

## INFORMATION ON SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND PANELISTS

### **Alan D. Bersin**

*California Secretary of Education*

Alan Bersin was appointed California's Secretary of Education on July 1, 2005, by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Immediately prior to his appointment, he was Superintendent of Public Education in San Diego City Schools, the nation's eighth-largest urban school district. Before becoming superintendent in 1998, Mr. Bersin served as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California for nearly five years. He was a senior partner in the Los Angeles law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson and served as Special Counsel to the Los Angeles Police Commission, as visiting professor of law at the University of San Diego School of Law, and as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Southern California Law Center. He is a member of the California and Alaska bars. Mr. Bersin serves as a member of the policy board of EdVoice and of the Broad Institute for Superintendents; member of the Board of Overseers for Harvard University; chair of the Visiting Committee for the Harvard Graduate School of Education; Trustee of the Neurosciences Institute; member of the Advisory Board for the National Council on Teacher Quality; member of the Urban Affairs Council of the California School Boards Association; and member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Pacific Council on International Policy. Mr. Bersin received an A.B. in government from Harvard University (*magna cum laude*) in 1968. From 1969 to 1971, he attended Balliol College at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. In 1974, he received a J.D. degree from the Yale Law School.

### **The Honorable Donald L. Carcieri**

*Governor of Rhode Island*

Donald L. Carcieri was inaugurated as Rhode Island's fifty-seventh Governor on January 7, 2003, and was recently reelected to a second four-year term. A native Rhode Islander, Governor Carcieri attended Brown University on an academic scholarship, graduating in 1965 with a degree in international relations. Following graduation, he taught math at Newport's Rogers High School and then at Concord Carlisle Regional High School in Concord, Massachusetts. He then turned to business, where, over the course of ten years, he built a career at Old Stone Bank, reaching the position of Executive Vice President. In 1981, Governor Carcieri took his family to Kingston, Jamaica, where he headed the Catholic Relief Service's West Indies operation and his wife, Suzanne, taught science in the local school. Returning to Rhode Island in 1983, he joined Cookson America as the president of a small start-up company in the group, rising through the ranks to the position of Chief Executive Officer of Cookson America and Joint Managing Director of Cookson Group Worldwide. He was instrumental in the growth of the business into a major manufacturer employing over 12,000 people worldwide. The company grew from an organization doing \$30 million in sales to over \$3 billion in sales at the time he retired in 1997.

### **Bridget K. Curran**

*Program Director, Education Division, NGA Center for Best Practices*

Since coming to NGA in 1998, Bridget Curran has provided information, analyses, and consultation to governors and their education advisors on a variety of education policy topics and has led the division's work on teaching-quality issues. She has consulted with governors' staffs and written and spoken about teacher recruitment and retention, preparation, induction, pay, working conditions, and professional development. Ms. Curran also helps manage the division's work on high school reform, including projects aimed at improving high school teaching. She is a co-author of the Action Agenda for Improving America's High Schools. In addition, Ms. Curran led the NGA Task Force on State High School Graduation Data, which resulted in fifty governors agreeing to a common means of calculating high school graduation rates. Before coming to NGA, Ms. Curran spent nearly three years at Education Week as a senior research associate for the Quality Counts reports. She has also been a substitute teacher in the

Arlington County and Fairfax County public schools and an assistant account executive at a small public and government relations firm. Ms. Curran earned a B.A. from The College of William and Mary and has completed graduate work in education policy at the George Washington University.

**Valerie Forti**

*President and Founder of The Education Partnership*

Valerie Forti came to Rhode Island in 1998, where she founded The Education Partnership, a statewide nonprofit education advocacy organization, supported by fifty of Rhode Island's top businesses devoted to improving the state's K-12 public education system. Co-author of the 2005 and 2006 reports *Teacher Contracts: Restoring the Balance*, Ms Forti has guided The Education Partnership to a prominent role in the discussion of the impact of collective bargaining on public education, at the local, state, and national level. Ms. Forti graduated in 1998 from the mid-career program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University with a Masters of Public Administration. Prior to attending Harvard, Ms. Forti spent seven years working for the Kentucky Legislature as Assistant Director of the Office of Education Accountability (OEA). As Director of the Division of Program Oversight, she monitored the implementation and research of twelve major components of the education reform effort. She served as legislative liaison and press liaison for OEA from 1991 to 1997 and was Kentucky's representative on the Region IV board of directors for the National Head Start Association from 1992 to 1997. Before going to OEA, Ms. Forti served on the executive staff of Kentucky's attorney general and was the first executive director of the Kentucky Child Support Enforcement Commission.

