

AGENDA

Tuesday, May 8, 2007
Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans

7:30 am – 9:00 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
Grand Ballroom Foyer, Baronne, Carondelet, St. Charles, 2nd Floor

9:00 am – 10:15 am **Opening Remarks and Plenary Session**
Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor

Welcome from **Ted Mitchell**, CEO, NewSchools Venture Fund

Plenary Session – Education Entrepreneurship and the Politics of Change

Successful entrepreneurs often redefine what's possible and change the dynamics of entire industries or sectors. Today, with the goal of transforming public education a priority among many education stakeholders, education entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial public sector leaders are creating breakthrough solutions for many of education's seemingly most intractable challenges. Some are creating new organizations to recruit, train, and retain new pools of talented principals and teachers; still others are creating networks of high-performing charter schools. At the same time, entrepreneurial actions by public sector leaders -- governors, mayors, and school superintendents -- are changing the rules and fostering creative problem-solving at the school and system levels. Through formal and informal actions, these public sector leaders have piloted new approaches to address chronically failing schools, introduced performance-based compensation for teachers and principals, allowed districts to lengthen the school day, permitted some public schools to operate independent of collective bargaining provisions, and made facilities available to charter schools. In many cases, a new type of politics is emerging; bringing together new coalitions whose work across sector and party lines has helped create the conditions necessary for transformational change. Through a conversation with three extraordinary leaders in education, we will explore the power of entrepreneurship, the inherent tensions between entrepreneurship and public sector activity, the changing politics of education reform, and the ways these politics foster or constrain entrepreneurship. Ultimately, the conversation will help inform our sense of the promise and limits of entrepreneurial activity for transformational change.

Moderator:

Andy Rotherham, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Education Sector

Speakers:

- **Michael Bennet**, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools
- **Dacia Toll**, Co-CEO and President, Achievement First
- **Mark Warner**, Former Governor, State of Virginia

10:15 am – 11:00 am Networking Break *

Grand Ballroom Foyer, Baronne, Carondelet, St. Charles, 2nd Floor

**Please note that these rooms will be open for casual networking throughout the day, we request that you use these rooms and not converse in the foyer area as other sessions are taking place.*

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Breakout Sessions

Lessons from the Field: Turning Around Chronically Failing Schools

Lafayette East, 2nd Floor

Despite the fact that more than 2,000 schools nationwide are expected to be in some form of federal- or state-mandated “restructuring” during the 2007-2008 school year, little is known about how to turn around an underperforming school and sustain strong performance, making it difficult to choose among the many options available. Is it enough to replace a principal? Does a school leader need the authority to hire and fire staff? Or should a school be closed and re-opened? A deeper understanding of promising efforts is required in order to address the increasing number of schools that will require intervention. This session will focus on three restructuring options available to district leaders: training of the school principal as a turnaround specialist, replacing the principal and core teaching staff, and converting the school into a charter school. Leaders from organizations that have pursued each of these strategies will share their experiences, followed by reactions from an urban superintendent who is currently faced with a number of failing schools.

Moderator:

Jordan Meranus, Partner, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speakers:

- **Lionel Allen, Jr.**, Principal, William T. Sherman School of Excellence
- **Michael Bennet**, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools
- **Scott Gordon**, Chief Executive Officer, Mastery Charter Schools
- **James Pughsley**, Executive Director, Darden/Curry Partnership for Leaders in Education, University of Virginia

Is Mayoral Control the Answer? The Challenge of Educational Governance

Fountainbleau, 1st Floor

In response to what critics say is ineffective leadership of school districts under elected school boards, many reformers have advocated for mayoral control to streamline governance and improve accountability. However, recent experiments in mayoral control have yielded mixed results, leaving many to wonder - what constitutes truly effective school system governance? This panel will examine the elements of good educational governance, the extent to which mayoral control has or has not measured up to that vision, and what strategies reformers can use to improve governance in any of its forms. It will also consider other alternatives – including a choice-based approach involving multiple school boards and one involving more authority at the state level – that might better meet the needs of educational governance in the 21st century.

