



Advancing a Statewide College- and Career-Readiness Agenda

October 1-2, 2012

Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport
Atlanta, GA

About Event Sponsors

The James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) appreciates the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Lumina Foundation.



Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.

The Lumina Foundation is committed to enrolling and graduating more students from college. In fact, we are the nation's largest foundation dedicated exclusively to increasing students' access to and success in postsecondary education. Our mission is defined by Goal 2025—to increase the percentage of Americans who hold high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025.

Welcome from the James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy and the Southern Regional Education Board

Welcome to *Advancing a Statewide College- and Career-Readiness Agenda*. The Hunt Institute and SREB are proud to co-host this event, which will provide a valuable opportunity to gain insight into the specific policies, strategies, and partnerships needed to ensure all students are prepared to succeed in postsecondary education.

Up to 70 percent of high school graduates are not ready for postsecondary coursework and often require remedial education. This is the first barrier many students face on their path to completing a postsecondary degree or credential, and research has found that students in remedial courses are significantly less likely to graduate. These courses are costly to students, postsecondary institutions, and states. A statewide comprehensive college- and career-readiness initiative—with strong alignment of K-12 and postsecondary education—is essential to ensuring students are prepared for postsecondary success.

During our time together, we will hone in on a number of the critical components that shape a successful initiative, including defining and measuring the knowledge and skills students need for postsecondary success, instituting assessment and accountability systems to track student and school progress, and creating supports to help students who are in danger of falling behind. To inform our discussions, a number of your colleagues from states with established initiatives will help facilitate the exchange of ideas and strategies.

We challenge each of you to consider ways that your states, organizations, and institutions can work together to improve opportunities for all students. Let's ensure our students graduate ready for success.



Judith A. Rizzo

Executive Director and CEO

James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational
Leadership and Policy



Dave Spence

President

Southern Regional Education Board

Agenda	Monday, October 1	
10:30-11:30 AM	Brunch	Lobby South
11:30-11:45	Welcome Judith A. Rizzo , <i>Executive Director and CEO, James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy</i>	Concourse A
11:45-1:15 PM	Session I: Elements of a Statewide College- and Career-Readiness Agenda Based on its regional work and experience in a number of states through the <i>Strengthening Statewide College/Career Readiness Initiative (SSCRI)</i> , SREB has developed a comprehensive model readiness agenda. Participants will learn about the specific policies, partnerships and strategies of the model and will be invited to reflect on their own state's work to close the college- and career-readiness gap. Resource Expert Dave Spence , <i>President of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)</i>	Concourse A
1:15-2:15	Session II: A Shared Definition of College- and Career-Readiness for K-12 and Higher Education The SREB model is based on the premise that the same readiness standards should be approved and used by both K-12 and postsecondary education. Kentucky's <i>Unified Strategy for College and Career Readiness</i> , or <i>Senate Bill 1</i> , instituted sweeping changes across K-12 and higher education to bring about long-term improvements in the college- and career-readiness of Kentucky's students. Kentucky leaders will speak to the importance of having one set of readiness standards and share their experiences in bringing K-12 and higher education together in aligning and integrating the standards at all levels of education. Moderator: Mike J. Petrilli , <i>Executive Vice President, Thomas B. Fordham Institute</i> Resource Experts: Terry Holliday , <i>Commissioner of Education, Kentucky</i> Robert L. King , <i>President, Council on Postsecondary Education, Kentucky</i> Joseph U. Meyer , <i>Secretary of Education and Workforce Development, Kentucky</i>	Concourse A
2:15-2:30	Break	
2:30-4:00	Session III: Setting the Bar and Using It To ensure student readiness, states need to create assessment and accountability systems that measure whether a student is prepared to enter credit-bearing postsecondary course work and determine placement. In response to legislative direction, Texas officials worked with Pearson to set college-readiness cut scores for English/Language Arts and mathematics, beginning in third grade. Panelists will discuss how Texas brought together business, higher education, and K-12 leaders to set the performance and accountability measures. Moderator: Sandy Kress , <i>Senior Counsel, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP</i> Resource Experts: Lizzette Reynolds , <i>Chief Deputy Commissioner of Policy and Programs, Texas Education Agency</i> Bill Hammond , <i>President and CEO, Texas Association of Business & Chambers of Commerce (TAB/TABCC)</i> David W. Gardner , <i>Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy and Chief Academic Officer, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</i>	Concourse A

