

AGENDA

Tuesday, May 20, 2008
Capital Hilton, Washington D.C.

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

Registration: Foyer 1

Breakfast: Congressional & Senate Rooms

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Welcome**

Presidential Ballroom

Opening by **Ted Mitchell**, President and Chief Executive Officer, NewSchools Venture Fund

Introduction by **Jordan Meranus**, Partner, NewSchools Venture Fund

Comments by **Adrian Fenty**, Mayor, District of Columbia

9:00 am – 10:30 am **Opening Plenary**

Presidential Ballroom

At the Tipping Point: Progress and Prospects of Entrepreneurs in Education

After decades of school reform, it appears that public education may be approaching an inflection point. A number of structural changes are taking place in major cities across the country – including differentiated pay for teachers and school leaders, more autonomy for successful principals, and the expanding role of charter schools. Do these changes signal transformational change on the horizon? This session will explore whether we are indeed at an inflection point, the role entrepreneurial organizations have played in accelerating change in public school systems and the role such organizations may play moving forward, and the ways in which public policy can advance and support progress.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

- **Larry Rosenstock**, Chief Executive Officer, High Tech High
- **Randi Weingarten**, President, United Federation of Teachers

10:30 am – 11:00 am **Networking Break ***

Capital Terrace and Foyer 1

**Please note that these rooms will be open for casual networking throughout the morning. 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

Plenary Session II

Presidential Ballroom

Inside-Out and Outside-In: Different Paths to Transforming Public Schooling

In a discussion that follows up on the themes introduced in Plenary I, this session will explore more deeply how entrepreneurs create change as they engage—whether competitively or collaboratively—with school districts. Each of the panelists has had the unique experience of holding leadership positions in both entrepreneurial organizations and in traditional districts, and will reflect on both vantage points. How can entrepreneurs best advance change from their position as outsiders? How do superintendents approach education reform from inside the system they endeavor to change? The discussion will provide insight into whether, when, and how entrepreneurs and district leaders should consider working together to improve educational opportunities for students.

Moderator:

Stig Leschly, Executive Director, Newark Charter School Fund

Speakers:

- **Libia Gil**, Senior Fellow, American Institutes for Research and former Superintendent, Chula Vista Elementary School District
- **Deborah McGriff**, Executive Vice President, Edison Schools and former Superintendent, Detroit Public Schools
- **Michelle Rhee**, Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools and former Chief Executive Officer, The New Teacher Project

12:45 pm – 2:15 pm

Lunch

Open Lunch: *Presidential Ballroom*

Topic Tables: *Federal Rooms A & B*

In response to participant feedback over the years, we have changed our lunch format this year to provide additional informal time for attendees to learn directly from one another. Attendees will choose between the Open Lunch that will take place in the Presidential Ballroom, or select one of the Topic Tables that will be set up in the Federal Rooms A & B. For attendees that wish to participate in a conversation about a particular issue, we have developed table topics that center in on a variety of important and relevant education topics, such as academic systems, teacher and principal recruitment, college access and public policy. Attendees will have an opportunity to select a table and engage in informal conversations on the chosen topic with others who share that interest over lunch.

For more information about the available topics and the leaders in the field who will be present at each, see “Topic Tables and Descriptions” located behind this agenda in your binder.

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

1. Education Entrepreneurs and the Public Sector: Lessons from the Field

Senate Room

Entrepreneurial initiatives in the public education sector are greatly influenced by public policy, whether it serves to stimulate or inhibit these activities. In this session, entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers, and the audience will engage in a moderated discussion to explore the strategies that entrepreneurs can or should employ to navigate and influence the public sector. What are the key barriers to success and impact? What are the most effective strategies for reducing them? Should entrepreneurs invest time to help change policy for the benefit of the broader field, or just take those actions that make their own missions easier to achieve? The session will delve into the overall role of public policy—at the local, state and federal levels—in education entrepreneurship. Should public policy promote entrepreneurial activity in education or should it just open the doors and get out of the way? What specific policy changes would be most necessary and achievable?

Moderator:

Jim Peyser, Partner, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speakers:

- **Jonah Edelman**, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Stand For Children
- **Rick Hess**, Director of Education Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute (AEI)
- **Bart Peterson**, Chairman, The Mind Trust and former Mayor, City of Indianapolis
- **Eugene Wade**, Chief Executive Officer, Platform Learning, LLC

2. Beyond Dollars: How Can Capital Markets Best Serve Education Entrepreneurs?

Congressional Room

As education entrepreneurs grow their organizations to scale, they require a range of support from public, private and philanthropic sources. This session will focus on the role of these various capital providers in supporting education entrepreneurs: what kinds of support do each of them provide, and in turn, what do they expect from entrepreneurs? Do the supports currently provided by the capital markets address what entrepreneurs need to build high-quality, sustainable organizations? Where there are gaps in support, who should fill them, and how? Join us for a lively session in which a social entrepreneur—and members of the audience—engage a foundation leader, a venture philanthropist, and a venture capitalist in a conversation about what education entrepreneurs need, and how the capital markets can best meet these needs.

Moderator:

Joanne Weiss, Partner and Chief Operating Officer, NewSchools Venture Fund

Speakers:

- **Carol Thompson Cole**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Venture Philanthropy Partners
- **Andrew Kaplan**, General Partner, Quad Partners
- **Aaron Lieberman**, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Acelero Learning
- **Vicki Phillips**, Director of Education, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Closing Remarks

Presidential Ballroom

Comments by **Cory Booker**, Mayor, City of Newark (NJ)

4:45 pm – 6:30 pm

Closing Reception and 10 Year Anniversary Celebration

Presidential Ballroom

This year marks NewSchools Venture Fund's 10th anniversary. Since 1998, we have worked to transform public education so that it serves *all* children well, by supporting education entrepreneurs and connecting their efforts to broader change. In commemoration of this milestone, please join us as we unveil a new video that highlights the accomplishments of education entrepreneurs over the last decade, and present a series of awards that celebrate those in our community who truly embody the entrepreneurial spirit. We will also be joined by Voices of Friendship, an ensemble choir of students from Friendship Public Charter Schools in Washington, D.C.