

## GOVERNORS' EDUCATION POLICY ADVISORS INSTITUTE

December 13-15, 2017 • Mondrian South Beach Hotel • 1100 West Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139

### Meeting Objectives:

GEPAs should leave the GEPA Institute with a firm understanding of:

- General trends in state plans, state exemplars to watch, next steps in the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the role of the governor throughout implementation.
- Best practices in social-emotional learning and the role the governor can play in leading on these issues.
- Specific state policy levers governors can employ to support the expansion of high-quality educational options within the state.
- The underpinnings for the current fragmented and disjointed early care and education governance and finance system, and innovative models that feature solutions.
- Best practices to develop and implement well-aligned, strategic human capital systems.

### Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

North Studio Foyer

#### Registration and Lunch



12:30 PM – 4:30 PM

2501 SW 32nd Terrace  
Pembroke Park FL,  
United States 33023

#### Optional Service Project: Feeding South Florida

*Closed-toed shoes required for participation.*

**Description:** Feeding South Florida rescues 46 million pounds of food per year to help serve the 710,370 individuals - 248,080 of whom are children - in South Florida struggling to put food on the table. They work with a network of approximately 400 nonprofit partner agencies, such as soup kitchens and food pantries, to ensure that food assistance is provided to throughout their quad-county service area. GEPA Institute attendees will support Feeding South Florida by inspecting and sorting donated food to ensure it is safe for distribution. **NGA t-shirts will be provided to all participants!**

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

South Studio

#### Registration

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

South Studio

#### Welcome Reception

*Business Casual Attire*



6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

South Studio

#### Opening Plenary Session—Dinner

*Business Casual Attire*

##### • Opening Remarks:

- Scott D. Pattison, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, National Governors Association
- Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Education Division Director, NGA Center

- **Keynote Speaker:** Andreas Schleicher, Director for the Directorate of Education and Skills, OECD

## Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Sunset Ballroom Foyer

### Registration

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM  
South Studio

### Buffet Breakfast



8:45 AM – 9:00 AM  
Sunset Ballroom

### Welcome and Overview

- **Welcome Remarks:** Scott D. Pattison, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, National Governors Association
- **Speaker:** Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Director, Education Division, NGA Center



9:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
Sunset Ballroom

### Session I: The Impact of State Policy on the Individual

**Speaker:** Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Director, Education Division, NGA Center



9:30 AM – 10:45 AM  
Sunset Ballroom

### Session II: The Rising Role of Social Emotional Learning

**Session Description:** Decades of research have demonstrated that student prospects improve when schools and providers support greater family involvement, healthy development, attendance, and overall wellness. This session will provide participants with concrete examples for how governors can increase access to a well-rounded, whole child education, including approaches for promoting social-emotional learning and best practices for engaging parents, families, and community and business leaders, as well as increasing employability in their respective states.

#### Moderator:

- Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Director, Education Division, NGA Center

#### Panelists:

- Governor John Engler, Commission Co-Chair, National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development, Aspen Institute; Governor of Michigan (1991-2003)
- Dr. Linda Dusenbury, Senior Research Scientist, CASEL
- Andre M. Perry, David M. Rubenstein Fellow - Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution
- Dr. Walter Gilliam, Director, Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy; Professor of Child Psychiatry and Psychology, Yale University Child Study Center

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM  
Sunset Ballroom

*Break*



11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Sunset Ballroom

### Session III: ESSA Update

**Session Description:** The passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) shifted a great deal of education-related authority from the federal government to back to the states, spurring states to redefine priorities and seek opportunities for innovation. With full implementation of accountability systems

in effect, and all state plans submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, this session will examine the trends within state plans, discuss state exemplars, explore the transition from planning to implementation and answer the question that everyone is thinking: So, what's next?

**Moderator:**

- Stephen Parker, Legislative Director, Education & Workforce Committee, Office of Government Relations, NGA

**Panelists:**

- Adam Ezring, Director of Policy, Collaborative for Student Success
- Lauren Burdette, Managing Director of Education Policy, Office of Governor, Illinois

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
*South Studio*

**Networking Lunch**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
*Sunset Ballroom*

**Session IV: Hot Topics**

**(1) State Innovations in Early Care and Education**

**Speaker:** Mandy Sorge, Policy Analyst, Education Division, NGA Center

**Session Description:** In this session, participants will learn more about states participating in the early care and education policy academies through the NGA. This session will also preview upcoming early care and education projects coming 2018.

**(2) The “Strong Start, Strong Finish” Plan for Early Care and Education**

**Speaker:** Jeannie Allen, Innovative Projects and Assessment Administrator, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

**Session Description:** During this session, participants will receive a brief overview of Alabama’s “Strong Start, Strong Finish” education initiative which is led by the Governor’s office. In particular, participants will learn about the launch of the P-3 Leadership Academy, which focuses on improving instructional leadership for pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade education.

