

Selection Jury

Henry Cisneros

Executive Chairman, CityView

Henry Cisneros is executive chairman of the CityView companies, which work with the nation's leading homebuilders to create homes for working families. Previously, Cisneros was president and chief operating officer of Univision Communications, the largest Spanish-language media company in the nation. In 1993, he became President Bill Clinton's first secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Cisneros became the first Hispanic mayor of a major U.S. city when he was elected mayor of San Antonio in 1981. During his four terms as mayor, Cisneros helped rebuild the city's economic base and created jobs through massive infrastructure and downtown improvements.

Christopher Dodd

Chairman and CEO, Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. Former U.S. Senator from Connecticut

Chris Dodd is chairman and chief executive officer of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. Dodd represented Connecticut in Congress from 1974 until 2010. He served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1980, serving until 2010 and becoming the longest-serving senator in Connecticut's history. He formed the first children's caucus in the Senate, authored the first child care legislation since World War II, and wrote the Family and Medical Leave Act. Dodd served as chairman of the Democratic National Convention from 1995 to 1997. Following Dodd's graduation from Providence College, he joined the Peace Corps, serving in the Dominican Republic from 1966 to 1968. Upon returning to the United States, he enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard and Army Reserves. Dodd earned a law degree from the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville and practiced law in New London, Connecticut before his election to Congress.

Donald Graham

Chairman and CEO, Graham Holdings Company (Formerly The Washington Post Company)

Donald E. Graham became chief executive officer of Graham Holdings Company (then The Washington Post Company) in May 1991 and chairman of the board in September 1993. He was publisher of The Washington Post newspaper from January 1979 until September 2000 and chairman of the paper from September 2000 to February 2008. Graham is chairman of the District of Columbia College Access Program and has served as a member of the Pulitzer Prize board. He is a trustee of the Federal City Council and of the Philip L. Graham Fund, which was established in 1963 in memory of his father. He is also a director of Facebook, The Summit Fund of Washington, the College Success Foundation and KIPP-DC. Graham is also the co-founder of TheDream.US, a national scholarship fund for Dreamers, created to help immigrant youth achieve a college education.

James Hunt, Jr.

Chairman of the Board, The Hunt Institute Former Governor of North Carolina

James Hunt is a partner in the Raleigh, N.C. office of the law firm of Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge and Rice and is chairman of the board of The Hunt Institute. Formerly governor of North Carolina, Hunt is a national leader in education reform. During his 20 years of service as governor, he dramatically raised North Carolina's student test scores and ensured that teacher salaries were raised to match the national average. A strong supporter of high standards in public schools, Hunt served as chairman of the National Education Goals Panel and as vice chairman of the board of Achieve. He also published a book outlining his plan and describing his own experiences with public education, "First in America: An Education Governor Challenges North Carolina."

Michael Lomax

President and CEO, United Negro College Fund

Michael Lomax has been president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) since 2004. He launched the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building, which helps UNCF's 39-member historically black colleges and universities become stronger, more effective and more self-sustaining. Lomax is co-chair of the Education Equality Project, a member of the Aspen Institute's Commission on No Child Left Behind, and a member of the governing boards of Teach For America, the KIPP Foundation and the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools. He is also a frequent contributor to the National Journal's Education Experts blog and author of the "MorehouseMan" blog at Essence.com. Lomax also serves on the boards of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of African American History and Culture and the Studio Museum of Harlem. He founded the National Black Arts Festival.

Roderick "Rod" Paige

Chairman, Chartwell Education Group LLC Former U.S. Secretary of Education

Rod Paige is founder and chairman of Chartwell Education Group LLC, a bipartisan consulting company that works with public and private pre-K, K-12 and post-secondary education institutions in the U.S. and around the world. Paige also serves as a senior advisor for Westmark Systems, LLC, which specializes in high-quality education programs for teachers and administrators. Paige began his career as a teacher and coach. He served for a decade as dean of the College of Education at Texas Southern University and also established the university's Center for Excellence in Urban Education, a research facility that concentrates on issues related to instruction and management in urban school systems. Paige served on the board of education of the Houston Independent School District from 1989 until 1994, when he became superintendent of the district. He served as U.S. Secretary of Education from 2001 to 2005 and spearheaded the implementation of the historic No Child Left Behind Act.

Edward G. Rendell

Former Governor of Pennsylvania

Edward G. Rendell served two terms as governor of Pennsylvania, two terms as mayor of Philadelphia and two terms as district attorney of Philadelphia. He was also chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 2000. Rendell is a Brookings Fellow and teaches at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a consultant or board member for several green and alternative energy firms, including Own Energy, Element Partners and Ocean Thermal Energy. Rendell is also heavily involved in advocating for government efficiency and strategic cost-cutting through his work with entities such as Government Sourcing Solutions, Public Financial Management and Greenhill Advisors. As governor, Rendell worked with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to create "Building America's Future," which focuses on investment in American infrastructure projects to ensure that America maintains its place as a global economic power.

Donna Shalala

President, University of Miami

Former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services

Donna Shalala began her commitment to public service early as one of the country's first Peace Corps volunteers, serving in Iran from 1962 to 1964. Currently professor of political science and president of the University of Miami, Shalala has more than 40 years of experience as an accomplished scholar, teacher and administrator. In 1993, President Clinton appointed her secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, where she served for eight years, becoming the longest serving Health and Human Services secretary in U.S. history. Shalala also served under President Jimmy Carter as assistant secretary for policy development and research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In the 1970s, she chaired the doctoral program in politics and education at Teachers College, Columbia University. She has held tenured professorships in political science at Columbia University, University of Wisconsin - Madison and City University of New York. She is a member of the National Academy of Education, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

Margaret Spellings

President, George W. Bush Presidential Center

Former U.S. Secretary of Education

Margaret Spellings is president of the George W. Bush Presidential Center and is a leading national expert on public policy. From 2005 to 2009, she served as U.S. secretary of education under President George W. Bush. As a member of the president's Cabinet, Spellings led the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act. She was a White House domestic policy advisor from 2001 to 2005, during which time she managed the development of the president's domestic policy agenda. Prior to her service in the White House, Spellings served as senior advisor to then-Gov. George W. Bush of Texas, led government relations efforts for the Texas Association of School Boards, served in various leadership capacities for the Texas legislature, and worked for local education organizations including Austin Community College.