

Finding the Keynote Speakers

2018 National Title I Conference Philadelphia, PA



1. [Linda Darling-Hammond](#)

Linda Darling-Hammond is Charles E. Ducommun professor of education at Stanford University, where she has launched the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education and the School Redesign Network and served as faculty sponsor for the Stanford Teacher Education Program. She is a former president of the American Educational Research Association and member of the National Academy of Education.



2. [Linda Cliatt-Wayman](#)

Linda Cliatt-Wayman is a passionate educator with an unwavering belief in the potential of all children. Her leadership as a high school principal in North Philadelphia has been featured by TED, ABC World News Tonight and Nightline. Wayman grew up in poverty in North Philadelphia, where she experienced firsthand the injustice being perpetrated against poor students in their education. She has dedicated her career and her life to ending that injustice and to helping students succeed in school and beyond.



3. [Vicki Phillips](#)

Vicki Phillips is the college-ready education director for Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, overseeing work to ensure American high school students graduate ready to succeed and to improve access to college. She was previously superintendent of Portland Public Schools and before that, Pennsylvania secretary of education and the state's chief state school officer. Phillips previously served at the state level in her home state of Kentucky, helping to implement the sweeping changes demanded by the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990. She has worked with the US Department of Education and has been a middle and high school teacher.



4. [Gloria Ladson-Billings](#)

Gloria Ladson-Billings is the Kellner Family Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the 2005-2006 president of the American Educational Research Association. Her research examines the pedagogical practices of teachers who are successful with African American students. Gloria Ladson-Billings also investigates Critical Race Theory applications to education. The author of the critically acclaimed books, *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children* and *Crossing Over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms*, she has also written numerous journal articles and book chapters.



5. [Eddy Zhong](#)

Eddy Zhong, successful technology entrepreneur, dives into the truth behind our K-12 education system. Eddy strongly believes that the education system diminishes creativity and confines children to a certain path towards success. He contends that kids are taught to believe college is a necessary step in life and that it is mandatory to achieve one's goals. His talk challenges the commonly held beliefs of our entire education structure. Eddy is the founder of Leangap, a summer program that helps high school students start their own companies. Eddy is an aspiring technology entrepreneur and the founder of Blanc, a smart-watch company based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His ideas have been featured in numerous publications and he is passionate about empowering youth to think differently. Eddy is the founder of Leangap, a summer program that helps high school students start their own companies



6. [Rahm Emanuel](#)

What about this? → Enlist the Mayor of Chicago to facilitate a Panel of Educators (State Chief, School Superintendent, Principal, and Teacher)

This is an interesting [article](#) that could be a really excellent panel discussion keynote for the Philadelphia conference. What if we tried to get Rahm Emanuel to moderate a panel including a principal, a superintendent, a teacher and a state chief all talking about the importance of great principals and how best to develop them?

Contacts to secure panel members:

- State Chief (Peter Zamora, CCSSO)
- School Superintendent (Noelle Ellerson, AASA)
- Principal (Kelly Pollitt, NAESP)—maybe Principal Gregory Jones, Kenwood HS, Chicago, IL?
- Teacher (Dani Steuber, CCSSO NTOY)

Rahm Emanuel bio: Born in Chicago, Emanuel is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and Northwestern University. Working early in his career in Democratic politics, Emanuel was appointed as director of the finance committee for Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign. In 1993, he joined the Clinton administration, where he served as the assistant to the president for political affairs and as the senior advisor to the president for policy and strategy before resigning, in 1998. Beginning a career in finance, Emanuel worked at the investment bank Wasserstein Perella & Co. from 1998 for 2½ years and served on the board of directors of Freddie Mac.

In 2002, Emanuel ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives vacated by Rod Blagojevich, who resigned to become governor of Illinois. Emanuel won the first of three terms representing Illinois's 5th congressional district, a seat he held from 2003 to 2009. During his tenure in the House, Emanuel held two Democratic leadership positions, serving as the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee from 2005 to 2007 and as the chair of the House Democratic Caucus, from 2007 to 2009. After the 2008 presidential election, President Barack Obama appointed Emanuel to serve as White House chief of staff.

