

SPEAKERS

RAPHAEL BONHOMME



Raphael Bonhomme is an empowered Pan-African educator at School-Within-School @ Goding, DCPS who is dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of his students. With eight years of teaching experience at esteemed DCPS schools, including Takoma Elementary, Turner Elementary, and currently School-Within-School @ Goding, Raphael brings a unique perspective to his classroom. As a person of Haitian heritage and a graduate of Howard University, Raphael embraces his non-traditional approach to teaching. He understands the importance of incorporating

diverse perspectives, cultural experiences, and historical context into his lessons. Raphael's teaching style goes beyond textbooks and standard curriculum, as he infuses history into math lessons, and art into science classes, and consistently emphasizes the real-world applications of classroom objectives. Through the years he has become balanced in incorporating arts-integrated lessons, experiential learning techniques, and project-based units through curriculum writing, implementation in the classroom and leading professional developments. By teaching holistically, Raphael aims to empower his students and cultivate their critical thinking skills. He encourages them to view education as a means of personal growth and social change. Through his appearance, teaching style, and unwavering dedication, Raphael serves as a role model, inspiring his students to embrace their individuality and pursue their dreams.

PEGGY BROOKINS, NBCT



Former NBPTS Board member Peggy Brookins, NBCT, joined the National Board as Executive Vice President in December 2014 and was named President & CEO in November 2015. Her long career as an educator includes many national leadership positions and accolades. In July 2014, President Barack Obama named Brookins as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans. She came to the National Board from the Engineering and Manufacturing Institute of Technology at Forest High School in Ocala, Florida, which she co-founded in 1994 and where she served as director and as a mathematics instructor. Brookins achieved her certification in Adult and Young Adolescent Mathematics in 2003 and renewed in 2013. She was inducted into the University of Florida Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009, Received the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) "Woodie Flowers" Award in 2016, is a Florida Education Association "Everyday Hero," and received the association's Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2013, Brookins was named an Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar. **@pbrookins44**

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STEVE CLEMONS



Steve Clemons is Founding Editor at Large of Semafor, a digital global news platform launched in October 2022. He also served as Editor at Large of *The Hill*. Before joining *The Hill*, Clemons served as Washington Editor at Large of *The Atlantic* and served in senior editorial roles at *National Journal* and *Quartz*. He is also proprietor of the popular political blog, *The Washington Note*, and is a frequent commenter on American politics, economics and global affairs across the spectrum of news networks. Clemons founded and served as Senior Fellow of the American Strategy Program at the New America Foundation where he previously served as Executive Vice President. @SCClemons

BRENDAN DAHAHER



Brendan Danaher is the Deputy Director for Labor at the National Economic Council where serves as a top labor advisor at the White House. Prior coming to the White House he was the Labor Policy Advisor at the US Department of Transportation and a member of the Biden-Harris Transition Team. Before joining the Biden Administration, he worked in the labor movement for over two decades, most recently at the Transport Workers Union as the Executive Director in the Office of the President.

DAVID ETZWILER



David Etwiler is CEO of the Siemens Foundation, which is committed to economic, social, and racial justice for all in the United States. Under David's leadership, the Foundation has focused its efforts in three areas: advancing workforce training, reducing health disparities, and creating a more sustainable world. The Foundation's flagship initiative, EVeryone Charging Forward™, is a \$30 million, 10-year initiative creating pathways to well-paying, sustainable jobs in the EV charging sector for individuals from underserved communities. The initiative recognizes the United States has unprecedented economic, environmental, and national security opportunities that will only be achieved by including everyone in our economy. David's leadership has frequently been at the intersection of business, government, and philanthropy. He spent thirteen years with Medtronic, Inc., most recently as Vice President of Community Affairs, and Executive Director, Medtronic Foundation. A graduate of Northwestern University, David earned his Master of Public Policy from The Claremont Graduate University in California and his Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from the University of Minnesota Law School. Prior to taking on leadership roles in the field of philanthropy, David practiced law, with an emphasis on charitable giving, estate planning, and non-profit management. @detzwiler_SF

PATRICK GASPARD



Patrick Gaspard is the president and chief executive officer of the Center for American Progress and the chief executive officer of the Center for American Progress Action Fund. Previously Gaspard held a number of prominent positions during Obama's two terms in office, including serving as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of South Africa in the second term. From the fall 2011 until the spring 2013, Gaspard served as executive director of the Democratic National Committee. From 2009 until 2011, he was assistant to the president and director of the White House Office of Political Affairs. He also served as the associate director of personnel for the Obama transition and the national political director for the historic 2008 campaign.