Moderator:

Rick Hess, Director of Education Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute (AEI)

Speakers:

- **Darnetta Clinkscale**, Former President, Board of Education, St. Louis (MO) Public Schools
- **Michael Contompasis**, Superintendent, Boston Public Schools
- **Jeffrey Henig**, Professor of Political Science and Education, Teachers College–Columbia University
- **Victor Reinoso**, Deputy Mayor of Public Education, District of Columbia

The Promise and Limits of State Policy in Education Reform

Acadia, 2nd Floor

Although No Child Left Behind gets the headlines, most education policy is formed by state and local governments. Despite occasional reluctance, state education agencies are increasingly making decisions and taking actions that challenge the long-standing tradition of local control. This trend is being met with mixed reviews: many district and school-level reformers cite overly prescriptive state laws and bureaucratic regulations as roadblocks separating districts and schools from the freedom they need to create meaningful improvement. Meanwhile, some state officials identify local control as an obstacle to reform that is fraught with politicking, hampered by restrictive collective bargaining agreements and lacking in human and financial resources. This panel will explore both the potential and the limits of state policy as a driver of transformative change at the district and school level. Leading practitioners and policymakers will explain their own attempts to maximize the influence of state government in school reform; we will also hear from skeptics who doubt the efficacy of this strategy and favor more local control.

Moderator:

Jim Peyser, Partner, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speakers:

- **Barbara Byrd-Bennett**, Executive-in-Residence, Cleveland State University
- **Leslie Jacobs**, Board Member, Louisiana Department of Education
- **Mike Petrilli**, Vice President for National Programs and Policy, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation

Education 2.0: Re-Envisioning Our Education System

Broadmoor, 1st Floor

What might a K-12 education look like if we designed it from scratch today—taking into account the skills needed for the 21st century, the interconnected nature of our global economy, the current capabilities of technology, and what we know about how children learn, both in and out of school? What would we envision if we could focus exclusively on the question of “what is right” rather than “what is politically viable?” And what implications does this have for the purpose and delivery of education in the United States and around the world? Participants in this session will be engaged in a thought exercise that is designed to expand our thinking beyond what public education looks like today and to envision how it could – and should – be constructed.

Moderator:

Maisie O’Flanagan, Principal, McKinsey & Company

Speakers:

- **Katrina Scott-George**, Consultant
- **Steve Jubb**, Executive Director, Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools (BayCES)
- **Elizabeth Lian**, Founder and President, Work4Kids

Autonomy: Earned or Entitled?

Lafayette West, 2nd Floor

Having realized the need for more dramatic change to improve student achievement, some superintendents and district leadership teams have experimented with bold reforms that focus on a subset of a district’s schools. These strategies include differential resource allocations, increased school-level autonomy, and opportunities to open new schools. This session will explore examples of how and why these “carve-outs” have been formed in districts around the country; we will also examine evidence of this approach’s impact on student achievement and delve into the issues underlying this strategy, such as whether autonomy is a reward or a precursor to educational excellence.

Moderator:

Steve Seleznow, Program Director, Education, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Speakers:

- **Irving Hamer Jr.**, Executive Vice President for Client Services and Strategic Development, The Millennium Group and Former Deputy Superintendent of School Improvement, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- **Hosanna Mahaley Johnson**, President, Atlanta Local Education Fund and Former Executive Officer for the Office of New Schools, Chicago Public Schools
- **Shael Polakow-Suransky**, Chief Academic Officer, Empowerment Schools, New York City Department of Education

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm **Lunch and Keynote Speaker**

Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor

Introductory Remarks: **Ted Mitchell**, CEO, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speaker: **Paul Pastorek**, Superintendent of Education, State of Louisiana

Keynote Speaker

In March, New Orleans native Paul G. Pastorek became Louisiana's State Superintendent of Education after working closely with the former Superintendent, Cecil J. Picard, both as Chair of the Recovery School District Advisory Committee and as President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. A former attorney, Pastorek also served as General Counsel to NASA in the wake of the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia and helped lead the team that developed the agency's "transformational" reorganization plan in 2004. Today, Pastorek has an equally formidable challenge ahead of him: to shepherd the rebuilding of the public school system in New Orleans, including those operated and chartered by the state-run Recovery School District.

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm **Networking Break ***

Grand Ballroom Foyer, Baronne, Carondelet, St. Charles, 2nd Floor

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2:30 pm – 4:00 pm* **Breakout Sessions**

Please note that the **New Orleans and Beyond: Implications for Improving Schools Nationwide session,, hosted by New Leaders for New Schools will start earlier: 2:00pm – 3:30pm at the Astor Crowne Plaza, see below for session details*

Show Me the Way: Finding and Developing Outstanding School Leaders

Fountainbleau, 1st Floor

A school's success often reflects the strength of its leader. However, the pool of great principals is limited. Many charter schools and district schools are addressing this need by building their own pipeline of candidates and providing ongoing training to their school leaders. In this session, panelists will share their strategies for supporting current leaders of public schools while also identifying and developing new principals who are prepared to take on the challenge of leading high-quality public schools.