In October 2010, Emanuel resigned as chief of staff to run as a candidate in Chicago's 2011 mayoral election. Because of questions over his eligibility to run for mayor, Emanuel's candidacy was initially rejected by the Illinois First District Appellate Court, though he was later found eligible to run in a unanimous decision by the Supreme Court of Illinois. Emanuel won with 55% of the vote over five other candidates in the nonpartisan mayoral election, succeeding 22-year incumbent Richard M. Daley.



Principal Gregory Jones, Kenwood HS, Chicago, IL

Dr. Gregory Jones is the principal of Kenwood Academy High School, which serves more than 1,800 students. As the principal of Kenwood Academy High School, he has worked to design and implement a comprehensive instructional program that serves all students. Known as the Growth & Equity Model, students are taught at their instructional levels. Thus, teachers spend a considerable amount of time designing curricula, readings, and related activities to meet the needs of individual and cohorts of students. This instructional program is horizontally and vertically aligned. As a result, all students receive intentional reading and writing instruction. Early signs are promising, and the school's on-track to graduation rates and reading scores have increased.



7. [Marian Wright Edelman](#)

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the [Children's Defense Fund \(CDF\)](#), has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families. The Children's Defense Fund's Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.



8. [Salome Thomas EL](#)

Salome Thomas-EL is an award-winning teacher and principal, and internationally recognized speaker and educator. Principal EL believes that resilient leaders make courageous decisions, take risks, and challenge the status quo. They are able to bounce back from adversity to become innovative and transformational to ensure all teachers and students achieve their dreams, no matter the odds. Transformational leaders shift mindsets and inspire others to effect change. In his thought-provoking presentations, Principal EL shares how we can change school cultures and foster a positive school climate so teachers and leaders can focus on the protective processes that build resilience in all of our students. Principal EL is currently a K-8 school leader in Wilmington, Delaware and speaks to groups around the world. He has addressed over 100,000 teachers, administrators, school staff, board members, parents, students and community members in the United States, Canada, Nigeria, Trinidad, England, Jamaica, and The Virgin Islands. Principal EL is the author of two best-selling books and frequently appears on The Dr. Oz show, C-SPAN, CNN, and NPR radio. He was honored as an “Inspiring American Icon” in Reader’s Digest Magazine and appeared on the Oprah Radio Network.



9. [Vice President Joe Biden](#)

One of the youngest people ever elected to the U.S. Senate, Biden served as a Senator from Delaware for 36 years, establishing himself as a leader on many of the nation’s most important global and domestic challenges. Over the course of his more than four decades of public service, he has represented the U.S. in every region of the world. As the nation’s 47th Vice President, Biden continued his leadership on important issues facing the nation. A close advisor to President Barack Obama on international affairs,

Vice President Biden has represented our country in every region of the world, developed deep relationships with numerous world leaders, and demonstrating U.S. commitment through high-level, face-to-face diplomacy. He was the Obama Administration's point person for diplomacy within the Western Hemisphere, working to realize his vision of a Hemisphere that is "middle class, secure, and democratic, from Canada to Chile and everywhere in between."

Vice President Joe Biden to Lead the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement.

[Biden will have an office on the University of Pennsylvania campus in Philadelphia.]

"At Penn, I look forward to building on the work that has been a central pillar of my career in public office: promoting and protecting the post-WWII international order that keeps the United States safe and strong. The Penn Biden Center and I will be engaging with Penn's wonderful students while partnering with its eminent faculty and global centers to convene world leaders, develop and advance smart policy, and impact the national debate about how America can continue to lead in the 21st Century."



10. [Tara Brown](#)

Tara Brown has been an educator since 1985 and has worked in urban, rural and metropolitan areas across the nation, primarily with under-resourced youth. She has presented Keynotes, Trainings and Workshops both nationally and internationally, on numerous topics relating to Brain and Social/Emotional Research as well as Human performance. Tara Brown is a passionate and dynamic trainer who motivates her participants to be the finest educators and advocates for students. Through her wonderful sense of humor and use of real world situations, Tara diligently equips the audience with creative and meaningful tools in order to reach all students. She is respected and admired by her audience. The outpour of positive feedback is an indicator of her engaging personality and expertise in her field. Tara's keynote speeches and workshop presentations are always enthusiastically received at conferences and by teacher, administrator, parent, and youth organizations. One key reason is that Tara works closely with each organization to tailor a program addressing the specific needs of that audience. [NOTE: Tara Brown presented a 3-hour breakout session at the 2017 National Title I Conference in Long Beach and received a standing ovation from a standing-room-only crowd.]