Gaspard most recently served as the president of the Open Society Foundations (OSF), one of the largest private philanthropies in the world. Gaspard was born in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, to Haitian parents. He grew up in New York City and had a long career there and nationally in organized labor, electoral politics, and public service. He started as a union organizer and rose to become executive vice president for politics and legislation of the Local 1199 branch of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). He went on to serve as the national political director for the national organization and its 2 million members Gaspard attended Columbia University and is the recipient of honorary doctorates from Columbia University and Bard College. He has also been awarded the Spingarn Medal, which is the highest honor bestowed by the NAACP. **Twitter @patrickpaspard**

VALERIE HOLTHUS



Valerie Holthus is President of Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota, Local 7007, the largest school district in the state of Minnesota. Val is a tireless advocate for students and families. In the Fall of 2023, she helped organize her membership resulting in a historic contract that provides for monumental pay and benefits for the educators in her district. The organizing efforts were comprehensive and multi-dimensional that provided information of actions to all members. Before she was elected AHEM president in 2018, Val served several years as the Government Relations Chair for the union working to advocate for public education at the state and congressional level. She has worked to elect pro-public education supporters to all levels of government, and to challenge union busters. Holthus has planned and carried out multi-million dollar campaigns for construction of schools which allowed the district to reduce class sizes and make improved learning environments for all students. She has served as an elected city council member and organized a movement to erect a much-needed community center next to area schools to address the needs of students and families. Holthus is currently on leave from the classroom, where she taught high school career and tech education.

CONGRESSMAN RO KHANNA



Congressman Ro Khanna is a leading progressive voice in the House working to restore American manufacturing and technology leadership, improve the lives of working people, and advance U.S. leadership on climate, human rights, and diplomacy around the world. He believes our nation needs a new economic patriotism to create jobs in the industries of the future and unify Americans -- from the South to the heartland to the coasts -- around a shared purpose. Khanna proudly represents California's 17th Congressional District, located in the heart of Silicon Valley, and is serving his fourth term. He serves on the House Armed Services Committee as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies and Information Systems (CITI), co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, a member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, and on the Oversight and Accountability committee, where he previously chaired the Environmental Subcommittee. Khanna authored the Endless Frontier Act, which formed the basis for the sweeping CHIPS and Science Act signed into law by President Biden. Khanna is a strong supporter of the labor movement and has pushed for policies like the PRO Act to ensure that no one with a full-time job needs to rely on food stamps, housing vouchers, or other welfare. Prior to serving in Congress, he taught economics at Stanford University and served as deputy assistant secretary of commerce in the Obama administration. He has written two books: *Entrepreneurial Nation: Why Manufacturing is Still Key to America's Future* and *Dignity in a Digital Age*. Khanna graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in Economics from the University of Chicago and received a law degree from Yale University. Follow him on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter@RepRoKhanna](#).

ALLYSON KNOX



Allyson Knox is Senior Director of Education and Workforce Policy in Microsoft's Washington DC office. She currently serves as an advocate at the federal and state levels for the company's positions on AI and workforce development. Other issues she's worked on include digital equity, cybersecurity education, STEM, and technology in education. She recently led an initiative to make computer science courses count as core high school graduation credits in all fifty states. She's worked at Microsoft for almost twenty years and forged partnerships on behalf of the company with organizations such as the National Digital Inclusion Alliance and

American Association of Community Colleges. Prior to coming to Washington, DC, Allyson lived in Michigan and worked on small business and rural economic development, as well as education outreach programs.

