growth of current programs as well as the addition of three new ones. She has served on numerous committees throughout the state and is in her fourth year of serving on the State Advisory Committee for Education of Exceptional Students. She received a bachelor's degree in education from Flagler College and a graduate degree in political science from Florida State University.



REP. GAIL LAVIELLE

Connecticut State Representative

Lavielle, who represents Norwalk, Westport and Wilton, is the House Ranking Member of the General Assembly's Joint Education Committee. An Assistant Republican Leader, she is serving her fourth term in the legislature. She previously worked for 26 years in finance and communications, 14 of them in Paris — serving as a senior vice president of corporate affairs at Suez Environnement and CEO of an Interpublic subsidiary in France. She holds a master's degree in French from Yale University, an MBA from the University of Connecticut and a bachelor's degree in English from Cornell University.

🐦 [@RepGailLavielle](#)



SCOTT MARION

Executive Director, National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment

Marion's current projects include supporting states in implementing assessment and accountability reforms, especially those that bridge local and state assessment systems. He is a recognized national leader in designing innovative assessment systems to support both instructional and accountability uses, including helping states and districts design systems of assessments while navigating the tension among policy, practical and technical issues and challenges.

🐦 [@ScottFMarion](#) | [@NCIEA1](#)



JENNIFER MCCORMICK

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana Department of Education

Indiana's 44th Superintendent of Public Instruction, McCormick has been in office since January 2017. A nationally recognized innovator and leader in education for more than two decades, McCormick has served at every level of the K-12 education system. She was a secondary special education and language arts teacher, elementary principal, and assistant superintendent; and served as an acting superintendent for more than seven years.

🐦 [@suptdrmcormick](#) | [@EducateIN](#)

Session **SPEAKERS**



CANDICE MCQUEEN
Commissioner of Education,
Tennessee Department
of Education

McQueen was sworn as commissioner in January 2015. McQueen led a statewide effort to create a new, bold strategic plan and vision for schools, called Tennessee Succeeds, focused on increasing postsecondary and career readiness for all of Tennessee's 1 million students. Tennessee also refocused and reinvested in literacy with a statewide Read to be Ready campaign, new standards with comprehensive guidance and training on teaching reading. McQueen was a classroom teacher, and served as dean and senior vice president of a college of education.

🐦 [@McQueenCandice](#) | [@TNedu](#)



CHRISTOPHER M. MULLIN
Director, Strong Start
to Finish, Education
Commission of the States

Prior, Mullin was executive vice chancellor of the Florida College System, assistant vice chancellor for policy and research at the State University System of Florida Board of Governors, program director for policy analysis at the American Association of Community Colleges and a postdoctoral fellow at the Illinois Education Research Council. He earned a doctorate in higher education administration, as well as a bachelor's degree, from the University of Florida. He also has a master's degree in education from Teachers College of Columbia University.

🐦 [@Dr_Mullin](#) | [@_Strong_Start](#)



DAWN CHENEEN OFFUTT
Senior Associate in
Academic Affairs,
Kentucky Council on
Postsecondary Education

Offutt coordinates dual credit policy and monitors the implementation of corequisite models at postsecondary institutions. Prior, she was the director of program services for GEAR UP Kentucky and a consultant for the Kentucky Department of Education. She received a bachelor's degree in French with a minor in Spanish from Grambling State University, a master's degree in French linguistics from Louisiana State University and a doctorate in education from the University of Kentucky.



JANICE PALMER
Vice President of
Public Policy, Helios
Education Foundation

Palmer is responsible for identifying Arizona policy and investment opportunities that leverage and positively impact the Helios Education Foundation's current investments. Palmer was previously director of governmental relations and public affairs at the Arizona School Boards Association, where she spent more than 15 years. She also served as communications director for the Proposition 200: Healthy Children Healthy Families campaign, and was an Arizona Senate policy advisor.

