



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana State Superintendent of Education John White Joins Reagan Institute Summit on Education

*Former deputy chancellor under Mayor Michael Bloomberg will participate in
discussion on the role of states in education policy*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced that John White, state superintendent of education for Louisiana, will be a panelist at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE) in Washington, D.C., on April 12, 2018.

“John White’s experience in some of nation’s most challenging school systems will be an excellent resource for the RISE conversation,” said John Heubusch, executive director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. “He is an outstanding education champion, and we are excited to have him with us in DC this April.”

White joins a panel of local and state education officials where participants will share lessons in education reform as well as explore the states’ roles in the development and implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act and the design, rationale, and delivery of individualized state plans.

White 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, Purdue University President Mitch Daniels, 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.

White was named state superintendent of education for Louisiana in 2012, and he immediately launched the state initiative “Louisiana Believes” to put all of the state’s students on the path toward college or career. His work for Louisiana schools has resulted many major improvements, including a record number of class of 2017 high school students earning college-eligible scores on the ACT, a 137 percent increase since 2012 in the number of Advance Placement credits earned, record graduation rates in 2016 and an increase of 13 percent in the number of students earning at least “Mastery” scores on LEAP tests.

Previously, White served superintendent of the Louisiana Recovery School District, overseeing the nation's first system of publicly-funded charter and non-public schools in New Orleans. Before beginning his work in Louisiana, he served under New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Chancellor Joel Klein as the city's deputy chancellor of the New York City Department of Education. During his time, there he launched the Innovation Zone, a network of schools using technology and personalized learning strategies, and helped launch 500 new charter and district schools.

White started his career in education teaching English at Jersey City's William L. Dickinson High School before moving on to roles as executive director of Teach for America – New Jersey and Teach For America – Chicago. He is chairman of the Chiefs for Change, a nonprofit network of state education leaders, and an academic visitor to Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. [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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