



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 2, 2019

## **Reagan Institute Summit on Education Welcomes Diana Rauner To Speaker Lineup**

*President of Ounce of Prevention Fund will participate in panel on P-12 education*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced the addition of Diana Rauner, President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, as a panelist at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE), held in Washington, D.C., on April 10-11, 2019.

“The first few years of life are critical in setting kids on a trajectory for flourishing,” said Roger Zakheim, Director of the Reagan Institute. “Under Diana’s leadership, the Ounce of Prevention has given children from low-income backgrounds the kind of environment and experiences they need to thrive. We’re eager to hear her insights on this unique developmental period and look forward to her contributions.”

Rauner will participate in a panel session entitled “From P-12: The Challenges of Creating a New School House.” This panel will consider the future of P-12 education in light of the reauthorization and implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), looking to examine equity challenges and assess disruptive solutions. Local luminaries who have generated significant progress in their school systems will share insights, as will those who have formed partnerships with business, philanthropy and other outside entities.

“Access to high-quality early childhood education is the central challenge our most-at-risk, young learners face today,” Rauner said. “Research shows that we must target quality at all levels of the education system to level the playing field for low income children – this is where opportunity equality begins.”

Since 2011, Rauner has served as President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund where she previously was executive director and a board member. Before taking on her role at Ounce of Prevention Fund, she worked in finance and undertook extensive research in early childhood development and psychology. Additionally, her time as first lady of Illinois gave her insight into the state’s education system, as well as the unique needs of urban school districts and urban children. She holds a bachelor’s from Yale University, an M.B.A from Stanford Graduate School of Business and a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Chicago.

Rauner 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.

**Media Contact: Emilee Lamb — [lamb@pinkstongroup.com](mailto:lamb@pinkstongroup.com) or 571-480-2367**

###

### **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."

[www.reaganfoundation.org](http://www.reaganfoundation.org)