

REAGAN INSTITUTE SUMMIT ON EDUCATION 2026

Agenda

Subject to change

Wednesday, September 16

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Sutton Family Auditorium

Book Conversation and Signing

Off Ramp: How to Be a Peacemaker in an Age of Contempt released on September 8, 2026, serves as a practical guide to depolarization; teaching us how to disagree better at the dinner table, on social media, and in American politics.

Speaker: Governor Spencer Cox, State of Utah

Moderator: Mr. Fred Ryan, Chairman of the Board, Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Penthouse Rooftop

Welcome Reception

Thursday, September 17

8:00 AM

AI and Denise Frink Legacy Hall

Registration Opens

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Penthouse Rooftop

Breakfast

9:00 AM - 9:10 AM

Sutton Family Auditorium

Welcome Remarks

- Mr. Roger Zakheim, Director, Ronald Reagan Institute

9:15 AM - 10:05 AM

Sutton Family Auditorium

PANEL 1: Cultivating Citizens: What American Education Owes a Nation at 250

As America celebrates its 250th year, what does education owe to our democratic society?

Panelists:

- Hon. Kirsten Baesler, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Mr. David Brooks, Staff Writer, *The Atlantic*
- Dr. Daniel Diermeier, Chancellor, Vanderbilt University
- Dr. Stephen Moret, President & CEO, Strada Education Foundation

Moderator: Mr. Juan Williams, Senior Political Analyst, *Fox News*

10:10 AM - 11:00 AM

Sutton Family Auditorium

PANEL 2: Empowering Learners: School Choice at the Tipping Point

If education exists to help each child reach his or her potential, how should we rethink where, how, and from whom students can learn?

Panelists:

- Mr. Jim Blew, Advisor, Federal Scholarship Tax Credit Coalition
- Hon. Jorge Elorza, CEO, Democrats for Education Reform
- Mr. Robert Enlow, President & CEO, EdChoice
- Dr. Robin Lake, Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education

Moderator: Ms. Kelsey Piper, Staff Writer, *The Argument*

11:05 AM - 11:25 AM

Sutton Family Auditorium

Fireside Chat

Speaker: Ms. Usha Vance, Second Lady of the United States

Moderator: Mr. Roger Zakheim, Director, Ronald Reagan Institute



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Thursday, September 17

11:35 AM - 12:25 PM

Sutton Family Auditorium

PANEL 3: Beyond Achievement: Knowledge, Skills, and Human Flourishing

As debates over knowledge, skills, and educational outcomes continue, how should we think about the capacities education should develop?

Panelists:

- Mrs. Maria Flynn, President & CEO, Jobs for the Future
- Mrs. Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Rhode Island Department of Education
- Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent of Education, Alabama State Department of Education
- Dr. David Steiner, Director, Johns Hopkins University, School of Education, Institute for Education Policy

Moderator: Mrs. Alia Wong, Editor, *Associated Press*

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Penthouse Rooftop

Lunch

1:45 PM - 2:35 PM

Sutton Family Auditorium

PANEL 4: The Reckoning: Technology's Promise and Peril in Learning

AI and other technologies open remarkable possibilities for how children learn; how do we make the most of them while staying clear-eyed about the tradeoffs?

Panelists:

- Mrs. Erika Donalds, Founder, Education Freedom Foundation
- Dr. Molly Hart, State Superintendent of Public Education, Utah State Board of Education
- Ms. MacKenzie Price, Co-founder, Alpha School
- Dr. Rebecca Winthrop, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Universal Education, Brookings Institution

Moderator: Ms. Alyson Klein, Assistant Editor, *Education Week*

2:40 PM - 3:10 PM

Sutton Family Auditorium

Fireside Chat

Speakers:

- Governor Jared Polis, State of Colorado
- Former Governor Glenn Youngkin, Commonwealth of Virginia

Moderator: Mr. Josh Kraushaar, Editor in Chief, *Jewish Insider*

3:20 PM - 3:50 PM

Sutton Family Auditorium

Fireside Chat

Speakers:

- Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education, State of Indiana
- Hon. Todd Young, U.S. Senate, State of Indiana

Moderator: Mr. Matthew Continetti, Director of Domestic Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute

3:55 PM - 4:45 PM

Sutton Family Auditorium

PANEL 5: From Student to Citizen: The Future of Higher Education

How should colleges and universities foster independence, intellectual growth, civic responsibility, and a sense of purpose?

Panelists:

- Dr. Sian Beilock, President, Dartmouth College
- Dr. Brian Bridges, Former Secretary of Higher Education, State of New Jersey
- Dr. Jenna Silber Storey, Associate Researcher at Johns Hopkins; Senior Fellow; Ravenel Curry Chair in Civic Thought, Center for the Future of the American University; AEI
- Dr. Adam Weinberg, President, Denison University

Moderator: Mr. Douglas Belkin, Higher Education Reporter, *Wall Street Journal*

4:45 PM - 6:00 PM

AI and Denise Frink Legacy Hall

Closing Reception



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