MANNY LAMARRE



Manny Lamarre is the Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA). Manny has vast experience at the intersection of workforce development policy, research, and practice across federal, state, and local levels. He's served as a Governor and now Presidential appointee leading on key workforce policies and strategies such as sector-based initiatives, registered apprenticeships, industry engagement, and AI. He was formerly a Senior Policy Advisor at ETA before assuming the role of Deputy Assistant Secretary. From 2015-2019, Manny led the implementation of Nevada's

workforce vision, with the passage of critical workforce legislation while serving as the Founding Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation. He managed and served as the Governor's Designee on the State's 33-member Workforce Board and led the revamping of the State's Registered Apprenticeship system that saw a 45% increase in apprentices and 14 new occupations. Manny represented the U.S. in Geneva at the International Labor Conference resulting in the setting of international standards on apprenticeships adopted by over 100 countries and serves in key roles working closely with the White House on policies such as the President's Executive Order on apprenticeships and AI. Manny holds a B.A. in Political Science with honors from Wittenberg University, and a Master's in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he was the recipient of the Class Marshal Award for leadership and service to the Harvard community. Manny began his career as a classroom teacher and has authored several reports, studied, and presented on workforce nationally and internationally. [@MannyLamarre](#)

STANLEY S. LITOW



Stanley Litow is a Professor at Columbia University and a Trustee of the State University of New York. He is the author of "The Challenge for Business and Society: From Risk to Reward" and "Breaking Barriers: How PTECH Schools Create a Pathway From High School to College to Career" He is a frequent columnist on Barron's. He is a subject matter expert on education and corporate responsibility, He served for nearly a quarter century as IBM's Vice President of Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs and President of IBM's Foundation. Under his leadership, IBM has been widely regarded as the global leader in Corporate Citizenship, and praised for societal and environmental leadership,

labor practices, and civic leadership. Under Mr. Litow, IBM developed innovative voice recognition technology to help children and adults learn to read, a humanitarian virtual supercomputer to speed research on cancer and AIDS, and new digital imaging technology to improve water quality. Mr. Litow helped create IBM's Corporate Service Corps, a corporate version of the Peace Corps, to train and deploy

thousands of IBM's future leaders which has been replicated by many other companies; He designed PTECH, a grade 9-14 innovative school reform to that has spread globally, to provide opportunity to over a hundred thousand students. He also created IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge, which helped 100 cities worldwide become more effective. Prior to his IBM tenure he served as Deputy Schools Chancellor for the City of New York, America's largest school system, was the founder and leader of Interface a think tank, served as Executive Director of the NYC Urban Corps, and has served on several Presidential Commissions. Prof Litow recently Chaired the National Education Summit on Pathways. **@StanLitow**

BO MACHAYO



Bo Machayo has extensive experience as a public policy and public engagement advisor with stakeholders and elected officials at the local, state, and federal government levels. He has worked on a wide range of domestic and foreign policy issues - particularly relating to the economic development, climate, and Africa. He has successfully passed legislation, formed coalitions, and accomplished organizational goals throughout his career, including as a political appointee at the White House during the Obama Administration. He is currently the Director of U.S. Government and Public Affairs for Micron Technology. He previously worked for U.S. Senator Mark Warner, Loudoun County government, the U.S. African Development Foundation, the Obama White House Council on Environmental Quality, the Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Bo graduated from Wake Forest University with degrees in Economics and International Affairs and a Master's in Public Administration with Honors Distinction at George Mason University. Inspired by his background as a first-generation Ugandan-Kenyan-American, he has worked to serve his community through a nonprofit he co-founded: The Leading Ladies Initiative Inc. **@bomachayo**

AZARIAH MCLYMORE



Azariah McLymore is an attorney and community advocate. Born and raised in the City of Newburgh, New York, Azariah McLemore has dedicated her life to making effective change. Azariah is a graduate of the Newburgh P-TECH program, where she earned an applied associate's degree in cybersecurity at the age of eighteen. In December of 2019, Azariah graduated from Brooklyn College with a bachelor of arts in psychology. In May of 2023, Azariah graduated from North Carolina Central University School of Law with honors and passed the Uniform Bar Exam in July of 2023. Azariah currently practices criminal law in Orange County, New York and has experience with the Center for Death Penalty Litigation, the Georgia Innocence Project, Legal Aid's Right to Education Project, and North Carolina Department of Justice's Education section. In 2016, Azariah created the non-profit organization, McLymore Foundation Inc., empowering people to rise above the expectations placed upon them. Through the McLymore Foundation, her team has hosted countless clothing, shoe, and food drives, art and book club meetings, summer scholar sessions, family dances, a community health fair, block parties, and vision board events. One of McLymore Foundation's greatest accomplishments is the creation of the McLymore Foundation and RDM Ministries Scholarship, which helps graduating high school seniors pursue their chosen degrees at a college, university, or trade school. Her favorite program, Lil Lawyas where she supports and encourages Newburgh residents to pursue careers in the legal field. **@AzariahMcLymore**