Agenda Monday, October 1 (cont.)		
4:15-5:00 PM	State Working Session Participants from each state will discuss information and ideas from the day's sessions, reflecting on their own state context.	Davinci I Davinci II Concourse A
6:00-6:30	Reception	Lobby South
6:30-8:30	Dinner	Shannon

Agenda Tuesday, October 2		
7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast	Lobby South
8:00-8:15	Welcome and Review of the Day Judith A. Rizzo	Concourse A
8:15-9:45	Session IV: Strategies for Supporting Students Students who, based on 11 th -grade assessments, aren't on track for college readiness, will need targeted course work and instruction. Florida designed and implemented transitional 12 th -grade courses for those students and prepared instructors to deliver courses that propel students to readiness. North Carolina is also putting systems in place to identify and address remediation needs in K-12 and postsecondary institutions. Moderator: Martha R. Reichrath, <i>Deputy State Superintendent of Schools, Georgia</i> Resource Experts: Joe H. Pickens, <i>President, St. Johns River State College, Florida</i> Rebecca Garland, <i>Chief Academic Officer, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction</i> Cynthia D. Liston, <i>Associate Vice President for Policy Research and Special Projects, North Carolina Community College System</i>	Concourse A
9:45-10:00	Break	
10:00-11:15	State Working Session Participants from each state will discuss information and ideas from the day's sessions, reflecting on their own state context.	Davinci I Davinci II Concourse A
11:30-12:00 PM	Concluding Remarks Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. <i>Chairman, James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy</i> <i>Governor of North Carolina (1977-1985; 1993-2001)</i> Introduction By Dave Spence	Concourse A
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch	Lobby South

Event Co-Chairs



Judith A. Rizzo, Ed.D.

Executive Director and CEO, James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy

In 2002, Dr. Judith A. Rizzo became the first executive director and CEO of the James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy. She is responsible for growing the Hunt Institute into a national resource for governors, legislators, and other political, business, and education leaders, supporting their development and implementation of effective education policies and programs.

Prior to joining the Institute, she served as the deputy chancellor for instruction at the New York City Board of Education. One of Rizzo's primary innovations as the chief educational officer for the nation's largest school system was the *Chancellor's District*, created to provide direct oversight of the city's lowest-performing schools and remove them from control of community school districts. Under her leadership, the *Extended Time School (ETS)* model and the *Early Childhood Language Assessment System (ECLAS)* were designed and implemented. She also initiated the reform of NYC's special education and bilingual programs, and introduced the *Performance Assessment of Schools System-wide (PASS)*, a process designed to guide the development of school-based planning and accountability.

Dr. Rizzo has been on the front lines of public education reform efforts in cities across the country. During her career, she has been a teacher, supervisor, director of professional development, principal, deputy superintendent, and led the court-ordered programmatic implementation of the desegregation effort in Boston, MA.



Dave Spence, Ph.D.

President, Southern Regional Education Board

Dr. Dave Spence became the president of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in 2005. Prior to SREB, he served as executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer of the California State University (CSU) system. While at CSU, he helped California public schools and the CSU system develop courses for high school seniors and a college-readiness assessment.

Dr. Spence's career has included positions as executive director of the Florida Postsecondary Education Planning Commission, executive vice chancellor for the University System of Georgia, and executive vice chancellor and vice chancellor for academic programs at the State University System of Florida. In the mid-1980s, he served as vice president for educational policies at SREB, working directly with the SREB Commission for Educational Quality to develop the South's first formal goals for improving education. The goals were a model for President George H. W. Bush and the nation's governors when they established national education goals in 1989.