**Brad Jupp**

*Senior Academic Policy Advisor to Denver Public Schools Superintendent Michael Bennet*

Before becoming Senior Policy Advisor to the Denver Public Schools (DPS) superintendent in September 2005, Brad Jupp served as a union representative and teacher leader in the collaborative effort between DPS and its teachers union, the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) to create a teacher compensation system based, in part, on student learning. That effort led to ProComp, the Professional Compensation System for Teachers, nationally recognized as a path-clearing effort to radically change the way teachers are paid, which was ratified by the members of DCTA and the Board of Education in March 2004 and supported by the Denver Electorate in November 2005. From August 2000 to June 2004, Mr. Jupp was Team Leader of the DPS/DCTA Pay for Performance Design Team, the body that helped develop ProComp. In his most recent classroom assignment, he was lead teacher at the Alternative Middle School of the DPS Contemporary Learning Academy, where he taught language arts and social studies to at-risk sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders. From 1989 to 2004, he volunteered as a member of the Negotiations Team for the Denver Classroom Teachers Association. He has been an employee of the Denver Public Schools since 1987.

**Julia E. Koppich**

*President, J. Koppich & Associates*

Julia Koppich is a San Francisco-based education consultant. She has taught at the Graduate School of Education at the University of California at Berkeley and at the School of Education at Stanford University. Dr. Koppich has been a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, the National Governors Association, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the National Alliance of Business, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, and the National Science Foundation. Her areas of specialization include education policy analysis and public sector-labor relations. She is the author of numerous articles and co-author of two books, *A Union of Professionals* and *United Mind Workers: Unions and Teaching in the Knowledge Society*. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Policy Analysis from the University of California at Berkeley

**Dane Linn**

*Director, Education Division, NGA Center for Best Practices*

At the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, Dane Linn oversees all education-related policy research, analysis, and resource development. He frequently provides consultation and tailored analysis to the nation's governors on a host of issues, including No Child Left Behind, early childhood, elementary and secondary, and postsecondary education. Recognized as a national expert in his field, Mr. Linn has authored numerous policy reports on issues ranging from school finance, teacher quality, and school redesign to pay for performance. Under the leadership of former governor Mark Warner of Virginia, Mr. Linn recently spearheaded the division's national initiative on Redesigning the American High School. Prior to coming to the NGA, Mr. Linn worked at the West Virginia Department of Education, where he was responsible for the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. He previously served as legislative liaison to the House of Delegates. Mr. Linn began his professional career in education as an elementary school teacher and principal. A graduate of Cabrini College, Mr. Linn received a master's degree from Marshall University Graduate College and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

**Peter McWalters**

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

Peter McWalters has served as the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education since 1992. His priorities have been to establish an education system from the classroom to the State House that is responsible for student results, including supporting the development of high student-performance standards, assessments that measure what students know and can do, and professional development that improves classroom practices. He has advocated for increased access to quality early childhood education, interagency collaboration to support students' families, and an education finance system that recognizes state responsibilities to student needs while being fair to taxpayers. The commissioner serves in the governor's cabinet and on numerous boards and professional organizations, including the Rhode Island Children's Cabinet and the Human Resources Investment Council. He is co-chair of the National Task Force on the Arts in Education and a past president of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Prior to becoming Rhode Island's commissioner, Mr. McWalters served over twenty years in a variety of educational leadership and teaching positions, including superintendent of schools in the City School District of Rochester, NY. McWalters received an M.P.A. and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in School Administration from the State University of New York at Brockport and a B.A. in history and philosophy from Boston College.

