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## **Reagan Institute Summit on Education Welcomes Former Gov. Jim Hunt to Speaker Lineup**

*Former North Carolina governor will participate in panel examining forward-looking goals in American education*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced the addition of former North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt as a panelist at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE), held in Washington, D.C., on April 10-11, 2019.

“We’re very excited that Gov. Hunt is joining us at RISE,” said Roger Zakheim, Director of the Reagan Institute. “North Carolina is widely recognized for the strength of its public schools and public universities – in large part thanks to Gov. Hunt’s leadership. Additionally, we are thrilled to host the Hunt Institute and teams from governors’ offices across the nation dedicated to greater student success. We look forward to learning from Gov. Hunt and the Hunt Institute about what we can do to strengthen education at all levels.”

Hunt 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.

Additionally, the Hunt Institute, chaired by Gov. Hunt, will kick off a retreat for state teams from across the country during the afternoon sessions at RISE 2019. The Hunt Institute, a national nonprofit organization, led by President & CEO Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, brings together people and resources that help build and nurture visionary leadership and mobilize strategic action for greater educational outcomes and student success.

“If my time as governor taught me anything, it’s that well-crafted policies really can make a difference in the lives of children” shared Gov. Hunt. “I’m absolutely delighted to join other leaders at RISE who are ready to roll up their sleeves and reform our nation’s education system.”

Governor of North Carolina from 1977 to 1985 and 1993 to 2001, Hunt oversaw a period of significant transformation and growth in North Carolina public schools. His focus on early

childhood education set thousands of the state's children on the path to success, pioneering the "Smart Start" program, which earned the Innovations in American Government Award from the Ford Foundation and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He has also chaired a variety of national education organizations, including the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the National Education Goals Panel and the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. He currently chairs the Hunt Institute board of directors.

Hunt 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](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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