**(3) Federal Update**

**Speaker:** Stephen Parker, Legislative Director, Education & Workforce Committee, Office of Government Relations, NGA

**Session Description:** In this session, participants will receive a brief overview of recent congressional and Administration actions in K-12 and Higher Education, including: updates from the 2018 budget and appropriations process, the status of reauthorization bills for the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, U.S. Department of Education review of ESSA state plans, and the potential for reauthorization of the Higher Education Act among other issues. This session will also provide an outlook for potential action during the



remainder of the 115th Congress and what impacts those actions may hold for states.

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM  
Sunset Ballroom

*Break*



2:15 PM – 3:15 PM  
Sunset Ballroom

**Session V: Expanding High-Quality Educational Options for All Students**

**Session Description:** In communities nationwide, public charter schools are meeting the increasing demand for high-quality educational options. However, the complex topic of school choice has evolved into one of the most heavily debated conversations in education, driven further by the increased federal focus on school choice. Instead of viewing school choice through the lens of charters vs. traditional public schools, governors can help to change the narrative by supporting policy conditions that increase access to high-quality educational options, charter or traditional, for all students. This session will explore several state levers, tied to specific state examples, that support the expansion high-quality educational options.

**Speaker:** Linda Darling-Hammond, President, Learning Policy Institute

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM  
Sunset Ballroom

*Break*



3:30 PM – 4:30 PM  
Sunset Ballroom

**Session VI: Veteran GEPAs: Voices from the Forefront**

**Session Description:** This panel offers GEPAs the opportunity to hear from their peers! Veteran GEPAs will discuss challenges and lessons learned from their time in the governor’s office. GEPAs should come prepared to absorb sage advice and tips for success. GEPAs will also learn about new tools and technical assistance from NGA Center’s Education Division.

**Moderator:**

- Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Director Division, Education, NGA Center

**Panelists:**

- Liz Donohue, Director of Policy, Office of the Governor, Connecticut
- Dr. Dietra Trent, Secretary of Education, Office of the Governor, Virginia
- Siri Smillie, Policy Advisor for Education, Office of the Governor, Montana



5:30 PM – 9:00 PM  
Miami Lady—Island  
Queen Cruises

**Dinner, Drinks and Ed Talk—Dinner Cruise**

*Casual Attire*

- **Keynote Speaker:** Sydney Chaffee, 2017 National Teacher of the Year
- **Speaker:** Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Director, Education Division, NGA Center

**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 AM – 11:00 AM  
Sunset Ballroom Foyer

**Registration**

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM  
South Studio

**Buffet Breakfast**

8:30 AM – 8:35 AM  
Sunset Ballroom

**Welcome and Review**

**Speaker:** Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Director, Education Division, NGA Center

8:35 AM - 9:15 AM  
Sunset Ballroom

**Morning Plenary Session**

- **Keynote Speaker:** Governor Jack Markell, Governor of Delaware (2009 – 2017)
- **Speaker:** Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Director, Education Division, NGA Center



9:15 AM – 10:15 AM  
Sunset Ballroom

**Session VII: Financing Early Care and Education**

**Session Description:** The Early Care and Education System of Governance and Finance has historically been plagued by fragmentation due to the multitude of policies and funding streams that are blended and braided to provide comprehensive services to children birth through age five. This fragmentation often leads to duplication and administrative burden that further complicates this diverse set of programs and services. Researchers and policymakers are recognizing this challenge and are beginning to work toward -providing a more unified system of governance and finance for our youngest children. This session will highlight some states who are making large strides in making policy and infrastructure changes that truly support children and families, as well as teachers and leaders.

**Moderator:**

- Beth Caron, Early Education Program Director, Education Division, NGA Center

**Panelists:**

- Brittany Birken, Executive Director, Florida Children’s Services Council
- RaShelle Davis, Education Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, Washington

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM  
Sunset Ballroom

*Break and Checkout*



10:30 AM- 11:30 AM  
Sunset Ballroom

**Session VIII: Creating a Cohesive Human Capital System**

**Session Description:** States are confronted with a patchwork of policies that silo the various components of the educator continuum – recruitment, preparation, certification, support and retention – into separate initiatives. With direct authority over the myriad programs and policies that influence teacher and principal quality, governors are uniquely positioned to address gaps in these systems. This session will elevate human capital system management best practices and provide tools to identify alignment across policies to better improve teacher and principal quality and build GEPAs’ capacity to move beyond patchwork human capital efforts, reduce program and resource duplication, and improve the coherence of policies and programs.

**Moderator:**

- Seth Gerson, Program Director, Education Division, NGA Center

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Bryan Hassel, Co-President, Public Impact

- Holly Coy, Deputy Secretary of Education, Office of Governor Terry McAuliffe, Virginia
- Christopher Ruzkowski, Secretary of Education, New Mexico Public Education Department

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
*Sunset Ballroom*

**Closing Keynote and Final Remarks**

- **Closing Keynote:** Scott Palmer, Managing Partner and Co-Founder, EdCounsel
- **Final Remarks:** Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Director, Education Division, NGA Center