



Confirmed Speaker Bios

Lead Speaker: John “Jeb” Bush, Chairman, The Foundation for Excellence in Education

Former Governor of Florida from 1999-2007, Mr. Bush championed a number of major education reforms and initiatives for one of the nation’s largest state public education systems. He has since established, and serves as president of the Foundation for Excellence in Education which has a mission to “ignite a movement of reform, state by state, to transform education for the 21st century.” During his eight years as Governor, Mr. Bush raised academic standards, required school accountability, and created one of the most ambitious school choice initiatives in the country. These transformational changes have led to measurable results: more high school seniors are graduating and fewer students are dropping out, while Florida’s 3rd-10th graders are outscoring 60-70 percent of those in other states in both reading and math.

Morning Speakers:

Dr. Howard Fuller, Founder and Former Chairman of the Black Alliance for Educational Options

Former Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools and current Director of the Institute of Transformational Learning at Marquette University, Dr. Fuller is a national leader on creating school choice and learning strategies for African American school children. He helped found BAEO which is “staunch in its belief that parental choice must be an integral part of any serious effort to reform education in America.” BAEO asserts that parental choice leads to the creation of quality educational options that rescues children and also “creates powerful incentives for all schools, public and private, to improve— twin measures of opportunity and improvement.” Dr. Fuller has been awarded several honors for his ground-breaking work on behalf of parents and children, and he is a passionate advocate who inspires others.

Honorable Tony Bennett, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana

On January 12th, 2009, Dr. Tony Bennett was sworn in as Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction and immediately began creating a Department of Education focused on student learning and implementing his vision that “the academic achievement and career preparation of all Indiana students will be the best in the United States and on par with the most competitive countries in the world.” Bennett’s aggressive goals include creating and promoting a statewide culture of academic excellence. In his first legislative session, Bennett actively encouraged the Indiana General Assembly to accelerate the state’s school accountability timeline to allow the state to step in earlier to provide resources to chronically failing schools. He also worked with Governor Daniels and a bipartisan group of legislators to pass landmark legislation giving teachers legal immunity from lawsuits related to efforts to instill discipline in their classrooms and expanding criminal background checks for new school employees. Bennett has joined with President Obama and U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan in opposing efforts to impose moratoriums on public charter schools.

Official Welcome & Introduction of Keynote: Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana

Former U.S. Congressman and Governor since 2008, Mr. Jindal created the first scholarship program for at-risk students in New Orleans and has been an advocate for charters and other innovative school choices that provide Louisiana students with higher levels of achievement. Under his leadership, the state has passed laws that will require annual teacher evaluations incorporating student achievement and assign “letter grades” for School Performance Scores to increase accountability. Governor Jindal has also supported efforts to increase career and post-secondary courses while in high school and transform adult workforce training that have garnered national recognition for responsiveness and quality aimed at employers’ needs.

Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Joel Klein, Executive Vice President, News Corporation

In January 2011, Joel I. Klein became CEO of the Educational Division and Executive Vice President, Office of the Chairman, at News Corporation, where he also serves on the Board of Directors. Prior to that, Mr. Klein was Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education where he oversaw a system of over 1,600 schools with 1.1 million students, 136,000 employees and a \$22 billion budget. He launched Children First in 2002, a comprehensive reform strategy that has brought coherence and capacity to the system and resulted in significant increases in student performance.

Panel Discussion:

Ben Austin, Executive Director, Parent Revolution: Ben has served as the Executive Director of the Parent Revolution based in Los Angeles since 2008. Prior to this role, he directed the effort to transform Locke High School from the worst high school in Los Angeles into a model of reform. He also served as a Deputy Mayor under Mayor Richard Riordan, where he helped craft the mayor's education reform policy. Mr. Austin also worked with First 5 California from 2002-2006, where he helped create L.A. Universal Preschool, a \$600 million program based on high standards, accountability and parental choice that serves 10,000 low-income kids every year.

Marc Sternberg, Deputy Chancellor of Portfolio Planning, New York City Department of Education: As Deputy Chancellor for Portfolio Planning at the New York City Department of Education, Marc directs city-wide school planning efforts including new school development - charter and non-charter, school phase-outs, implementation of the Federal School Improvement Grant program, K-12 admissions, and early childhood education. Prior to his service as Deputy Chancellor Marc served as founding principal of the Bronx Lab School. After earning a B.A. from Princeton University in 1995, Marc served as a Teach For America corps member in the South Bronx where he taught. He then earned a joint MBA and Masters in Education from Harvard University. Marc was selected as a 2009-2010 White House Fellow, during which time he worked in the office of US Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan supporting the Race to the Top initiative.

Scott Shirey, Executive Director, KIPP Delta Public Schools: A former Teach For America corps member in Baton Rouge, Scott founded KIPP Delta Public Schools in Arkansas where he is successfully providing choices for high-need children living in the rural Mississippi Delta. The charter network he established is growing based on demonstrated academic success of its students. Scott was just recently named as one of the "World's 7 Most Powerful Educators" by *Forbes Magazine*.

Call to Action: John White, Superintendent, Louisiana Recovery School District

John White was appointed Superintendent of the Recovery School District in April 2011. He previously served as deputy chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, overseeing Talent, Labor and Innovation for the nation's largest school system, serving more than one million students. Prior to that role, he served as chief executive officer for the Department's Portfolio Division, where he was responsible for turning around failing schools and starting new schools. He also served as deputy chief operating officer for the Department. Before his move to New York, John served as executive director for Teach for America Chicago and Teach for America New Jersey. John received a master's degree in public administration from New York University and earned a bachelor's degree in English with distinction from the University of Virginia. He is a member of the 2010 class of the Broad Superintendent's Academy.