WES MOORE



Wes Moore is the 63rd Governor of the state of Maryland. He is Maryland's first Black Governor in the state's 246-year history, and is just the third African American elected Governor in the history of the United States. Moore is a proud graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy and College, where he received an Associate's degree in 1998, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Afterward, he went on to earn his Bachelor's in international relations and economics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. While at Johns Hopkins, Moore interned in the office of former Baltimore

Mayor Kurt Schmoke. Moore was the first Black Rhodes Scholar in the history of Johns Hopkins University. As A Rhodes Scholar, he earned a Master's in international relations from Wolfson College at Oxford. In 2005, Moore deployed to Afghanistan as a captain with the 82nd Airborne Division, leading soldiers in combat. Immediately upon returning home, Moore served as a White House Fellow, advising on issues of national security and international relations. In 2010, Moore wrote "The Other Wes Moore," a story about the fragile nature of opportunity in America, which became a perennial New York Times bestseller. He went on to write other best-selling books that reflect on issues of race, equity, and opportunity, including his latest book "Five Days," which tells the story of Baltimore in the days that followed the death of Freddie Gray in 2015. Moore built and launched a Baltimore-based business called BridgeEdU, which reinvented freshman year of college for underserved students to increase their likelihood of long-term success. BridgeEdu was acquired by the Brooklyn-based student financial success platform, Edquity, in 2018. It was Moore's commitment to taking on our toughest challenges that brought him to the Robin Hood Foundation, where he served for four years as CEO. During his tenure, the Robin Hood Foundation distributed over \$600 million toward lifting families out of poverty, including here in Maryland. <https://www.facebook.com/govwesmoore> and [@govwesmoore](https://twitter.com/govwesmoore)

MICHAEL MULGREW



Michael Mulgrew is the fifth president of the United Federation of Teachers, which represents nearly 200,000 New York City public school educators and school-related professionals, as well as child care providers, nurses, adult education instructors, retired members and other titles and organizations. Re-elected to his fifth full term in spring 2022. Mulgrew won the automatic inclusion of full-time paraprofessionals into the Teachers' Retirement System. He forged a partnership with the UFT's state affiliate, New York State United Teachers, and our TRS trustees.

Mulgrew convincingly made the case in Albany for class-size reductions in New York City. He remains a relentless force for funding the city's public schools. The fiscal year 2023 New York State budget recorded historic levels of education funding. Leading a member-driven campaign, Mulgrew secured Paid Parental Leave for UFT-represented employees in a labor agreement that was the first of its kind in New York City. Under his leadership, the union has won contracts that raised educator pay and benefits, extended due process rights to paraprofessionals and expanded the authority of school-based UFT consultation committees. Mulgrew taught for 12 years at William E. Grady HS in Brooklyn, where he also served as chapter leader. A Staten Island native, he has degrees in English literature and special education from CUNY's College of Staten Island.

MARY CATHRYN RICKER, NBCT



Mary Cathryn Ricker is executive director of the Albert Shanker Institute. She is a National Board Certified middle school English/language arts teacher who has served as Minnesota's Commissioner of Education, as Executive vice-president of the American Federation of Teachers, and as president of the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, Local 28. Prior to her leadership outside of the classroom, Ricker was a classroom teacher for 13 years in Minnesota, Washington State, and South Korea. Her teaching and leadership have been recognized with a number of other honors, including receiving the Education Minnesota Peterson-Schaubach