Moderator:

Frances McLaughlin, Senior Director, The Broad Foundation

Speakers:

- **Darryl Cobb**, Chief Learning Officer, Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP)
- **Doug McCurry**, Co-CEO and Superintendent, Achievement First
- **Darlene Merry**, Chief Academic Officer, New Leaders for New Schools (NLNS)
- **Michelle Rhee**, President and Chief Executive Officer, The New Teacher Project (TNTP)

Transparency as a Lever for Change: Designing Effective Performance Management Systems

Lafayette East, 2nd Floor

Transparency is a key lever for change – that is the fundamental belief underlying the No Child Left Behind Act, central to the implementation of state accountability and the core of most businesses’ management processes. As the saying goes, “you get what you inspect, not what you expect”, so it’s critically important to measure the right things and to collect and report on the right metrics. In this session, a group of leaders who are actively designing performance management systems will share their collective wisdom about how these systems can drive instructional improvement. What metrics are we focusing on and why? How can we define school accountability systems that are complex enough to be accurate representations of reality, but simple enough to be understood? What changes are we seeing in schools and classrooms as a result of these performance management systems?

Moderator:

Stacy Childress, Lecturer, Harvard Business School

Speakers:

- **John Chubb**, Executive Vice President and Chief Education Officer, Edison Schools
- **James Liebman**, Chief Accountability Officer, New York City Department of Education
- **LaVerne Srinivasan**, President, New Leaders for New Schools (NLNS)

Charter Innovation as a Driver of Broad-Based Reform

Broadmoor, 1st Floor

Charter schools have long been recognized as leaders in school innovation. Many have developed novel ways to deliver instruction, structure their school days, recruit and support high-quality staff, and leverage their resources efficiently. These innovative strategies have created positive proof points in the independent sector, but the impact of these advances on the broader public education system – where real change is still desperately needed – is not yet clear. This session will examine the potential for charter school innovations to effect comprehensive system change. Panelists from the charter school, district, and research sectors will discuss evidence that charter schools are contributing to system-wide reforms in public schooling, and will also consider strategies for how charter schools might shape even more dramatic transformation in the years to come.

Moderator:

Jonathan Schorr, Director of New Initiatives, Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP)

Speakers:

- **Carroll Stevens**, Senior Fellow, Foundation Legacy Development, Stupski Foundation
- **Dacia Toll**, Co-CEO and President, Achievement First
- **Marshall Tuck**, Executive Director, City of Los Angeles

Buying Time: Expanding the School Day and Year

Acadia, 2nd Floor

On average, U.S. students attend school for many fewer hours and days than in other industrialized countries, a disparity many trace back to the development of public school schedules in the agricultural era of the 19th century. With today's increased demands on public schools and the focus on raising achievement levels among all students, many believe that lengthening the school day or school year may be a critical lever for achieving these goals. While some states and districts have begun to initiate legislation or pilot efforts focused on increasing the time spent in school, many questions still remain about how to best to allocate that time – whether for academic instruction, enrichment activities, teacher collaborative planning, or professional development – and what it takes to implement these fundamental changes successfully. In this session, several of the leading practitioners, policymakers, and researchers who have investigated this topic will explore these questions.

Moderator:

Cynthia Brown, Director of Education Policy, Center for American Progress

Speakers:

- **Richard Barth**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP)
- **Richard Coleman**, Executive Director and Interim Principal, An Achievable Dream Academy
- **Christopher Gabrieli**, Founder and Chairman, Massachusetts 2020 Foundation

From Adoption to Adaptation: Making Curriculum Meet the Needs of All Students

Lafayette West, 2nd Floor

Much of the discussion about curriculum in education reform focuses on selecting the “right” curriculum and all too often ends there. However, choosing a particular curriculum is not the last stop on the road to improving student achievement and while curriculum developers market their products as “silver bullet” solutions, few, if any, actually meet all students’ academic needs. Research has shown that a dynamic approach to curriculum—one that gives teachers frameworks within the curriculum so that they can match students’ needs to appropriate instructional resources—yields positive results. This session will focus on practical strategies that school leaders use to proactively build capacity to modify existing curriculum to meet the learning needs of students. A panel of educators will discuss why curriculum is a key lever for improving student achievement, offer real-life examples of how to implement successfully, and share evidence that it works.

