



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alma J. Powell to Speak at Reagan Institute Summit on Education
*Former advisory board member to Pres. Obama will serve as panelist for conversation
on future of higher education*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced Alma J. Powell, chair of America’s Promise Alliance and former member of Pres. Barack Obama’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, will be a panelist at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE) in Washington, D.C., on April 12, 2018.

“It’s an honor to welcome Mrs. Powell to our lineup of speakers at RISE,” said Frederick J. Ryan, Jr., chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. “She has dedicated much of her life to serving our nation’s youth, and we are looking forward to learning from her vast experience as a presidential advisor on higher education and leader of many outstanding youth-serving organizations.”

Powell will share her insights as part of a session titled “Next Generation College.” The panel will explore questions on the purpose and future of postsecondary education in light of today’s unprecedented access to information and knowledge.

Powell joins other leaders in education, policy, business and technology participating in RISE 2018, including former Gov. Jeb Bush, Rep. Virginia Foxx, former Secretaries of Education John B. King, Jr, Arne Duncan and Chairman of the Honorary Steering Committee Sen. Lamar Alexander, among many others. Throughout the conference, bipartisan panels and plenaries will foster conversation on a wide range of education policy issues. These issues include lessons learned from the 1983 report on education “A Nation at Risk,” the future of higher education, the role of states in pursuing educational excellence, innovation in the classroom and approaches to constructing bipartisan legislation.

As chairman of the Board of Directors at America’s Promise Alliance, Powell helps lead a network of more than 450 organizations connecting children and youth across the country with the resources needed to propel them toward adult success. She is also a leader of the organization’s GradNation campaign to increase the national high school graduation rate to 90 percent by 2020. In addition, Powell is honorary chair of the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative, serves on the Advisory Board of YouthBuild USA and is an Emeritus Trustee of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. From 2020-2012, she served on President Barack

Obama's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. For more information, visit www.americaspromise.org/staff/alma-j-powell.

RISE 2018 is open to registered media. For more information, visit www.reaganfoundation.org/reagan-institute or follow RISE on Twitter @ReaganEdSummit.

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About the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the nonprofit organization created by President Reagan himself and specifically charged by him with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion and the award-winning Discovery Center, as well as the Reagan Institute in Washington, D.C.

Ronald Reagan said, "**Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.** We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." The RISE Summit builds on the success of the non-partisan Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF), which, for the past five years, has brought together luminaries from across the political spectrum to examine the state of National Defense. With RISE, we plan to leverage our role as a convener to explore the future of American education.

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