Outstanding Leadership Award, qualifying as a semifinalist for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, and serving as a featured contributor in the Annenberg Foundation's national professional development series "Write in the Middle." She has spoken and written extensively about teaching and learning, professionalism, and human rights issues and her work has appeared in local and national publications. She has traveled to speak, teach, or study public education, the labor movement, and democracy, including in Europe, North and South America, and Western Asia/the Arabian peninsula. A native of Hibbing, Minnesota, she earned her undergraduate degree in English with a mathematics minor at the University of Saint Thomas, and completed graduate work in Teacher Leadership at the University of Minnesota. **@mcricker @shankerinst**

S. KWESI ROLLINS



Kwesi Rollins is Senior Vice President for Leadership and Engagement and Interim Director for the Coalition for Community Schools at the Institute for Educational Leadership. As a member of IEL's Senior Leadership Team, Rollins guides IEL's portfolio of programs designed to develop and support leaders with a particular emphasis on Family and Community Engagement, Early Childhood Education and Community-based Leadership Development. He directs the District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement and Leaders for Today and Tomorrow, an initiative that designs and delivers professional learning and

support opportunities for school and district leaders. Rollins has years of experience working with local communities and state agencies to improve cross-sector collaboration and service delivery systems supporting children, youth and families. He provided technical assistance and training to a range of state and county agencies, school districts, local schools and community-based organizations in projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. He has been recognized as the Big Brother of the Year in the District of Columbia and is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the National Capitol Area. He holds an MSW degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Social Work where he was a Maternal and Child Health Leadership Training Fellow.

Follow Kwesi on Twitter: @kwesibaby58

ELIZABETH H. SHULER



Elizabeth Shuler is president of the AFL-CIO, the democratic federation of 60 national and international unions that represent 12.5 million working people. Shuler is the first woman leader of America's labor movement. A visionary leader and longtime trade unionist, Shuler believes the labor movement is the single most powerful vehicle for progress and that unions are a central force in leading lasting societal transformations. She is committed to busting myths about labor, leveraging the labor movement's diversity for innovative approaches to social justice and making the

benefits of a union voice on the job available to working people everywhere. In 2009, Shuler became the first woman elected to the position of secretary-treasurer at an AFL-CIO convention and the youngest woman ever on the federation's Executive Council. As secretary-treasurer, she served as the chief financial officer, turning deficits into surpluses and steering the federation through multiple fiscal crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to her stewardship of the federation's finances, she led the AFL-CIO's initiatives on the future of work, retirement security, the clean energy economy, public safety reform, workforce development, and empowering women and young workers. Shuler is not afraid to think big, take risks and do things differently. She looks at technological change as an opportunity to strengthen worker voice and to carve new pathways for workers to learn skills and stay relevant in a changing economy. She knows digital tools can help workers organize in new and powerful ways, forge community alliances and advance issues that matter to working people. Shuler believes unions are the single greatest force for economic fairness and equality, and a collective bargaining agreement is the best tool for achieving justice for all working people, especially for women, immigrants and people of color. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon with a degree in journalism. @LizShuler

RANDI WEINGARTEN



Randi Weingarten is president of the 1.7 million-member AFT, 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. The AFT is dedicated to the belief that every person in America deserves the freedom to thrive, fueled by opportunity, justice and a voice in our democracy. This freedom is achieved through an economy that works for all, including the ability to form a union; great public schools and affordable higher education; healthcare as a right; retirement security; the right to vote and civil rights; a vibrant democracy; and safe, welcoming and healthy environments and communities. The AFT and its members advance these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through members' work. 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. Under Weingarten's leadership, the AFT continues to grow and expand its voice as a union of professionals. 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. Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the Cardozo School of Law. She is an active member of the Democratic National Committee and numerous professional, civic and philanthropic organizations. Weingarten's column "What Matters Most" appears in the *New York Times'* Sunday Review the third Sunday of each month. **Twitter at @rweingarten (Twitter.com/rweingarten) Facebook (Facebook.com/randi.weingarten.9).**

SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse represents Rhode Island in the U.S. Senate, where he champions policies to uphold American leadership in the world, protect our planet in a changing climate, and hold the powerful accountable. Whitehouse is the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and the Caucus on International Narcotics Control, and also serves as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, and the Finance Committee. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law, Sheldon served as Rhode Island's U.S. Attorney and

state attorney general before being elected to the Senate in 2006. He and his wife Sandra, a marine biologist and environmental advocate, live in Newport. They have two grown children.

@SenWhitehouse