🐦 [@HeliosEdFnd](#)



EMILY PARKER
Policy Analyst, Education
Commission of the States

Parker supports states on issues of school finance across the entire P-20 continuum, focusing on K-12 school funding formulas. Prior, Parker worked at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., where she was a research assistant and project manager for former Federal Reserve Board Chair Ben Bernanke. Throughout graduate school, she worked at the Colorado Department of Higher Education and on the Emmy Award-winning Truth Test Team at 9NEWS/KUSA in Denver. Parker earned both bachelor's and master's degrees of public policy from the University of Denver.

🐦 [@emilyparker121](#) | [@edcommission](#)



NICHOLAS PELZER
Senior Program Officer,
The Wallace Foundation

Pelzer joined The Wallace Foundation in 2014 and brings over 10 years of cross-sector experience, developing and enhancing dynamic social initiatives. In his role, Pelzer works with school districts, technical assistance providers and stakeholders across the country to strengthen their efforts to attract, train, evaluate and support school leaders in urban areas.

🐦 [@WallaceFdn](#)

Session **SPEAKERS**



ELANA PIRTLE-GUINEY

Policy Advisor, Workforce and Labor, Office of Oregon Gov. Kate Brown

Pirtle-Guiney has been instrumental in advocating for equitable workplace and labor policies. Prior, she spent eight years with the AFL-CIO, where she held various positions that included directing the political, communications and legislative programs, and expanding multi-employer workforce training programs. She has extensive experience lobbying healthcare, employment, wage and hour, labor, economic development and tax expenditure legislation.



LUKE RHINE

Director of Career and Technical Education and STEM Initiatives, Delaware Department of Education

Rhine is responsible for leading the development, implementation and continuous improvement of the statewide system of career technical education in Delaware's secondary and postsecondary institutions, as well as STEM initiatives in grades K-12. Rhine is also responsible for developing and implementing education policy. He has received several state and national awards for educational leadership, and was a Fulbright scholar.



JEANA ROSS

Secretary, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

Ross was appointed in 2012. As a member of the governor's cabinet, Ross oversees the Office of School Readiness, Office of Early Learning and Family Support, Alabama Children's Policy Councils, Children First Trust Fund and Head Start Collaboration Office. Ross has 18 years of public school experience, with much of her time administering quality early learning programs. Throughout her career, she developed, directed and evaluated programs that impacted children from birth through graduation.

[@JeanaRoss4kids](#) | [@AL_DECE](#)



BRITTANY SLAGLE-MAXWELL

Principal at Merry Oaks International Academy, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Maxwell has led significant change as principal of Merry Oaks, a high-need school, since 2015. Prior, she served as assistant principal from 2014 to 2015 and a Title I literacy coach from 2012 to 2014. Maxwell taught in Union County (N.C.) Public Schools and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools from 2006 to 2012. A native of Richmond, Va., Maxwell earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Taylor University and a master's degree in school administration and leadership.

[@CharMeckSchools](#)



LAURIE SMITH

Senior Policy Advisor, Education and Workforce Development, Office of Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant

Smith is also executive director of the State Early Childhood Advisory Council. During her tenure, Mississippi has passed major K-12 education reforms — including early childhood education funding for the first time in the state, the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, the Special Needs Education Scholarship Account, the Dyslexia Scholarship and increased teacher preparation entry requirements — and created an A-F rating system for school districts. Smith has over 25 years of experience in education, teaching and research.



SUSAN BOWLES THERRIAULT

Managing Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Therriault has 20 years of experience conducting research on state efforts to build the capacity of high-need districts and schools to increase opportunity for students. She has led national, state and district research projects focused on addressing persistent problems of practice. For the past four years, Therriault has been the research lead of a partnership with the Massachusetts state education agency, focused on conducting research to inform continuous improvement of support for the lowest-performing schools.

[@sbother](#) | [@Education_AIR](#)

Session **SPEAKERS**



SEAN TIERNEY
Associate Commissioner
for Policy and Research,
Indiana Commission for
Higher Education

Prior, Tierney was a state policy officer at the Lumina Foundation and worked for the higher education coordinating boards of Maryland and Tennessee.