In devoting considerable time with state leaders to encourage readiness initiatives, Dr. Spence wrote about how states should address the issue as a contributor to the book, *Minding the Gap: Why Integrating High School with College Makes Sense and How to Do It*, and in national publications such as *Education Week*. He received his master's degree from State University of New York and doctorate from SUNY/Buffalo.

Special Guest



Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.

*Chairman, James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy
Former Governor, North Carolina 1977-1985 | 1993-2001*

Former Governor Jim Hunt is a nationally recognized leader in education and led his state through 20 years of dramatic economic change. Serving a historic four terms as governor, Hunt has been at the forefront of education reform in his state and in the nation. The Rand Corporation reports that North Carolina public schools improved test scores more than any other state in the 1990s. Governor Hunt called for them to be “first in America” by 2010 in his book, *First in America: An Education Governor Challenges North Carolina*. To further this mission, he chairs the board of the James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy.

As governor, Hunt focused on early childhood development and improving the quality of teaching in America. During the last 20 years, he has devoted much of his time to excellence in teaching in the United States. A strong supporter of high standards in public schools, Hunt has served as chairman of the National Education Goals Panel and vice chairman of the board of Achieve, Inc. He put into place in North Carolina one of the nation’s most rigorous approaches to measuring student performance, requiring mastery for promotion and graduation, and providing assistance to turn around failing schools. In 2006, he was named one of the most influential people in American education in a study released by the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center—publisher of *Education Week*, *Teacher Magazine*, and *edweek.org*. In 2010, he received the *Frank E. Taplin Public Intellectual Award* from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation for his extraordinary contributions to public cultural and intellectual life.

Resource Experts



David W. Gardner, Ph.D.

Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy and Chief Academic Officer, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

As deputy commissioner for academic planning and policy and chief academic officer at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Dr. David W. Gardner oversees the divisions of Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research; Planning and Accountability; and P-16 Initiatives. His primary responsibilities include coordination of the Board's efforts toward *Closing the Gaps by 2015* through academic excellence and research at Texas institutions of higher education.

Prior to joining the Coordinating Board, Dr. Gardner was on the faculty at Hofstra University where he taught in the graduate program of the Administration and Policy Studies Department. While there, he was director of the master's program, chaired the University's planning committee, and served on the graduate council and scholarships committee. Dr. Gardner holds a doctorate and master's degree from Texas A&M University and a bachelor's from the University of Houston.



Rebecca Garland, Ed.D.

Chief Academic Officer, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Dr. Rebecca Garland is the chief academic officer for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). Before assuming this position, Dr. Garland served as the executive director of the North Carolina State Board of Education. In her 30 plus years in education, she has also been a teacher in the Harnett County School System, a NCDPI consultant in content and gifted education, a director of middle schools, arts and gifted education for Alamance-Burlington Schools, and an associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction for Orange County Schools.

Dr. Garland serves on a number of boards and commissions and is active in many education organizations. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and holds a master's degree from Campbell University and a doctorate from North Carolina State University.



Bill Hammond

President and CEO, Texas Association of Business

Bill Hammond is president and CEO of the Texas Association of Business & Chambers of Commerce (TAB/TABCC), where he has worked effectively to ensure a strong pro-business tax and regulatory climate in Texas. His proven track record of leadership in support of Texas business includes the pursuit of worker's compensation reform and building broad-based coalitions to successfully advocate for quality pre-kindergarten education, greater transparency and accountability in K-12 public education, and for much needed reforms to the state's higher education system.

Prior to joining TAB/TABCC, Hammond was chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission, appointed by then-Governor George W. Bush. During the 1980s, he served four terms in the Texas House of Representatives where he authored the *Texas Education Agency Sunset Bill*, and was named one of the state's top 10 legislators by *Texas Monthly* and *Dallas Morning News*. Hammond was also the owner and president of Dallas Tent and Awning Company.

Resource Experts



Terry Holliday, Ph.D.

Commissioner of Education, Kentucky

Selected as Kentucky's fifth commissioner of education in 2009, Dr. Terry Holliday served as superintendent of the Iredell-Statesville (NC) School District from 2002 to 2009. Under his leadership, the District received the 2008 *Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award* for demonstrating quality and performance excellence in education.