**Michael Podgursky**

*Middlebush Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Economics, University of Missouri–Columbia*

Michael Podgursky has chaired the Department of Economics since 1995. Prior to assuming his position at the University of Missouri–Columbia, he was on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (1980–1995). He has published numerous articles and reports on education policy and teacher quality and co-authored a book, *Teacher Pay and Teacher Quality*. His research has been supported by grants from the U.S. departments of Education, Labor, and Agriculture and several foundations. He has served as a consultant on school finance litigation to numerous states. He is a member of the American Economic Association and the American Education Finance Association and serves on the editorial board of *Education Finance and Policy*. He holds a B.A. in economics from the University of Missouri–Columbia (1974) and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison (1980).

**Marcia B. Reback**

*President, RI Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, and Vice President, American Federation of Teachers*

Marcia Reback started her teaching career in Providence in 1967. She served as the president of the Providence Teachers Union from 1973 to 1992, and then as president of the RI Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, a position she holds today. As vice president of AFT, she serves on its Executive Council and Pre-K–12 Planning and Policy Council, which develops education policy for the AFT. She was the chair of the AFT’s task forces on Literacy and Special Education. She has published articles in *The Role of Teachers’ Unions in Improving the Quality of Reading Instruction: Pre-Service, Professional Development and Re-certification Perspectives* and *Learning Disabilities—Lifelong Issues* and has received many awards for community and union service. Ms. Reback is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and holds a graduate degree from the University of Connecticut.

**Michelle Rhee**

*CEO and President, The New Teacher Project*

Since 1997, Michelle Rhee has guided The New Teacher Project from an idea to a national organization of over 110 full-time staff members that partners with school districts, state education agencies, and other educational entities to enhance their capacity to recruit, select, train, and support highly qualified teachers for difficult-to-staff schools. TNTP has recently published *Unintended Consequences: The Case for Reforming the Staffing Rules in Urban Teachers Union Contracts*, which explores how collectively bargained rules governing teacher movement frustrate the efforts of urban schools to hire and keep the best teachers possible. Ms. Rhee began her teaching career in 1992 at Harlem Park Community School in Baltimore, Maryland, as part of the Teach For America program. Her outstanding success in the classroom earned her acclaim on *Good Morning America* and *The Home Show*, as well as in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Hartford Courant*. She currently serves on the advisory boards of the National Council on Teacher Quality, the National Center for Alternative Certification, and Project REACH of the University of Phoenix’s School of Education. She holds a bachelor’s degree in government from Cornell University and a master’s degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Andrew J. Rotherham**

*Co-Founder and Co-Director, Education Sector*

Andrew Rotherham co-directs Education Sector, a national education policy think tank, and is a senior fellow at the Progressive Policy Institute. He was appointed by Governor Mark Warner to the Virginia Board of Education in 2005 and served as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy during the Clinton Administration. Mr. Rotherham is the author of numerous articles and papers about education and has co-edited three books on educational policy, most recently *Collective Bargaining in Education: Negotiating Change in Today’s Schools*, with Jane Hannaway (Harvard Education Press). He serves on advisory boards and committees for a variety of organizations including the American Academy for Liberal Education, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Broad Foundation, the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights, Common Good, the National Governors Association, the National Charter School Research Project, and New Visions. He is also trustee of the Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy and member of the board of directors for the Charter School Leadership Council and the board of directors for the National Council on Teacher Quality.

**Warren Simmons**

*Executive Director, Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University*

Warren Simmons is executive director of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, a national policy-research and reform-support organization at Brown University that focuses on improving conditions and outcomes in urban schools, especially those serving disadvantaged children. Before coming to the Institute in 1998, Dr. Simmons was executive director of the Philadelphia Education Fund, a nonprofit organization that helped the School District of Philadelphia fund, develop, and implement new academic standards, content-based professional development, standards-based curriculum resources, and comprehensive school reform as part of the Children Achieving reform agenda. Dr. Simmons developed and funded initiatives on community development and urban school reform at the Annie E. Casey Foundation; served as Director of Equity Initiatives for the New Standards Project; and was special assistant to the superintendent of schools in Prince George's County, Maryland, where he planned and/or implemented districtwide initiatives on improving the achievement of disadvantaged students. Dr. Simmons received a B.A. from Macalester College and a Ph.D. in psychology from Cornell University. He serves on boards and advisory groups of numerous education reform organizations including the Public Education Network, the Merck Institute, the National Center on Education and the Economy, PLATO Learning, Inc. and the Rhode Island Children's Crusade.

