



A New Presidency in the Philippines, the Continued Fight for Democracy, and Labor's Work

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SPEAKERS

J. BRIAN ATWOOD

J. Brian Atwood is a Visiting Fellow for International and Public Affairs at Brown University's Thomas Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, and Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H Humphrey School of Public Affairs. He served as Chair of Global Policy Studies and Professor of Public Policy at the Humphrey School from 2012 to 2015. He was dean of the Humphrey School from 2002 to 2010, and was elected President of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs in 2009. He was also the Chair of the University of Minnesota's Deans' council and a recipient of the University's Distinguished Service Award. From 2010 to 2012, Atwood was the member-elected Chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Atwood led the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) during the Administration of President William Clinton. He earlier led the Clinton-Gore transition team at the State Department in 1992, and was Under Secretary of State for Management prior to his appointment as head of USAID. He received the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award in 1999. During the Carter Administration Atwood was Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations. In 2001, Atwood served on UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's Panel on Peace Operations. He was legislative advisor for foreign and defense policy to Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (D-Mo) (1972 to 1977). Atwood was the first President of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) (1986 to 1993). He was a career diplomat before joining Senator Eagleton and later became Dean of Professional Studies and Academic Affairs at the Foreign Service Institute (1981-82). He is currently a member of the board of the National Democratic Institute and of the Watson Institute Board of Overseers.

ANNIE GERON

Annie Geron, a staunch advocate of workers' rights and quality public services, has been the General Secretary of Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK) since 1990, and Vice President of Public Services International (PSI) since 2002. She has received international recognition for her various efforts to fight corruption and promote good governance most notable of which was the Cultural Award for Anti-Corruption Work from the Confederation of Civil Servants and Salaried Employees of Denmark. She has also been a finalist for the Febe Elizabeth Velasquez International Trade Union Award based in Netherlands. Deeply committed to advancing public sector unionism, she has represented public sector labor interests before the Philippines Senate, House of Representatives, and Civil Service Commission. Ms. Geron has also served as official delegate and speaker in many regional and international conferences, such as the International Anti-Corruption Conference, Asian Development Bank Annual Governors' Meeting, Global Forum on Migration and Development, ILO Conference Workshop on Core Labor Standards, and the UN Conference on Reinventing Governance and Implementing the UN Anti-Corruption Convention.

JESSICA TANG

Jessica Tang was elected president of the 10,000-member Boston Teachers Union, Local 66, in June 2017. She was elected as an AFT vice president in July 2018. Tang began teaching middle school social studies in Boston Public Schools in 2005 and served as the first director of organizing at the Boston Teachers Union from 2013 to 2017. She has served as a vice president for AFT Massachusetts since 2016 and is also currently a vice president of the

Massachusetts AFL-CIO. In addition, she is a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance's Massachusetts chapter and was appointed as the AFT representative on the national APALA executive board in 2017. She is the first person of color, first openly LGBTQ leader and first woman in more than 30 years to serve as president of the BTU. Throughout her years in Boston Public Schools, she served in many teacher-leader positions, including on Gov. Deval Patrick's Teacher Advisory Board, on the BPS Teacher Diversity Work Group and as a BPS history and social studies fellow. She is a co-founder of the Teacher Activist Group Boston, a former co-chair of the Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association and a board member of Citizens for Public Schools. As a teacher activist, she has been involved in many different community organizations that are working to advance racial, social and economic justice. She earned her bachelor's at Harvard University and holds a master's in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Tang began working in Boston public schools during college as a volunteer tutor and became the tutoring program director at Mather Elementary School in 2000. She began her teaching career as a student teacher at McCormack Middle School in 2004 before teaching at Gavin Middle School and the Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School. As the founding director of organizing, she spearheaded both internal and community organizing efforts at the BTU.

RANDI WEINGARTEN

Randi Weingarten is president of the 1.7 million-member American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, which represents teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel; higher education faculty and staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals; local, state and federal government employees; and early childhood educators. Prior to her election as AFT president in 2008, Weingarten served for 11 years as president of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, representing approximately 200,000 educators in the New York City public school system, as well as home child care providers and other workers in health, law and education. Weingarten is the recipient of many commendations; she was included in *Washingtonian's* 2021 Washington's Most Influential People, *City & State New York's* 2021 New York City Labor Power 100, and *Washington Life's* 2018 Power 100 list of prominent leaders, and in 2017 received the Roosevelt Institute's FDR Distinguished Public Service Award. In 2013, the *New York Observer* named Weingarten one of the most influential New Yorkers of the past 25 years. Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the Cardozo School of Law. She worked as a lawyer for the Wall Street firm of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan from 1983 to 1986. She is an active member of the Democratic National Committee and numerous professional, civic and philanthropic organizations.