Dr. Holliday's previous experience includes serving as superintendent, associate superintendent, director of accountability, principal, assistant principal, director of instrumental music, and band director in North Carolina and South Carolina.

In 2010, Dr. Holliday was named to the board of directors for the Council of Chief State School Officers, and appointed to serve a four-year term on the National Assessment Governing Board in 2011. He is the co-author of *Running All the Red Lights: A Journey of System-Wide Educational Reform*.

A Furman University graduate, Dr. Holliday earned a master's degree and education specialist degree from Winthrop University, and a doctorate from the University of South Carolina.



Robert L. King, J.D.

President, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Robert L. King became the third president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education in 2009. He is the former chancellor of the State University of New York, one of the largest comprehensive systems of universities, colleges, and community colleges in the world.

King recently served as president and CEO of the Arizona Community Foundation, a statewide charitable organization with a strong focus on education, economic development, and scientific research.

He has served on numerous boards and organizations, including the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars; the Education Committee of the U.S. National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; advisor to the Middle State Commission on Higher Education; and the board of trustees of A.T. Still University in Arizona. King is a graduate of Trinity College, and the Vanderbilt University School of Law.



Sandy Kress, J.D.

Senior Counsel, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Sandy Kress' practice focuses on public law and policy at the state and national levels, with a strong focus on education matters—including policies, reform and accountability. In 2010, Kress was appointed fellow and director of policy development and outreach at the George W. Bush Institute. He was named a senior advisor to the James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy in 2009, served as senior advisor to President George W. Bush on education with respect to the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, and previously served as president of the board of trustees of Dallas Public Schools. Kress formerly served on the Education Commission of the States, and he currently serves as counsel to the Governor's Business Council. He is a life member of the board of directors of the Texas Business & Education Coalition.

Kress also served as deputy assistant secretary for legislative affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department from 1977 to 1980. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and a law degree from the University of Texas.

Resource Experts



Cynthia D. Liston

Associate Vice President for Policy Research and Special Projects, North Carolina Community College System

Cynthia D. Liston is the associate vice president for policy research and special projects at the North Carolina Community College System, where she facilitates comprehensive redesign of developmental education across the state and plays key roles in other student success initiatives.

Previously, Liston served as a consultant for Jobs for the Future, and worked at Regional Technology Strategies, Inc., a national economic and workforce development policy organization in Chapel Hill.

A public policy professional for more than 20 years, Liston focuses on collaborative approaches to applied research, policy development, and capacity building. She has played major research and management roles in projects supported by numerous national organizations, such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, National Science Foundation, the National Governors Association, and numerous state agencies.

Liston holds a master's degree from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Joseph U. Meyer, J.D.

Secretary, Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Joseph U. Meyer brings nearly 30 years of public service to his role as secretary of Kentucky's Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, where he oversees the work of educating, preparing, and training Kentucky's current and future workforce.

Chosen by Governor Steve Beshear to head the cabinet in 2009, Meyer serves as co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Development and Education and is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Transforming Education in Kentucky. He is also the state coordinator in Kentucky for the Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) *Strengthening Statewide College/Career Readiness Initiative*.

Prior to becoming secretary, Meyer was the Cabinet's deputy secretary, senior policy advisor to Governor Beshear, chief of staff for the chair of the House majority caucus, and general counsel and deputy director for the Kentucky Association of Counties. From 1979 to 2003, he practiced law, where he served as city attorney for the City of Bellevue and general counsel for boards of education. Meyer represented Kentucky's 23rd Senate District from 1989 to 1996 and Kentucky's 65th House District from 1982 to 1988.

Resource Experts



Michael J. Petrilli

Executive Vice President, Thomas B. Fordham Institute

Mike Petrilli is one of the nation's foremost education analysts. As executive vice president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, he oversees the organization's research projects and publications and contributes to the *Flypaper* and weekly *Education Gadfly* newsletter. He is also a research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and executive editor of *Education Next*, where he writes a regular column on technology and media, as well as feature-length articles.