11. [Dorinda Carter Andrews](#)

Dorinda Carter Andrews is assistant dean of equity outreach initiatives for the College of Education and associate professor of race, culture and equity in the Department of Teacher Education. She is also a core faculty member in the African American and African Studies Program and co-director of the Graduate Urban Education Certificate Program. Her teaching and research focus on race and equity in education, urban teacher preparation and identity development, black student racial and achievement ideologies, and critical race praxis with in-service educators. She utilizes qualitative methodologies and critical theories to inform her work. Carter Andrews is co-editor of "Contesting the Myth of a Post-Racial Era: The Continued Significance of Race in U.S. Education" (2013) and is a 2014 recipient of the Early Career Contribution Award from the Committee on Scholars of Color in Education of the American Educational Research Association. She has given two TEDx talks, "[The Consciousness Gap in Education](#)" and "[Teach Kids to be Eagles.](#)" Her work has been published in several academic journals, including Harvard Educational Review and Teachers College Record.



12. [Doug Lemov](#)

Doug Lemov is the Managing Director of Uncommon Schools' Teach Like a Champion team. He is the author of the international bestseller *Teach Like a Champion*, a study of high performing urban teachers to make their methods concrete and replicable. It has sold nearly 1,000,000 copies and been translated into eight languages. Doug is also the author of the revised and upgraded *Teach Like a Champion 2.0*, *Practice Perfect* (co-written with Uncommon colleagues Erica Woolway and Katie Yezzi) and *Reading Reconsidered: A Practical Guide to Rigorous Literacy Instruction* (co-written with Uncommon colleagues Erica Woolway and Colleen Driggs). Prior to his work at Uncommon Schools, Doug was the Vice President for Accountability at the State University of New York's Charter Schools Institute and a founder and principal of the Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter School in Boston. He has a B.A. from Hamilton College, an M.A. from Indiana University, and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.



13. [Hill Harper](#) (invitation to keynote has been sent)

Frank Eugene Harper (born May 17, 1966), known professionally as [Hill Harper](#), is an American film, television and stage actor, and author. He is best known for his nine-season role as Dr. Sheldon Hawkes on the CBS police procedural television series "CSI: NY". CBS announced that Harper will be joining the cast of *Limitless*. He is playing the role of Special Agent Spelman Boyle. The show started airing on CBS in the fall of 2015. Harper is the author of several books: *Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny*, was published in 2006, *Letters to a Young Sister: DeFINE Your Destiny*, was published in 2008; *The Conversation: How (Black) Men and Women Can Build Loving, Trusting Relationships*, was published in 2010. His fourth book, *The Wealth Cure: Putting Money in Its Place*, was published in 2011, and his fifth book, *Letters to an Incarcerated Brother: Encouragement, Hope, and Healing for Inmates and Their Loved Ones* was published in 2013. Harper endorsed the [10,000 Bookbags](#) back to school backpack campaign to help local disadvantaged children with Urban Change Ministries founder Pastor Jay Cameron of the Life Center and R&B singer Ginuwine.



14. [John King](#) (invitation to keynote has been sent)

John B. King Jr., who served as education secretary during the last year of Barack Obama's presidency, has a new job: He will become the new president and chief executive of the Education Trust, an organization that advocates for vulnerable students and supports many of the education policies

embraced by the Obama administration. “The driving mission behind all my work in education has been a commitment to ensure educational opportunity for the students who are most vulnerable,” said King, who has frequently said that New York public school teachers “saved his life” by turning school into a refuge after his parents died when he was young. The new position gives King a platform to advocate for the needs of disadvantaged children in the states that gained new authority over schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act, which followed No Child Left Behind.