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Former Secretary of Education Rod Paige Joins RISE 2019 Speaker Lineup

Rod Paige will participate in panel on 'Setting Audacious Goals' in education

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced the addition of former U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige as a panelist at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE), held in Washington, D.C., on April 10-11, 2019.

“As the force behind the biggest federal education reform legislation of the 21st century, Dr. Paige is a vital voice in this important conversation,” said Roger Zakheim, Director of the Reagan Institute. “We’re delighted that he will be joining us, and eagerly anticipate hearing his perspective on where to lead American education in the coming years.”

Paige will participate in a panel session entitled “Setting Audacious Goals.” This bipartisan panel will gather together key state and federal leaders for a discussion on strategic education reform and an exploration of the goals policymakers should strive toward as they move through the year and into 2020.

“It is only by putting our children first that we can hope to achieve reforms of any lasting value,” Paige said. “I am confident the extraordinary group of bipartisan leaders at RISE will do just that, continuing an important conversation on the next steps in transforming American education.”

Serving as the seventh U.S. Secretary of Education under President George W. Bush, Paige is best known for his work on the “No Child Left Behind Act,” a landmark federal education law that he helped develop and enact. Not only was he the first African-American to serve in this role, but he also was the first school superintendent to become secretary of education, having served as superintendent of Houston Independent School District starting in 1994. In 2001, Paige was honored as National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. He has also served as president of Jackson State University, his own undergraduate institution and a historically black university, and was selected as a public policy fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. In addition to his bachelor’s, he holds a master’s degree and a doctorate in physical education from Indiana University.

Paige joins other leaders in education, policy, business and technology participating in RISE 2019, including Rep. Virginia Foxx, Sen. Tim Kaine, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera, Founder of Khan Academy Sal Kahn and many others. 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.

RISE 2019 is open to registered media. For more information, visit 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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