🐦 [@sftierney](#)



KENNETH S. TRUMP
President, National
School Safety and
Security Services

National School Safety and Security Services is a national firm specializing in K-12 school security, emergency preparedness, litigation consulting and related school safety training and consulting. Trump began his work as an officer, investigator and youth gang unit supervisor for the Cleveland City Schools safety division, and as a suburban Cleveland school security director and assistant gang task force director. He has served more than 30 years working on school safety with local school and public safety leaders from all 50 states and internationally.

🐦 [@safeschools](#)



JONATHAN VANDERBRUG
Policy and Research
Director, Arts Alliance Illinois

In this role, VanderBrug coordinated the process of updating Illinois' arts learning standards and led advocacy to include the arts as an indicator in Illinois' ESSA plan. The Illinois Art Education Association awarded him its 2017 President's Special Award. He also served as health care justice director at the Campaign for Better Health Care, Calumet community educator at the Field Museum, executive director of the St. Louis Lead Prevention Coalition and policy advisor for the Michigan House of Representatives. He also reviewed grant proposals for the Donnelley Foundation.



DAWN WALLACE
Senior Advisor, Education
and Strategic Initiatives,
Office of Arizona
Gov. Doug Ducey

Wallace also serves as the director of the Governor's Office of Education. She has an extensive background in K-12 and higher education policy and the public budget process. She served as senior budget analyst for the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting in two previous administrations, before serving as the deputy director of research staff in the Arizona Senate and the majority policy advisor for two Arizona House speakers. Prior to joining Ducey's staff in 2015, she served as the director of government relations for Maricopa Community Colleges.



JEFF WEBSTER
Director of Research,
Trellis Company

Webster has overseen numerous studies on college affordability, student debt burden and student success. He pioneered the use of predictive modeling to improve student loan default prevention efforts, evaluates a state financial education program, assesses the efficacy of federal student loan counseling and administers Trellis' Student Financial Wellness Survey. Webster presented to many groups, including the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, the federal Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, and the Financial Literacy and Education Commission.

🐦 [@TrellisResearch](#) | [@Trellis_Company](#)



MICHELLE R. WEISE
Chief Innovation Officer
and Senior Vice President
of Workforce Strategies,
Strada Education Network

Weise is a higher education expert who specializes in disruptive innovation and the future of learning and work. She leads Strada's workforce strategies, as well as its innovation and thought leadership priorities. Her research focuses on the future of the workforce and how to better connect students to meaningful employment pathways throughout their working lives.

🐦 [@rwmichelle](#) | [@stradaeducation](#)

Session **SPEAKERS**



JEFF WELD

Senior Policy Advisor and Assistant Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Weld is on leave from the post of executive director for the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council. He is an associate professor in the department of biology at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

🐦 [@JDWeld](#) | [@WHOSTP](#)



MATTHEW WILLMARTH

Senior School Finance Analyst, Wyoming Legislative Service Office

Willmarth staffs the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Education Committee and Select Committee on School Facilities, and assists other committees on K-12 school finance issues. He has been involved in Wyoming's K-12 school finance system for the past 13 years, working for the Wyoming Legislative Service Office for the past nine years and at the Wyoming Department of Education for four years. During his tenure, he has been involved in four recalibrations of Wyoming's school finance formula.

🐦 [@WYLegislature](#)



AMANDA WINTERS

Senior Policy Analyst, National Governors Association Center for Best Practices

Winters focuses on postsecondary education and its connection to workforce and economic priorities. She is currently engaged in projects focused on work-based learning, occupational licensure and innovative state higher education funding mechanisms.



RYAN WISE

Director, Iowa Department of Education

Wise was appointed by Gov. Terry Branstad in July 2015. In September 2017, he was named Policy Leader of the Year by the National Association of State Boards of Education. Wise began his career as a high school history teacher, before launching and leading Teach For America on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations in South Dakota. He earned a doctorate in education leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

🐦 [@ryanmwise](#) | [@IADeptofEd](#)



MICAH ANN WIXOM

Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

Wixom works on K-12 issues and leads Education Commission of the States' work on school choice. She has written on a variety of other issues, such as English learners and school safety. Prior to joining Education Commission of the States in 2013, she worked for the Legislative Counsel Bureau in Nevada, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and the Arizona Office of the Auditor General. She has a master's degree in public administration and a degree in liberal arts and history.

