

2016 Washington Policy Seminar

Presidential Politics and Education Policy

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

1:00-1:15pm Welcome & Introduction

Grand Ballroom

- **Martin J. Blank**, President, Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)
- **Helen Janc Malone**, National EPFP Program Director, IEL

1:15-2:30pm The Evolution of the Presidential Role in Federal Education Policy

Grand Ballroom

Explore the history of the federal government in education policy and the presidential role in shaping the national discourse, policy, and action on education since 1965. This session is designed to offer context to the WPS theme.

- **Leslie Fenwick**, Dean, Howard University School of Education
- **Michael Petrilli**, President, The Thomas B. Fordham Institute
- **Pedro Rivera**, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education
- **Roberto Rodriguez**, Deputy Assistant to the President for Education, The White House
- Moderator: **John Merrow**, former President, Learning Matters; former Education Correspondent, *PBS NewsHour*

2:30-2:45pm Introduction to the Congressional Simulation

Grand Ballroom

Find out what it's like to be a member of the U.S. Congress in this fast-paced, performance-orientated simulation that immerses you in the real world of the federal legislator. Working with your team, make tough choices and get instant feedback on how your decisions helped – or hurt – your chances for reelection.

- **Tyson Elbert** (EPFP 07-08), Alabama and Mississippi EPFP Coordinator; Research Associate, John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University

2:45-3:15pm *Snack break in Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area*

3:15-5:45pm Congressional Simulation

Grand Ballroom I, Grand Ballroom II, Roosevelt Room

Facilitators:

- **Tyson Elbert** (EPFP 07-08), Alabama and Mississippi EPFP Coordinator; Research Associate, John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University (Grand Ballroom I)
- **LeeAnn Funderburg**, Business Manager, John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University (Roosevelt Room)
- **Helen Janc Malone**, National EPFP Program Director, IEL (Grand Ballroom II)

6:00-7:00pm Welcome Reception

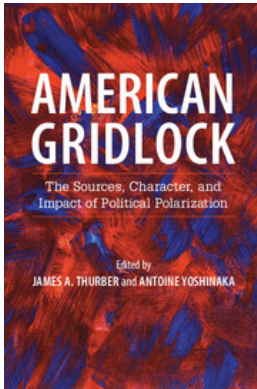
Colonnade

Meet at least three people outside of your site cohort, including one in a similar role and one outside your sector, and enter a drawing to win a signed copy of *American Gridlock*, edited by Thursday plenary speaker James Thurber. The winner will be announced on Thursday morning.

Thursday, April 14, 2016

7:30-8:30am Breakfast in Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area

8:00-8:30am **American Gridlock** Book Signing by James Thurber
Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area



American Gridlock is a volume of essays that brings together the country's preeminent experts on the causes, characteristics, and consequences of partisan polarization in U.S. politics and government.

8:30-9:30am **The President & the 114th Congress: What Can & Should We Expect?**
Grand Ballroom

James Thurber, a longtime congressional and presidential studies scholar, will outline the historical and current dynamics between the executive and legislative branches, identify the big political issues and tensions influencing priorities in Congress, discuss the current national policymaking process and the implications of political gridlock, and close with what to expect from Congress as America elects a new president.

- **James Thurber**, Distinguished Professor of Government, Founder and Director, Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, American University

9:30-10:30am **Policy, Politics & Procedures Inside Congress**
Grand Ballroom

Go behind the scenes and learn about the realities of policy, politics, and procedures in the House and Senate, and about the support provided by the Congressional Research Service. You might never again look at or think about senators and members of Congress the same way.

- **Judy Schneider**, Senior Analyst, Congressional Research Service

11:30am-8pm State Site-Specific Activities

Friday, April 15, 2016

8:00-9:00am *Breakfast in Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area*

9:00-10:15am Samuel Halperin Lecture & Youth Public Service Award *Grand Ballroom*

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) and the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) are hosting the second annual Samuel Halperin Lecture and Youth Public Service Award. The lecture and youth award serve as an ongoing tribute to Samuel Halperin, who dedicated his career to advancing education, workforce, and youth policy to improve the life outcomes for vulnerable youth, as well as personally mentoring and supporting many youth and young adults in their careers in public service. Halperin was a former president of IEL and the founder of AYPF. #HalperinYouthAward

- Welcome: **Martin J. Blank**, President, IEL & **Betsy Brand**, Executive Director, AYPF
- Lecture: **Michele Cahill**, Distinguished Fellow in Education and Youth Development, National Center for Civic Innovation
- Youth Award Presentation: **Martin J. Blank**, **Betsy Brand**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:30-11:45am Federal Budget 101 *Culpeper Room*

Education funding is only 2% of federal budget, yet it has a big imprint on the states. Understand the federal budget process, the influence of presidential politics and lobbying groups on the federal budget, and the budgetary implications for education policy.

