

Conversation Series

The 2018 Elections: What Do They Mean For American Education?

Nov. 27, 2018 | Noon to 2 p.m.

JAHANA HAYES

Jahana Hayes, recipient of the 2016 National Teacher of the Year Award, is representative-elect from 5th Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives. A former social studies teacher at John F. Kennedy High School, Hayes currently serves as the Talent and Professional Development Supervisor for Waterbury Public Schools. She grew up in the Berkeley Heights housing project in Waterbury and was a teenage mother. She enrolled in Naugatuck Valley Community College, went on to get her four year degree at Southern Connecticut State University and her masters and advanced degrees from the University of Saint Joseph and University of Bridgeport, all while working to support her young family. Hayes currently lives in Wolcott with her husband, Detective Milford Hayes. They have four children.

DIANA HESS

Diana Hess became dean of UW-Madison's School of Education on Aug. 1, 2015. Hess, only the ninth dean of the School of Education since its founding in 1930, comes to this post after serving as senior vice president of the Spencer Foundation in Chicago since September 2011. The Spencer Foundation funds research to improve education policy and practice. Hess, however, is no stranger to UW-Madison. She first arrived on campus in 1999 to join the School's No. 1-ranked Department of Curriculum and Instruction as an assistant professor. She climbed the ranks, becoming an associate professor in 2005 and a full professor in 2009 before taking a leave from the university to work at Spencer. Since 1997, she has been researching how teachers engage their students in discussions of highly controversial political and constitutional issues, and what impact this approach to civic education has on what young people learn. Her first book on this topic, *Controversy in the Classroom: The Democratic Power of Discussion* won the National Council for the Social Studies Exemplary Research Award in 2009. Her most recent book, *The Political Classroom: Evidence and Ethics in Democratic Education*, co-authored with Paula McAvoy, won the American Educational Research Association's Outstanding Book Award in 2016 and the prestigious Grawemeyer Award in 2017. Also in 2017, Diana Hess was recognized by the National Council on Social Studies with Grambs Distinguished Career Award for Research. Professor Hess is deeply committed to working with teachers to improve the quality of democratic education in schools. To that end, she frequently keynotes conferences and leads professional development courses and workshops. Professor Hess serves on the board of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago and the iCivics Scholars Advisory Board. She holds a Ph D, Curriculum and Instruction in Social Studies, Educational Policy and Law from the University of Washington, an MA from the University of Illinois and a BA from Western Illinois University.

Sponsored by the Albert Shanker Institute and the American Federation of Teachers, this conversation series is designed to engender lively and informative discussions on important educational issues. We deliberately invite speakers with diverse per-spectives, including views other than those of the Albert Shanker Institute and the AFT. What is important is that these participants are committed to genuine engagement with each other.

DOMINGO MOREL

Domingo Morel is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, Newark. In 2018-2019, he will be a Visiting Scholar at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University. His research program and teaching portfolio focus on racial and ethnic politics, urban politics, education politics and public policy. He is the author of *Takeover: Race, Education, and American Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2018). He is also co-editor of *Latino Mayors: Power and Political Change in the Postindustrial City* (Temple University Press, 2018). In addition to his scholarship, Dr. Morel has years of applied experience in education, political affairs, and public policy. Prior to pursuing his Ph.D., he worked in higher education for special programs designed to provide college access and support services to students from traditionally underserved populations. He is also co-founder of the Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University and past president of the Rhode Island Latino Political Action Committee. He received his Ph.D. in political science from Brown University in 2014.

MICHAEL PETRILLI

Mike Petrilli is president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, executive editor of *Education Next*, and a Distinguished Senior Fellow for Education Commission of the States. An award-winning writer, he is the author of *The Diverse Schools Dilemma*, and editor of *Education for Upward Mobility*. Petrilli has published opinion pieces in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg View*, and *Slate*, and appears frequently on television and radio. Petrilli helped to create the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement, the Policy Innovators in Education Network, and, long, long ago, Young Education Professionals. He serves on the advisory boards of the Association of American Educators, MDRC, and Texas Aspires.

MICHELLE RINGUETTE

Michelle Ringuette is Assistant to the President of AFT, where she oversees the union's political and government relations work and efforts to advance a progressive agenda. She is a seasoned campaigner who has led national and international social, political and economic justice initiatives ranging from ALECexposed, which unveiled the matchmaking ALEC does between corporations and political organizations' such as the NRA's and hand picked state legislators to pass their "model bills" and carry their agenda; Amnesty International's #FreePussyRiot and UN Global Arms Treaty campaigns; and domestic efforts to pass the ACA, hold the financial sector accountable, stop gun violence and protect the reproductive rights and physical safety of women and girls. A former senior director for SEIU, Catholics for Choice and Amnesty International, she has designed and led communications & campaign trainings all over the world.

Ringuette co-founded and sits on the board of For Our Future, the nation's largest field SuperPAC & C4, and she serves on numerous boards and advisory committees, including GunsDown America, the State Innovation Exchange (SiX), SiX Action and Working America. Ringuette holds degrees in English and Philosophy from Boston College, and she conducted graduate work in psychology at Harvard University. She can frequently be found venting on Twitter @ringuette.

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. She is also president of the Albert Shanker Institute. Prior to her election as AFT president, Weingarten served for 12 years as president of the United Federation of Teachers, 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. In 2012-13, Weingarten served on an education reform commission convened by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, which made a series of recommendations to improve teaching and learning. She was appointed to the Equity and Excellence Commission, a federal advisory committee chartered by Congress to examine and make recommendations concerning the disparities in educational opportunities that give rise to the achievement gap. For 10 years, while president of the UFT, Weingarten chaired New York City's Municipal Labor Committee, an umbrella organization for the city's 100-plus public sector unions, including those representing higher education and other public service employees. As chair of the MLC, she coordinated labor negotiations and bargaining for benefits on behalf of the MLC unions' 365,000 members. From 1986 to 1998, Weingarten served as counsel to UFT president Sandra Feldman, taking a lead role in contract negotiations and enforcement. A teacher of history at Clara Barton High School in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood from 1991 to 1997, Weingarten helped her students win several state and national awards debating constitutional issues. Weingarten's column "What Matters Most" appears in the *New York Times*. Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the Cardozo School of Law.

Next Conversation: THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 | noon to 2:00 p.m. | Register: shankerinstitute.org/event/future-american-democracy

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