🐦 [@MicahAnnWixom](#) | [@edcommission](#)



CAREY M. WRIGHT

State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi Department of Education

Under Wright's leadership, Mississippi achieved significant gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and earned recognition from the National Institute for Early Education Research for being one of six states to meet all 10 quality standards for early childhood education. Wright previously served as chief academic officer for the District of Columbia Public Schools. She is president of the board of directors of the Council of Chief State School Officers and a member of Chiefs for Change.

🐦 [@MissDeptEd](#)



JENNIFER ZINTH

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

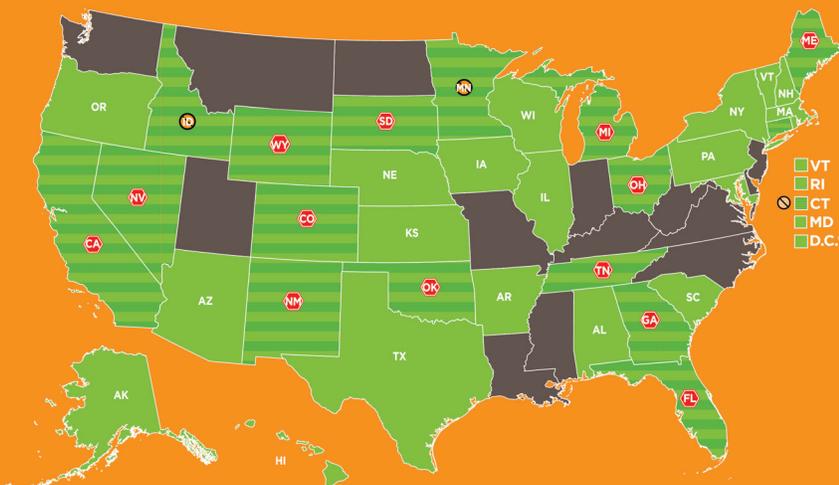
Zinth fields questions from state policymakers and agency staff, conducts state policy research and analyses, authors reports and offers counsel — including testimony, presentations and other guidance. Zinth is nationally recognized for her work on state dual enrollment policies and other high school and STEM issues. She has been cited in numerous media outlets, including the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*, and she contributes to external publications; her most recent is an article on STEM for the Council of State Governments' 2017 edition of *The Book of the States*.

🐦 [@JZinth](#) | [@edcommission](#)

2018 ELECTIONS

CHANGES IN STATE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

36 STATES PLUS D.C. will hold governors races in 2018.



36  Governors races being held
*D.C. will hold a mayoral race

16  Guaranteed new governors

There will be at least **16 NEW GOVERNORS** in 2019 due to ...

13  Term limit

3  Incumbent not running for re-election

Source: NGA

Many of these governors **APPOINT** state education leaders ...

CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS

Source: CCSSO

12 STATES PLUS D.C.

6 OF THOSE STATES are guaranteed to have a **new** governor.



STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Source: SHEEO

7 STATES PLUS D.C.

5 OF THOSE STATES are guaranteed to have a **new** governor.

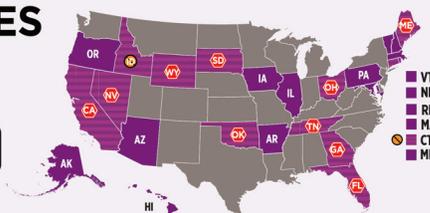


STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Source: NASBE

25 STATES

12 OF THOSE STATES are guaranteed to have a **new** governor.



 Other states will hold **ELECTIONS** for state education leaders ...

CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS: 7 STATES

Source: CCSSO



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: 8 STATES PLUS D.C.

Source: NASBE



87 out of **99**

LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS

will hold general elections in November 2018.

