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## **Reagan Institute Summit on Education Welcomes Former Utah State Senator Howard Stephenson**

*State leader and education champion will participate in panel on reforming P-12 education*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced the addition of Howard Stephenson, former state senator for Utah’s 11<sup>th</sup> District, as a panelist at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE), held in Washington, D.C., on April 10-11, 2019.

“Throughout his 26-year career serving the people of Utah, Senator Stephenson was a passionate advocate for education reform,” said Roger Zakheim, Director of the Reagan Institute. “We’re delighted to have this opportunity to learn from his experience and hear about the challenges and possibilities of reform at the state level.”

Stephenson 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.

“Two-thirds of America’s students consistently fail to achieve grade-level proficiency in math and reading while reformers focus on ‘marketplace’ solutions, failing to recognize that what matters most is the marketplace of individual student engagement,” Stephenson said. “When we recognize student agency by personalizing learning with 21st century tools and re-purpose the role of the teacher, more than 90 percent of any class can achieve grade level proficiency in math and reading in a single academic year, no matter where they started.”

First joining the Utah State Senate in 1993, Stephenson retired after 26 years of fighting for Utah students, taxpayers and businesspeople. During his tenure, he served on the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee, the Senate Education Committee and the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committees. He holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in public administration from Brigham Young University. He also chaired the education committees of both the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the American Legislative Exchange Council

(ALEC), and served on NCSL's International Working Group examining lessons learned from the highest ranking nations on the PISA report cards and the State Policy and Research for Early Education Working Group identifying data-proven ways to close the achievement gap for early learners.

Stephenson 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**

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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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