

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORS

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, DC's most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the fifty states, three territories, and two commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. The Center is organized into five divisions; the Education Division provides information on best practices in early childhood, elementary and secondary, and postsecondary education, including teacher quality, high school redesign, reading, access to and success in postsecondary education, extra learning opportunities, and school readiness.

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

Information at: www.nga.org

THE RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION

The Rhode Island Foundation pursues its mission of “connecting private philanthropy to the public good” guided by certain principles or core values: Permanence, through stewardship of funds held in perpetuity; Integrity, through a commitment to independent governance, objectivity, and honest leadership; Vision, through understanding the importance of innovation and diverse perspectives; Accessibility, through an organizational culture that makes it easy and comfortable for all segments of our society to feel connected to their community foundation; and Partnerships, through a willingness to make connections and work with donors, community organizations, government, other local funders, national foundations, and others to augment and make more effective our own resources.

Ronald V. Gallo, *President and CEO*

Information at: www.rifoundation.org

THE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

The Education Partnership is an umbrella organization that oversees programs at the grassroots level and develops education strategies, policy, and legislation at the district and state level. Our mission is to improve academic achievement through improved leadership and governing policies at the state and local level that result in the measurable, continuous advancement of student performance. The Partnership intends to create and “spin-off” programs that model dynamic progress in academic achievement, best-practice community partnerships, and exemplary educational leadership at both the state and local level. Through collaborations across the state with other community-based education organizations, chambers of commerce, ministerial associations, parent advocacy groups, affiliated state/local agencies and education stakeholders, it seeks to build more informed and sustained demand for better public schools.

Valerie Forti, *President*

Information at: www.edpartnership.org

ANNENBERG INSTITUTE FOR SCHOOL REFORM

The Annenberg Institute for School Reform is a national policy-research and reform-support organization affiliated with Brown University that focuses on improving conditions and outcomes in urban schools, especially those serving disadvantaged children. The Institute pursues its work through partnerships with school districts and school reform networks in collaboration with national and local organizations skilled in educational research, policy, and effective practices. Rather than providing a specific design or model to be implemented, our approach to reform is to offer an array of tools and strategies to help districts strengthen their local capacity to provide and sustain high-quality education for all students.

Warren Simmons, *Executive Director*

www.annenberginstitute.org

URBAN EDUCATION POLICY PROGRAM AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

The Urban Education Policy Program prepares students for a variety of professional careers involving policy analysis, planning, and development in urban public education. The twelve-month program integrates research, theory, and practice, grounding academically rigorous coursework in the day-to-day realities of practice through internships in local urban education policy settings. Based in Brown's Education Department, UEP provides students with concepts and core skills in areas including data analysis, economic theory, urban politics, the role of urban demographics in creating sound education policies, and promising models for schools and education systems that enhance urban education. The program draws on the urban education policy expertise of the Annenberg Institute to augment the practical and interdisciplinary aspects of the curriculum.

Kenneth K. Wong, *Director*

Information at: www.brown.edu/Departments/Education/uep_overview.php