Source: NCSL

YOUR Education Policy Team



MELISSA AGUILAR
Accountant



JOHN IVEY
Central Services
Specialist



ZEKE PEREZ JR.
Policy Researcher



JENNIFER THOMSEN
Director, Knowledge and
Research



JEREMY ANDERSON
President



MATT JORDAN
Director, Strategic
Initiatives



SARAH PINGEL
Senior Policy Analyst



**CLAUS VON
ZASTROW**
Principal, Statewide
Longitudinal Data
Systems



LEXI ANDERSON
Policy Analyst



TOM KEILY
Policy Researcher



SARAH POMPELIA
Policy Researcher



**STEPHANIE
ARAGON**
Policy Analyst



ADRIENNE LUNDELL
Senior Graphic Designer



**CASSANDRA
QUILLEN**
Communications
Specialist



BROOKE WELLS
Digital Media Specialist



BRUCE ATCHISON
Principal, Early Learning



HEIDI MACDONALD
Policy Researcher



ALYSSA RAFA
Policy Analyst



ERIN WHINNERY
Policy Researcher



JANE R. BEST
Director, Arts Education
Partnership



KRISTINA MAGEAU
Communications
Specialist



MAXINE ROBERTS
Knowledge Manager,
Strong Start to Finish



JOANNE WILKINS
Information Technology
Developer



LOUISA DIFFEY
Policy Researcher



SHARMILA MANN
Director, K-12



MOLLY SARUBBI
Executive Assistant and
Policy Researcher



MICAH ANN WIXOM
Policy Analyst



MARY FULTON
Senior Policy Analyst



DENISE MILLER
Senior Project Manager,
Strong Start to Finish



DEVEN SCOTT
Policy Researcher and
State Relations Associate



KATE WOLFF
Assistant Director, Arts
Education Partnership
and State Relations
Strategist



**ANTIONETTE
GARCIA**
Director, Administrative
Services



JILL MULLEN
Policy Researcher



SARA SHELTON
Director, State Relations



JULIE WOODS
Senior Policy Analyst



LISA GUILFOILE
State Relations Associate



**CHRISTOPHER
M. MULLIN**
Director, Strong Start
to Finish



LAUREN SISNEROS
State Relations Strategist



MANDY ZATYNSKI
Senior Communications
Specialist



KATE HAGGERTY
Human Resources
Assistant



SARA OLÁN
Meetings and Events
Assistant



AMY SKINNER
Director,
Communications



JENNIFER ZINTH
Principal, High School
and STEM



HOLLY HAYNES
Administrative Assistant,
Strong Start to Finish



MATT PADILLA
Chief Financial Officer



BRIAN A. SPONSLER
Vice President, Policy and
Director, Postsecondary
and Workforce
Development



NEAL HOLLY
Assistant Director,
Postsecondary and
Workforce Development



EMILY PARKER
Policy Analyst

Two years
in a row!



AT EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES, we believe in the power of learning from experience.



WHAT WE DO

Education Commission of the States serves as a **partner to state policymakers** by providing **personalized support** and helping education leaders come together and **learn from one another**. Through our programs and services, policymakers gain the insight and experience needed to create **effective education policy**.

HOW WE DO IT

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

REPORT We regularly issue relevant and timely reports providing education leaders with concise, factual overviews covering the full spectrum of state education policies.

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

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



WHAT SETS US APART

FULL EDUCATION SPECTRUM Because education policy issues range from early childhood to postsecondary and workforce, we provide policymakers with in-depth information on issues across the full education spectrum.

ALL EDUCATION LEADERS We provide opportunities for all state education leaders from both political parties to collaborate, work together and learn from one another within a state, across states and across the aisle, resulting in better education systems for students.

NONPARTISAN AND UNBIASED We provide policymakers with nonpartisan, factual information to equip them to make educated decisions.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE Many states face similar education challenges. By sharing the facts about what has worked and what has not, states learn from each other without recreating the wheel.



State Education Policy TRACKING RESOURCE

Education Commission of the States' innovative State Education Policy Tracking Resource allows web users to search by topic and subtopic for enacted and vetoed education bills across the country. You can count on Education Commission of the States as your education policy team to provide the most up-to-date research on education policies across the country.



www.ecs.org/state-education-policy-tracking



2018 WINTER COMMISSIONERS Meeting

NOV. 28-29 | NEW ORLEANS



EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES
Your education policy team.

700 Broadway, Suite 810, Denver, CO 80203
Learn more at www.ecs.org.