



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Reagan Institute Summit on Education Adds Pennsylvania Secretary of Education To Speaker Lineup**

*Pedro A. Rivera will participate in panel on holistic approaches to student education,  
success*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced that Pedro A. Rivera, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, will serve as a panelist at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE), held in Washington, D.C. on April 10-11, 2019.

“Secretary Rivera is nationally recognized for all he has done to strengthen education in Pennsylvania,” said Roger Zakheim, Director of the Reagan Institute. “His leadership has proven transformative for school districts in his state, equipping students not only to get to graduation, but to thrive in the years beyond. I’m confident his contributions will be invaluable in casting a new vision for what education in this country should look like.”

Rivera will participate in a panel session entitled “Measuring What Counts: Educating the Whole Child.” This panel will build on insights gained from the National Commission on Social, Emotional and Academic Development’s 2019 report “From a Nation at Risk to a Nation at Hope,” critically considering current and former measures of success to envision a fuller approach to education.

Rivera joins many other leaders in education, policy, business and technology participating in RISE 2019. Throughout the conference, bipartisan panels and plenaries will foster conversation on a wide range of education policy issues. These issues include developing a holistic approach to education, preparing students for the job market of the future, surveying the higher education horizon and setting audacious national goals for our education system.

“From my experience serving the students of Pennsylvania, I’ve learned that the best solutions come through collaboration,” said Rivera. “RISE 2019 is an invaluable opportunity to come together to better serve the students of our nation.”

Pedro A. Rivera has served as Pennsylvania Secretary of Education since 2015. Prior to his appointment, he served as superintendent of The School District of Lancaster. Additionally, he was a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, and executive director for the School District of Philadelphia, as well as a staff member with the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers. His work to transform urban education was honored by the White House in

September 2014 with his recognition as a Champion of Change – one of ten recipients of the prestigious award.

In his role as Secretary of Education, River and his department have engaged stakeholders across the Commonwealth to inform their work on issues like graduation requirements, the PA Future Ready Index and Pennsylvania’s Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan. Rivera also led the development of the Superintendent’s Academy, a unique, two-year professional development program for leaders working in low-income districts.

Rivera is a first-generation college graduate and earned his undergraduate degree from The Pennsylvania State University, a master’s degree in education administration from Cheyney University and his Superintendent’s Letter of Eligibility from Arcadia University.

RISE 2019 is open to registered media. For more information, visit [www.reaganfoundation.org/reagan-institute](http://www.reaganfoundation.org/reagan-institute) or follow RISE on Twitter @ReaganInstitute. Join the conversation with #RISE2019.

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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.”  
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