



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Senator Lamar Alexander Joins Discussion at Reagan Institute Summit on Education
Former Secretary of Education to address need for transformation in American education

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced that Lamar Alexander, U.S. Senator from Tennessee, will join the lineup of speakers at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE), held in Washington, D.C. on April 10-11, 2019.

“Senator Alexander has one of the most distinguished careers in education policy among elected officials,” said Roger Zakheim, Director of the Reagan Institute. “For decades now, he’s fought to equip students with the skills they need for long-term success. We’re so pleased he’s joined us again for RISE 2019, and we look forward to his contributions to our discussion.”

Alexander, who is serving as chairman of the RISE Honorary Steering Committee for a second year, will participate in a session titled “Breaking Through: The Courage to Change.” This conversation seeks to push beyond outdated practices in American education, identifying paths forward and envisioning innovative solutions to equip students for a changing world.

Alexander first rose to public office in 1979 as Governor of Tennessee. During that time, he established the Better Schools Program, which prioritized ensuring that students entered high school prepared with basic computer skills, as well as math and reading skills. Afterwards, he served as President of the University of Tennessee, a role that equipped him with insight into the public university system and served him well during his tenure as George H.W. Bush’s Secretary of Education. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 2002, he chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and authored the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA), which passed in 2015.

Alexander joins many 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 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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