

SPEAKERS

James Applegate

James L. Applegate serves as Vice President for Strategic Impact at Lumina Foundation. In this role, he leads in increasing the impact of the Foundation's funding programs supporting achievement of Goal 2025 to dramatically increase educational attainment in the U.S, especially for low income, first generation, minority, and adult students. Prior to joining Lumina in 2008, he served as Senior Fellow and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education from 1999 through 2008. As chief academic officer in Kentucky, he coordinated statewide initiatives supporting institutional engagement in a public agenda for higher education that over the decade produced improvements in state college attainment that were among the best in the nation. Jim was also a Professor of Communication at the University of Kentucky. He was elected President of the National Communication Association, the world's largest association of communication scholars. Jim earned his B.A from Georgetown College in Kentucky as well as an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

Nathan Deal

Nathan Deal took the oath of office as Georgia's 82nd Governor on January 10, 2011. The governor's top goal is making Georgia the No. 1 place in the nation to do business, a goal he's strived toward by creating the Competitiveness Initiative, reforming our tax code and recruiting businesses to relocate here. Gov. Deal's public service to his state spans four decades. The Sandersville native served in the U.S. Army at Fort Gordon in Augusta after graduating with a law degree from Mercer University, and then began a private law practice in Gainesville. During his 17 years in Congress, Deal rose to chair the Health Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, where he became a noted expert on entitlement reform and health care policy. Deal ended his congressional career to campaign for governor, becoming the Republican nominee in August 2010 and then winning the governorship in November of that year.

Henry Huckaby

In May of 2011, the Board of Regents selected Henry "Hank" M. Huckaby as the University System's 12th chancellor. He oversees 31 public colleges and universities with a \$6.5 billion annual budget and 43,000 faculty and staff fulfilling the teaching, research, and public service mission to 314,000 students. Huckaby emphasizes performance, partnerships and values as he works to build strong public and political support for the University System's contributions to the state's economic future and individual success. Prior to becoming Chancellor, Huckaby was a teacher and administrator in the University System, served in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and represented Georgia House District 113 as a Republican. He serves on the Alliance of Education Agency Heads and also as a trustee of Young Harris College, where he earned an associate's degree. Huckaby earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgia State University. He continued his education through additional graduate studies at the University of Georgia.

Ronald Jackson

Ronald Jackson is commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), the state agency that administers Georgia's twenty-five state technical colleges, which serve more than 190,000 students annually. He also oversees Quick Start, a workforce training program that is consistently rated the best in the nation, and the state Office of Adult Education, which last year delivered adult learning and GED testing programs to almost 100,000 Georgians. Commissioner Jackson is a current member of the board of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the State Workforce Investment Board, as well as an active member of a number of national professional associations. He also serves on the Alliance of Education Agency Heads for Georgia.

Stan Jones

Following three decades successfully reforming higher education in Indiana as Commissioner of Higher Education, state legislator, and senior advisor to the governor, Stan Jones founded Complete College America in order to build a network of states committed to substantially increasing the number of Americans with a postsecondary credential. Mr. Jones began his longstanding commitment to education in 1974, when, at the age of 24, he was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. As a member of both the House Education and State Budget committees, he developed expertise in higher education and higher-education finance. Stan served 16 years in the Indiana State Legislature and more than five years as a senior advisor to Governor Evan Bayh. His service as Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education spanned 12 years and the tenure of four different governors from both political parties.

Patrick Kelly

Patrick Kelly is a Senior Associate at the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS). He also serves as Director of the NCHEMS Information Center for State Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis and works on many projects applying research and policy analysis to link higher education with the critical needs of states and their residents. He presents his work to a variety of audiences including higher education researchers and policy analysts, State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEOs) and their staffs, and other state policymakers. Before joining NCHEMS in February 2002, Patrick worked for six years at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. His most recent position at the council was Senior Associate for Information and Research. Patrick completed his Ph.D. in Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Louisville where he also earned a Master's degree in Sociology.

Joan Lord

Joan M. Lord is Vice President of Education Policies at the Southern Regional Education Board. She works closely with SREB's Challenge to Lead 2020 goals effort and coordinates a series of reports on the progress of SREB states in meeting the new six education goals. She also directs SREB's Go Alliance, a partnership of SREB states that promotes high school completion and college access through outreach and communications. She oversees the work of SREB's Doctoral Scholars program, the Education Technology Cooperative, Education Data Services and Information Technology. She joined SREB in 2001.

Tricia Pridemore

Tricia Pridemore was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to the Governor's Office of Workforce Development in September of 2011. As Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, Pridemore oversees workforce investment activities and spearheads Georgia's skilled trade initiative – Go Build Georgia. Pridemore is a Marietta-based businesswoman with a background in technology and consulting companies. She serves on the Georgia World Congress Center Board of Governors and the WellStar Hospitals Foundation Board. Pridemore co-chaired Governor Deal's Inaugural Committee and was a member of his Transition team. Pridemore earned a bachelor's degree from Kennesaw State University.

Nicole Smith

Nicole Smith is a Research Professor and Senior Economist at the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University. Dr. Smith leads the Center's econometric and methodological work. Prior to joining the Center, Dr. Smith was a faculty member in Economics at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, and at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Dr. Smith received her B.Sc. in Economics and Mathematics from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, and she received her Ph.D. in Economics from American University.

Vincent Tinto

Vincent Tinto received his Ph.D. in education and sociology from The University of Chicago. He is currently Distinguished University Professor of Sociology at Syracuse University. He has carried out research and has written extensively on higher education, particularly on student retention and the impact of learning communities on student growth and attainment. He serves on the editorial boards of several journals and with various organizations and professional associations concerned with higher education. He chaired the national panel responsible for awarding \$5 million to establish the first national center for research on teaching and learning in higher education and served as Associate Director of the \$6 million National Center on Postsecondary Teaching, Learning, and Assessment funded by the U.S. Office of Education. He also works with the American Association of Community Colleges, the Council for Opportunity in Education, the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Education, and the European Access Network to develop programs to promote access to higher education for disadvantaged youth in the United States and Europe.

Judy Wertheim

Judy Wertheim, Vice President for Higher Education Services, oversees The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning's (CAEL) work with colleges, universities, consortia, and state systems to help adults return to school. She has presented workshops on prior learning assessment, the adult learning focused institution, and adult advising and has consulted about strategies to help adults continue their education. From 1980 – 2006, Judy was at Indiana University's School of Continuing Studies, where she most recently was interim dean for the university-wide school and held the rank of professor. Her responsibilities included General Studies undergraduate degree programs; the master's degree program in Adult Education; the Indiana University high school program; distance courses at the high-school, undergraduate, and graduate levels; and professional development programs. Judy's bachelor's degree is from Wellesley College; her master's degree and doctorate are from Rutgers-The State University.

Chris Clark

Chris Clark was named President and CEO of the Georgia Chamber in November 2010. Since that time, he has led the Chamber through one of the most business-friendly legislative sessions in the state's history, refocused its attention on investor services and economic development, and developed a plan for the future that will help to ensure the competitiveness of businesses throughout the state for decades to come. A Georgia native, Chris has served as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Deputy Commissioner for Global Trade for the Georgia Department of Economic Development. He began his career as President of the Hawkinsville Chamber of Commerce after graduating from Georgia Southern University and receiving his master's degree in public administration from Georgia College and State University.