



KERNER COMMISSION 50TH ANNIVERSARY: EDUCATION AND THE PATH TO ONE NATION

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

8:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m. ET

Carnegie Endowment for International
Peace Conference Center, Root Room

1779 Massachusetts Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20036

#KernerAt50



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AGENDA

8:30 Registration and light breakfast

9:00 Welcome

Linda Darling-Hammond

President and CEO, Learning Policy Institute

Professor Emeritus, Stanford University

9:15

Panel One

**American Public Education 50 Years After the
Kerner Commission: Where Are We Now?**

Moderator:

Claudio Sanchez

NPR Correspondent, Education, National Desk

Panelists:

- **Gary Orfield**
Co-Director, Civil Rights Project at UCLA
Co-Founder of Harvard Civil Rights Project
- **John King**
President and CEO, The Education Trust
Former U.S. Secretary of Education
- **Patricia Gándara**
Co-Director, Civil Rights Project at UCLA
- **Ebony Green**
Executive Director of Equity and Access, Newburgh
Enlarged City School District, New York

10:30

Panel Two

**American Public Education: Policies and
Practices to Advance Racial Equity**

Moderator:

Linda Darling-Hammond

Panelists:

- **Zakiyah Ansari**
Advocacy Director, Alliance for Quality Education
- **Anne Holton**
Visiting Professor of Public Policy and Education, George
Mason University; former Virginia Secretary of Education
- **Roberto Rodriguez**
President and CEO, Teach Plus; former Deputy
Assistant to President Barack Obama for Education
- **Neera Tanden**
President and CEO, Center for American Progress

11:30

Closing

Kent McGuire

Program Director of Education, William and
Flora Hewlett Foundation; former President and
CEO, Southern Education Foundation

SPEAKER BIOS

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Zakiyah Ansari is the Advocacy Director of the New York State Alliance for Quality Education, the leading statewide organization that has been fighting for educational justice in New York State. In 2013, she co-initiated a national grassroots movement, Journey for Justice, an alliance currently composed of grassroots community-based organizations from over 24 cities representing constituencies of youth, parents, and intergenerational organizations who have been impacted by harmful education policies like school closures. Ansari was recently named one of the “25 Most Influential in Brooklyn” by *City and State Magazine*. @zansari8

Linda Darling-Hammond is President and CEO of the Learning Policy Institute and Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University. She is former President of the American Educational Research Association and a member of the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has authored more than 500 publications and has conducted extensive research on issues of school reform, equity, and accountability. Among her most recent publications are *Be the Change: Reinventing School for Student Success* and *Empowered Educators: How Leading Nations Design Systems for Teaching Quality*. @LDH_ed

Patricia Gándara is Research Professor and Co-Director of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA and Director of Education for the University of California-Mexico Initiative. She is an elected fellow of the American Educational Research Association and the National Academy of Education. In 2011, she was appointed to President Obama's Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, and in 2015 received the Distinguished Career Award from the Scholars of Color Committee of the American Educational Research Association. Her most recent books are *Forbidden Language: English Learners and Restrictive Language Policies* (2010) and *The Bilingual Advantage: Language, Literacy, and the U.S. Labor Market* (2014). @pcgandara

Ebony Green, a pioneer in creating systemic equitable outcomes for underrepresented students, was appointed in 2016 to lead the Department of Equity and Access of the Newburgh (NY) Enlarged City School District. As the district's first Executive Director of Equity and Access, she was instrumental in developing an equity report card and fair student funding formula that provided a baseline and leveraged resources to support the needs of students who have historically been marginalized. @NECSDEquity

Anne Holton is a Visiting Professor of Public Policy and Education at George Mason University. As a lifelong advocate for children and families in Virginia, she has worked as a legal aid lawyer serving low-income families, a juvenile and domestic relations district court judge, and as Virginia's Secretary of Education. As Virginia's First Lady and Secretary of Education, Holton championed foster care system reform and focused on the difficulty of recruiting high-quality teachers for schools in high-poverty communities. She currently serves on the Virginia Board of Education. Holton earned an A.B. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. @AnneHolton

John B. King Jr. is President and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that aims to identify and close opportunity and achievement gaps. He served as the U.S. Secretary of Education from 2016 through 2017 following his tenure as the Deputy Secretary in 2015. He was the first African American and Puerto Rican to serve as New York State Education Commissioner, a post he held from 2011 to 2015. He began his career in education as a high school social studies teacher in Puerto Rico and Boston and a middle school principal. King received an Ed.D. and an M.A. from Teachers College at Columbia University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, and a B.A. in Government from Harvard University. @JohnBKing

Kent McGuire is the Program Director of Education at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Previously, he served as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education from 1998 to 2001. In addition, he was the President and CEO of the Southern Education Foundation and the Dean of the College of Education and a tenured professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Temple University. McGuire earned a Ph.D. in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, an M.A. from Columbia University Teacher's College, and a B.A. in Economics from the University of Michigan. He serves on the boards of the Wallace Foundation, the Institute for Education Leadership, and the Panasonic Foundation. @ckmcguire

Gary Orfield is Distinguished Research Professor of Education, Law, Political Science, and Urban Planning and the Co-Director of the Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles at UCLA. He is also co-founder of the Harvard Civil Rights Project. He is a member of the National Academy of Education and has received numerous awards, including the Teachers College Medal, Social Justice Award of the AERA, and the American Political Science Association Charles Merriam Award for his “contribution to the art of government through the application of social science research.” Orfield's research includes 12 co-authored or co-edited books since 2004 and numerous articles and reports. @orfieldtweet

Roberto J. Rodríguez is President and CEO of Teach Plus, which supports the contribution of teacher leaders to educational innovation and change. Previously, he served as Deputy Assistant to President Barack Obama for Education and as Principal Education Advisor to the late U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy. He holds a Presidential appointment to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, and his numerous distinguished awards include the National Champion for Children Award from First Focus and the Head Start Windows of Opportunity Award from the National Head Start Association. Rodríguez received an Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. @RRodriguezTPlus

Neera Tanden is President and CEO of the Center for American Progress. She previously served on President Obama's health reform team to develop and pass the Affordable Care Act. Previously, she was the Director of Domestic Policy for the Obama-Biden campaign. Tanden has served as Policy Director for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign, Legislative Director to Senator Clinton, and Associate Director for Domestic Policy and Senior Advisor to the First Lady in the Clinton administration. @neeratanden