- **Danica Petrosius**, Principal, Penn Hill Group
- **Sarah Bryner**, Research Director, Center for Responsive Politics

10:30-11:45am Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) *Longworth Room*

The Higher Education Act (HEA) is the next significant education policy up for reauthorization. What issues will dominate the policy discussions? Hear about core debates on federal financial aid and affordability; institutional accountability, regulations, and accreditation; and K-16 system alignment to support widespread access and success in postsecondary education.

- **Devon Brenner** (EPFP 04-05), Professor, Mississippi State University; Education Fellow, Office of Sen. Thad Cochran
- **Jolanta Juszkievicz**, Director of Policy Analysis, American Association of Community Colleges
- **Deborah Santiago**, COO and Vice President, Excelencia in Education
- Moderator: **Chad d'Entremont** (EPFP 04-05), Massachusetts EPFP Co-Coordinator; Executive Director, Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy

10:30-11:45am Policy and Politics of Standardized Assessments and the Opt-Out Movement

Roosevelt Room

Look back and look forward on standardized assessments as vehicles for accountability in education policy. What have we learned since NCLB about standardized assessments? What has been the role of presidents in the standardized assessment movement as a vehicle for accountability? What is driving the opt-out-of-testing movement? What can we expect under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) with regards to standardized assessments?

- **Michael Casserly**, Executive Director, Council of the Great City Schools
- **Monty Neill**, Executive Director, National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest)
- Moderator: **Lisa Davis** (EPFP 10-11), New York EPFP Co-Coordinator; Executive Director, Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association

10:30-11:45am Education Policy and Stakeholder Engagement

Kennedy Ballroom

Organizations representing educators, government officials, and the business community represent some of the key stakeholder groups in education policy. How do these organizations support their constituents? What strategies do national stakeholder organizations use to engage their members in education policy? How do these diverse stakeholders and their constituencies collaborate and build consensus around a common agenda?

- **Cindy Cisneros** (EPFP 98-99), Vice President, Education Programs, Committee for Economic Development
- **Segun Eubanks** (EPFP 01-02), Director of Professional Educator Supports, National Education Association
- **Sarah Silverman**, Program Director, Education Division, National Governors Association Center for Best Practices
- Moderator: **Ron Cowell**, Pennsylvania EPFP Co-Coordinator; President, The Education Policy and Leadership Center

10:30-11:45am Federal Policy Incentives for School-Community Partnerships

Imperial II

What federal education policy incentives exist to promote school-community partnerships? How can schools leverage community-based partners to promote positive educational change? This session will address the role school-community partnerships play in education and the provisions in the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that incentivize such partnerships.

- **Demaune Millard**, Chief Operating Officer, Family League of Baltimore
- **Jalisa Whitley**, Community Impact Manager, United Way of the National Capital Area
- Moderator: **Mary Kingston Roche** (EPFP 10-11), Director of Public Policy, Coalition for Community Schools, IEL

12:10-1:15pm Lunch Panel: Presidential Candidates' Education Platforms

Grand Ballroom

Hear from two leading conservative and progressive think tanks as they discuss the presidential candidates' education platforms and emerging agendas, as well as understand what drives policy priorities on the campaign trail and how the public perceives education issues on the road to electing a new president. What can and should we expect in education from the next president?

- **Frederick Hess**, Resident Scholar, Director of Education Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute
- **Carmel Martin**, Executive Vice President for Policy, Center for American Progress
- Moderator: **Dana Rickman**, Georgia EPFP Coordinator; Director, Policy and Research, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

1:15-2:30pm The Every Student Succeeds Act: A Look Behind the Scenes

Grand Ballroom

What made 2015 a politically desirable time to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)? Hear from Capitol Hill staff, the U.S. Department of Education, and education interest groups on the policy and political processes behind the scenes that helped realize the Every Student Succeeds Act and what this process implies for future education reauthorizations.

- **Ary Amerikaner**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Initiatives and Policy, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education
- **Lindsay Fryer**, Senior Education Policy Advisor, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- **Liz King**, Senior Policy Analyst and Director of Education Policy, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund
- Moderator: **Noelle Ellerson** (EPFP 09-10), Associate Executive Director, Policy & Advocacy, AASA, the School Superintendents Association

2:30-3:00pm Snack break in Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area

3:00-5:00pm National Forum on Education: Rethinking Accountability & Equity in the States

Grand Ballroom

In this two-part interactive session, you will work in both site-based and cross-site teams, debating and making difficult education policy choices and considering their implications on your respective states. How does federal policy on accountability and the push for equity affect the states?

Facilitator: **Phillip Hardwick**, Strategic Planning Facilitator; Instructor of Management, Millsaps College

7:30-9:30pm The Capitol Steps (optional)

Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center

Saturday, April 16, 2016

7:30-8:15am Breakfast in Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:15-9:30am Global EPFP: Education Policy at the 10,000 Foot Level

Culpeper Room

This session will engage participants in thinking about and discussing the challenges of education policymaking in two Asian developing countries: Bhutan and India. Senior Fellows from the 2015-16 Global EPFP cohort will share observations gathered on their October field study in Bhutan. We will conclude with an overview of current K-12 and higher education policy challenges in India, the focus of the 2016-17 Global EPFP.