Moderator:

Sandy Blazer, Chief Academic Officer, Green Dot Public Schools

Speakers:

- **Deborah Kenny**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Village Academies
- **Bill Kurtz**, Head of School, Denver School of Science and Technology
- **Robert Lenz**, Chief Education Officer and Co-Founder, Envision Schools
- **Virginia Lockhart**, Coordinator of Special Projects, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, Montgomery County (MD) Public Schools

School Turnarounds Working Group

Algiers, 1st Floor

A recent resurgence in school turnarounds has led to the emergence of new models and interventions for tackling this vexing and increasingly critical issue. In spite of increased interest at the federal, state, and district levels – as well as among the philanthropic community – insufficient attention has been paid to the lessons learned from such turnarounds over the past few decades. There is also a need for more rigorous research on new efforts that are demonstrating preliminary success, such that this work could be broadened or replicated. Furthermore, little work has been done to create a common lexicon to distinguish among different models and strategies for intervention. This working group meeting is intended to facilitate discussion among practitioners and researchers about the emerging lessons they are learning at the school, district/system and state levels, the ways these interventions may complement or conflict with each other, and how to differentiate among the various turnaround models.

Facilitator:

Kim Smith, Co-Founder and Senior Advisor, NewSchools Venture Fund

New Orleans and Beyond: Implications for Improving Schools Nationwide

Hosted by New Leaders for New Schools

(Please note the session time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm)

Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel, Grand Ballroom

739 Canal Street at Bourbon Street (2 blocks from the Ritz-Carlton)

Moderator:

Walter Isaacson, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Aspen Institute

Panelists: To Be Announced

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Reception Featuring the Student Jazz Band from McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts, a KIPP Transformation School, New Orleans

Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor

Robert Atkins, percussion, 6th grade
Sebastian Bharj, alto saxophone/keyboard, 8th grade
Rodney Coleman, alto saxophone, 7th grade
Trey Dowden, baritone saxophone, 8th grade
Allen Harris, percussion, 7th grade
Kaylen Harrison, flute, 3rd grade
Kelvin Harrison Jr., trumpet/keyboard, 7th grade
Kortlen Harrison, flute, 3rd grade
David Jones, trumpet, 6th grade
Angelo Levene, alto saxophone, 5th grade
Jazmyne Mack, trumpet, 7th grade
Tristan Pluta, trombone, 6th grade
David Smith, trumpet, 8th grade
Briell Spruille, percussion, 6th grade
Justin Terrell, trumpet, 7th grade
Herman Williams, trumpet/percussion, 4th grade

Kelvin Harrison, Band Director, McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts

A native of New Orleans, Kelvin is a graduate of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), and the University of New Orleans (UNO). Highly sought after as a studio instructor, Kelvin has worked on the adjunct faculties of NOCCA and UNO for many years. His musical performance experiences have ranged from performing a concerto with the New Orleans Philharmonic to playing jazz at Carnegie Hall. In addition to being a part of the Ray Charles Orchestra in the movie "Ray," Kelvin has also performed and recorded with numerous groups. Kelvin is currently teaching instrumental music at the McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts.

McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts, a KIPP transformation school, is a public, open-enrollment, college preparatory school with a creative arts focus. Located in the historic French Quarter, McDonogh 15 serves 420 students in grades prekindergarten through eight who are all expected to attend college. The school was opened in the summer of 2006 to meet the needs of students returning to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. With no admissions requirements, McDonogh 15 takes all students, regardless of their background. Ninety-two percent of students are African-American and 95 percent qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch. McDonogh 15 combines a tradition of creative-arts education with KIPP's high expectations and academic excellence, and is led by Gary Robichaux, former principal of KIPP Phillips Academy and New Orleans West College Prep in Houston.

McDonogh 15 is operated by KIPP New Orleans, a Louisiana not-for-profit organization incorporated in 2004 for the purpose of operating public schools. KIPP New Orleans is associated with the national KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) network which recruits and trains KIPP school leaders and offers support to the 52 KIPP schools operating in educationally underserved communities in 16 states and the District of Columbia. KIPP schools use a longer school day, innovative teaching, and a structured environment to empower students to climb the mountain to college. To date, 80 percent of KIPP graduates have enrolled in college, compared with 25 to 30 percent of other public school students with a similar demographic profile.