Petrilli has published opinion pieces in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Wall Street Journal* and appears regularly on NBC Nightly News, ABC World News Tonight, CNN, and Fox. He's been a guest on several National Public Radio programs, and is a co-author of *No Child Left Behind: A Primer*.

Previously, Petrilli was an official in the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement and a vice president at K12.com. He started his career as a teacher in Clarksville, OH.



Joe H. Pickens, J.D.

President, St. Johns River State College

St. Johns River (SJR) State College President Joe H. Pickens earned a bachelor's degree from Wofford College and a law degree from the University of Florida, College of Law. He was the attorney for the Putnam County School Board and the general counsel for the North East Florida Educational Consortium prior to his two terms in the Florida House of Representatives.

While in the Florida House, Pickens was the chair of the House Education Appropriations Committee, and School and Learning Counsel. He was the House sponsor of *Senate Bill 1908*, which left an indelible mark on K-20 education in Florida. As a result of his dedication to education while in the legislature, Pickens received the *Florida School Board Association's Lifetime Achievement Award* and an endowed scholarship in his name at SJR State College from all the Florida college presidents.

Pickens has been president of SJR State College since 2008. He has spearheaded many initiatives including the College's transition from a community to a state college, the College's first bachelor degrees, the creation of an honors program, and the development of the College's mission to provide nontraditional community educational opportunities throughout the service district.

Resource Experts



Martha R. Reichrath, Ph.D.

Deputy State Superintendent of Schools, Georgia Department of Education

Dr. Martha R. Reichrath is the deputy state superintendent of schools for the Georgia Department of Education—in the arena of curriculum, instruction, and assessment and accountability. She has served public education in Georgia for over 40 years as a teacher, principal, central office administrator, and as former Governor Sonny Perdue’s appointed education accountability agency head.

As a turn-around principal of Chamblee High School, she led the school to become a *National Blue Ribbon High School*, and a flagship model of exemplary achievement within a highly diverse student population. Years later, Chamblee is still a shining testimony to the power of high expectations and the establishment of a culture of excellence. In her present role, one of her most outstanding challenges is leading the development and implementation of the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards—with particular emphasis on stellar advancements in mathematics, science, and career technology and leading the development and implementation of Georgia’s *College and Career Ready Performance Index*, which defines Georgia’s next generation of accountability, school improvement, and stakeholder communication.



Lizzette Reynolds

Chief Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Programs, Texas Education Agency

Lizzette Reynolds serves as the chief deputy commissioner for policy and programs at the Texas Education Agency (TEA). In that capacity, she manages the Divisions of Standards and Programs, Assessment and Accountability, Educator Leadership and Quality and Accreditation, and School Improvement.

Prior to TEA, Reynolds served in a number of capacities related to education policy and implementation. In 2002–2004, she was appointed special assistant in the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, where she provided input from the U.S. Department of Education to Congress on the reauthorization of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. In 2004, she served as the P-16 liaison between the University of Texas System and TEA. Under former U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, Reynolds served as her regional representative for the states of Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas.

Reynolds was also the legislative director to the late State Senator Teel Bivins, who championed education quality for all students on behalf of then-Governor George W. Bush. She later became senior policy advisor in the Office of the Chief Deputy Commissioner, followed by her current position as chief deputy commissioner.

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JAMES B. HUNT, JR. INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY

Founded by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. in 2001, the James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy works with leaders to secure America's future through quality education. Working at the intersection of policy and politics, the Hunt Institute connects leaders with the best strategies for developing and implementing policies and programs to improve public education

To that end, the Institute convenes governors, policymakers, legislators, and business and civic leaders across the nation to provide them with the best information to make informed policy decisions. An affiliated center of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Institute is non-partisan, non-profit entity that does not lobby for, or take positions on, state and federal legislation.



THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD

The Southern Regional Education Board works with 16 member states to improve public education: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. Based in Atlanta, SREB was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislatures to help leaders in education and government advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region.