**Richard F. Stutman**

*President, Boston Teachers Union*

Richard Stutman is president of the Boston Teachers Union (BTU), vice president of American Federation of Teachers–Massachusetts and of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, and is a member of the Boston Private Industry Council. Prior to assuming the presidency of the BTU in 2003, he served as Secondary Field Representative with the BTU from 1983 to 2003. Mr. Stutman taught mathematics at Boston Technical High School (1982–1983) and Theodore Roosevelt Middle School (1973–1982) and worked as a freelance reporter for the Quincy Patriot Ledger, the Bay State Banner, and other periodicals (1980–1983). Mr. Stutman attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated with a B.S. in mathematics from the University of Massachusetts in 1972.

**Louise A. Sundin**

*Executive Vice President, Minneapolis Central Labor Union Council, AFL-CIO*

A career ninth-grade English teacher, Louise Sundin served for twenty-two years as president of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers. She negotiated eleven model professional contracts, earning her national recognition as a spokesperson for education reform and teacher professionalism. She was a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers for twenty-five years; she chairs the AFT Women's Rights Committee and is a member of the AFT Human Rights Committee. She is a co-director of the Teacher Union Reform Network (TURN) and serves on the national boards of NCATE and the Homes Partnership as well as local teacher preparation programs. Ms. Sundin is known as a progressive labor leader and a powerful advocate for workers' rights and social justice. She hosts her own weekly hour-long radio show, "Education Matters: Your Children, Our Future," on Air America MN. She created a union master's degree program in which over five hundred teachers earned their master's or education specialist degrees. She serves on the Minnesota Board of Administrator Licensing and the Board of the Twin Cities United Way. She is founder of Math Online, a unique and free homework helpline to assist students in doing their math homework via computer.



**Marc S. Tucker**

*President, National Center on Education and the Economy*

Marc Tucker is a leader in the movement for standards-based school reform in the United States. He authored the 1986 Carnegie report, *A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century*, which called for a restructuring of America's schools based on standards. Mr. Tucker created the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; he created the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce and co-authored its report, *America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages!*, which helped to launch the standards movement in the United States. He was instrumental in creating the National Skill Standards Board and served as the chairman of its committee on standards and assessment policy and, with Lauren Resnick, created the New Standards consortium, which pioneered the development of performance standards in the United States and created a set of examinations matched to the standards. With Ray Marshall, Mr. Tucker co-authored *Thinking for a Living: Education and the Wealth of Nations*, selected by *Business Week* as one of the ten best business books of 1992. With Judy Coddling, he co-authored *Standards for Our Schools: How to Set Them, Measure Them, and Reach Them* (1998), and co-edited *The Principal Challenge* (2002). Mr. Tucker serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of America's Choice, a leading provider of services to states aimed at raising the performance of low-performing schools and school districts. He is board chairman of the National Institute for School Leadership, a national organization that provides advanced leadership training to school district leaders and managers, from the superintendent to the principal.