- **Lisa Davis** (EPFP 10-11), New York EPFP Co-Coordinator; Executive Director, Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association
- **Tyson Elbert** (EPFP 07-08), Alabama and Mississippi EPFP Coordinator; Research Associate, John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University
- Moderator: **Bob Monson** (EPFP 88-89), New York and Global EPFP Co-Coordinator; Adjunct Associate Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University
- Moderator: **Dan Schultz** (EPFP 76-77), Michigan EPFP and Global EPFP Co-Coordinator; Senior Policy and Program Advisor, Office of K-12 Outreach, Michigan State University College of Education

8:15-9:30am Media Coverage of Education

Sulgrave Suite

National media coverage of education remains fairly minimal. Education appears to be a sidelined issue on the campaign trail, and debates on education are often filled with misconceptions. How does media cover education and what drives the education coverage? What can be done to attract more attention to education and build the public's understanding of core issues?

- **Alyson Klein**, Assistant Editor and Reporter, *Education Week*
- **Darrell West**, Vice President and Director of Governance Studies, The Brookings Institution
- Moderator: **Deborah Morin** (EPFP 82-83), Ohio EPFP Coordinator; Director, Center for Educational Leadership, Cleveland State University

8:15-9:30am Presidential Politics and the States

Kennedy Ballroom

The new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) devolves significant authority back to the states. Are the states ready? Hear from national and state-level experts as they discuss the lessons learned from the standards and accountability movement to date, how much do presidents influence education policy in the states, what roles do non-governmental actors play in state-level education policy, and

what are cross-state concerns and opportunities as states turn their attention toward ESSA implementation.

- **Kristen Amundson**, Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education
- **Lee Posey**, Federal Affairs Counsel, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Moderator: **Laura Dziorny** (EPFP 12-13), Massachusetts EPFP Co-Coordinator; Chief of Staff, Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy

8:15-9:30am 40th Anniversary of IDEA: The Past, Present, and Future

Latrobe Room

Last fall marked the 40th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Take stock of IDEA's history and present influence, its impact on children and youth with disabilities, and its future.

- **Katy Beh Neas**, Executive Vice President, Government Relations, Easter Seals
- **Weadé Wallace** (EPFP 12-13), Doctoral Student, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Moderator: **Dana Fink**, Assistant Project Coordinator, Center for Workforce Development, IEL

8:15-9:30am The Federal Role in Career & Technical Education and Youth Workforce Development

Dumbarton Suite

How does career and technical education support postsecondary readiness and success? What is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and how does it support youth? How do we work across systems and sectors to support diverse workforce development pathways for all young people?

- **Kisha Bird** (EPFP 07-08), Director, Youth Policy, CLASP
- **Brenda Dann-Messier**, Principal Research Scientist, Institute for Public Research; former Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education
- **Josephine Reed-Taylor**, Chief Academic Officer, Technical College System of Georgia
- Moderator: **Taryn Mackenzie Williams** (EPFP 06-07), Chief of Staff, Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor

9:45-10:30am Making Meaning in One's Leadership Role

Culpeper Room, Dumbarton Suite, Kennedy Ballroom, Latrobe Room, Sulgrave Suite

Reflect on your aha moments and takeaways from WPS. What have you learned? What qualities and skills do you need to lead in the current policy environment? What implications are there for your role? For your institution and community?

Role
Teachers, principals, and school-level leaders –
Culpeper Room

Facilitator
Annelise Cohon (EPFP 10-11), Senior Program
Coordinator, NEA Healthy Futures, National
Education Association

Superintendents and district-level leaders –
Sulgrave Suite

State-level leaders – *Latrobe Room*

Higher education leaders – *Dumbarton Suite*

Nonprofit, professional association,
philanthropic, and for-profit leaders – *Kennedy
Ballroom*

Leslie Finnan (EPFP 14-15), Senior Legislative
Analyst, AASA, the School Superintendents
Association

Taryn Mackenzie Williams (EPFP 06-07), Chief
of Staff, Office of Disability Employment Policy,
U.S. Department of Labor

Helen Janc Malone, National EPFP Program
Director, IEL

Shaina Cook (EPFP 12-13), National EPFP
program coordinator, IEL

10:45-11:45am **Philanthropic Influence in Federal Education Policy**
Grand Ballroom

Philanthropic influence in education policy is increasing. How are philanthropies engaging in education policy and articulating their advocacy agendas? How do foundations intersect with presidential politics and federal education policy and how might their approach change with the new administration?

- **Raul Gonzalez**, Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Terri Shuck**, Executive Director, National Public Education Support Fund
- **Zakiya Smith**, Strategy Director, Lumina Foundation
- Moderator: **Sarah Reckhow**, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

11:45am-12:00pm **Concluding Remarks**
Grand Ballroom