



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2018

Mississippi Education Superintendent Carey Wright To Speak At Reagan Institute Summit on Education

*President of Board of Directors for Council of Chief State School Officers joins panel on
states' roles in education policy*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced that State Superintendent of Education for Mississippi Carey Wright will be a panel participant at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE) in Washington, D.C., on April 12, 2018.

“Dr. Wright’s long career in public education as both a teacher and administrator lends an indispensable perspective to the RISE conversation,” said John Heubusch, executive director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. “We are thrilled to have the chance to learn from her experience leading the Mississippi state education system.”

Wright will participate in a panel session titled “The Role of the States in Education Excellence.” The panel will draw on the experiences of state and local educators, policy makers and administrators to explore the states’ roles in the development and implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the design, rationale and delivery of individualized state plans.

Wright joins other leaders in education, policy, business and technology participating in RISE 2018, including America’s Promise Alliance Chairman Alma J. Powell, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Rep. Virginia Foxx, former Secretaries of Education John B. King, Jr., Arne Duncan and Sen. Lamar Alexander, and 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.

Wright has served as the State Superintendent of Education for Mississippi since 2013, and during her tenure she has led initiatives that raised the state’s high school graduation rate to its highest mark at 83 percent, increased pre-K to 3rd grade literacy, almost doubled participation in Advanced Placement courses and distinguished Mississippi as providing among the highest-quality early childhood education in the nation. Under her leadership, the state has also seen rapid improvement in student achievement on the National

Assessment of Educational Progress and significant proficiency increases in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Wright began her career as an educator in Maryland's Prince George's County Public Schools before working for many years as a teacher, principal and then director of Special Education and Student Services for Howard County Public Schools. Dr. Wright most recently served as chief academic officer and deputy chief for the District of Columbia Public Schools' Office of Teaching and Learning. She also was previously the associate superintendent for the Montgomery County Public Schools Office of Special Education and Student Services.

In addition, Wright is the president of the Board of Directors for the Council of Chief State School Officers and member of Chiefs for Change, a nonprofit network of state education leaders. [For more information, click here.](#)

RISE 2018 is open to registered media. For more information, visit www.reaganfoundation.org/reagan-institute or follow RISE on Twitter @ReaganEdSummit. Join the conversation with #RISE2018.

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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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