**Adam Urbanski**

*President, Rochester (NY) Teachers Association*

Adam Urbanski heads the Rochester Teachers Association and is a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers. He is also the director of the Teacher Union Reform Network (TURN), aimed at creating a new vision of teachers unions that supports needed changes in education. An active proponent of change in education, Dr. Urbanski proposed and designed an internship program for new teachers in Rochester; a peer-review intervention plan; a career ladder; and a homework hotline service for students. He served on AFT's Task Force on the Future of Education and now chairs AFT's Democracy and International Affairs Committee. He was a trustee of the National Center on Education and the Economy and a Senior Associate to the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. He is a recipient of Phi Delta Kappa (Rochester Chapter, 1983) Leadership in Education Award. Dr. Urbanski served on the Federal Department of Education Board of Directors of the Fund for Improvement and Reform of Schools and Teaching; the Advisory Board of Harvard University's National Center for Educational Leadership; the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and the National Assessment Governing Board. He has appeared on all of the national broadcast news programs and has published articles, essays, and commentaries in several popular and educational publications, including "Reform or Be Reformed" in *Education Next* (2001). Dr. Urbanski immigrated to the United States from Poland in 1960 at the age of fourteen. A former high school teacher and college professor, he holds a Ph.D. in American Social History from the University of Rochester.

**Randi Weingarten**

*President, United Federation of Teachers, New York City*

Randi Weingarten has been president of the UFT, which represents more than 140,000 active and retired educators in the New York City public school system, since 1998. She is also a vice president of the 1.2-million-member American Federation of Teachers and a board member of New York State United Teachers. She is a vice president of the New York City Central Labor Council of the AFL-CIO and heads the city's Municipal Labor Committee, an umbrella organization for some one hundred city

employee unions. The MLC negotiates benefits on behalf of the unions' 365,000 members. Ms. Weingarten was chairperson of the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York and a board member of the N.Y.C. Independent Budget Office. She is on the boards of directors of the Justice Resource Center and Council for Unity (both student-related groups); the New York Committee on Occupational Safety and Health; the United Way of Greater New York; the International Rescue Committee; the New York Downtown Alliance, and the newly formed Math for America. She is on the advisory board of Operation Public Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Weingarten began her career in education as a teacher of history at Clara Barton High School in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, from 1991 to 1997, where she helped her students win several state and national awards. She holds degrees from Cornell University and the Cardozo School of Law; she worked as a lawyer for the New York firm of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan from 1983 to 1986.

### **Gene Wilhoit**

*Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers*

Gene Wilhoit became executive director of CCSSO in November 2006, having spent his entire professional career serving education at the local, state, and national levels. From 1994 to 2006, he led two state education agencies as director of the Arkansas Department of Education and as deputy commissioner and commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education. In those positions, he shepherded finance reform, led equity initiatives, designed and implemented assessment and accountability systems, advanced nationally recognized preschool and technology programs, and reorganized state agencies to focus on service and support. Before assuming the position of executive director of the National Association of State Boards of Education, which he held from 1986 to 1993, Mr. Wilhoit served as a program director in the Indiana Department of Education; an administrator in Kanawha County, West Virginia; and a special assistant in the U.S. Department of Education. He began his career as a social studies teacher in Ohio and Indiana. Mr. Wilhoit is a member of numerous education organizations, has served on national and state commissions, and has written and spoken on a variety of education issues. He holds a B.A. in history and economics from Georgetown College and a master's in teaching, political science, and economics from Indiana University–Bloomington and has studied education administration at West Virginia College of Graduate Studies.

### **Kenneth K. Wong**

*Walter and Leonore Annenberg Professor for Education Policy and Professor of Education, and Director, Master's Program in Urban Education Policy, Brown University*

Kenneth Wong joined the Brown faculty in September 2005 to develop and implement the Urban Education Policy program, which matriculated its first cohort of students in June 2006. He holds joint appointments with the Education Department and the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. Before coming to Brown, Dr. Wong was a professor in the Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations at Vanderbilt's Peabody College (2001–2005) and, concurrently, professor of political science. He also served as associate director of the Peabody Center for Education Policy. He is the founding director of the National Research Center on School Choice, Competition, and Student Achievement. Dr. Wong taught in the political science department at the University of Oregon and in the department of education at the University of Chicago from 1988 to 2001. A political scientist by training, Professor Wong has conducted extensive research and written on the areas of urban school reform, state finance and educational policies, intergovernmental relations, and federal education policy. He has advised the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, and several large urban school systems on the redesign and implementation of stronger frameworks of accountability. Dr. Wong holds B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in political science from the University of Chicago.

