

2012 PTI Conference

Whither American Education?

School Reform Conference

Friday, March 30, 2012

Join us for a conversation about contemporary school reforms, our deepest educational values, and the direction of American education, featuring experts from around the country.

All panels held in Katzen Arts Center, Abramson Recital Hall at American University.

About the Conference

[Political Theory Institute](#) is committed to fostering the serious study of the great questions of political theory by students, professors, and experts, and to connect political theory to current issues and events. PTI will host an annual conference on a topic at the nexus of political theory and public policy. The inaugural conference will discuss American Education.

Schedule - March 30

9:30 a.m.: Coffee & pastries, Kreeger Foyer

10:00: **Welcome**, AU President Cornelius Kerwin

10:05: **Introductory remarks**, Alan Levine, PTI Director

10:15- noon: **The Goals of Education Panel** featuring

- John Agresto, President Emeritus, St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Meira Levinson, Harvard University
- G. Borden Flanagan, American University

Noon - 1:30: Lunch Break

1:30-3:30: **The Means of Education Panel**, featuring

- Chester Finn, Fordham Foundation and former Assistant US Secretary of Education for President Regan
- Andy Rotherham, Co-founder and partner, Bellwether Education & former Domestic Policy Advisor to President Clinton
- William Galston, Brookings Institution & former Domestic Policy Advisor to President Clinton

3:30-4:00: Break, light refreshments served

4:00-6:00: **Reports from the Front Lines Panel**, featuring

- Richard Barth, CEO and President of KIPP Schools
- Paul Hill, University of Washington & founding Director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education
- Bob Nardo, founding Chief Operations Officer at the Tennessee Achievement School District

Conference Speakers

- **John Agresto** served as Provost and Academic Dean at the American University of Iraq in Sulaimani and the Senior Advisor for Higher Education and Scientific Research for the Coalition Provisional Authority. Before going to Iraq he was President of [St. John's College](#) in Santa Fe, New Mexico for eleven years.
- **Richard Barth** was made CEO of the [KIPP](#) Foundation in December of 2005. Barth came to KIPP from Edison Schools, where he served as President of District Partnerships. Prior to joining Edison, Barth was one of the founding staff members of [Teach For America](#). He is President of the KIPP Foundation Board of Directors.
- **Chester E. Finn, Jr.** scholar, educator, and public servant, has devoted his career to improving education in the United States. As Senior Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution and chairman of Hoover's Koret Task Force on K-12 Education, President of the [Thomas B. Fordham Institute](#), and Senior Editor of Education Next, his primary focus is the reform of primary and secondary schooling.
- **G. Borden Flanagan** is an Assistant Professor in AU's Department of Government. His area of expertise is the history of Western political philosophy. His teaching and research interests include ancient, renaissance, modern, and postmodern political philosophy, the theoretical principles of American government, and the ethics of international relations.
- **William Galston** is the Ezra K. Zilkha Chair in Governance Studies and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Formerly the Saul Stern Professor and Dean at the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, Galston specializes in issues of American public philosophy and political institutions.
- **Paul Hill** is the Founder of the Center on Reinventing Public Education and Research Professor at the University of Washington Bothell. He leads the Portfolio School Districts Project. He chairs the National Charter School Research Project and its Charter School Achievement Consensus Panel. He has written five books including most recently *Learning as We Go: Why School Choice is Worth the Wait* (2010).
- **Alan M. Levine** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Government and an Affiliate Associate Professor in AU's Department of Philosophy and Religion. He is the founding director of the Political Theory Institute. He has held residential fellowships at Princeton's James Madison Programs; the Hoover Institution at Stanford; and the Institute of US Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London.
- **Meira Levinson** is a normative political philosopher who writes about civic education, multiculturalism, and youth empowerment. In doing so, she draws upon scholarship from multiple disciplines as well as her eight years of experience teaching in the Atlanta and Boston Public Schools.
- **Bob Nardo** recently became the founding Chief Operations Officer at the Tennessee Achievement School District - a new effort, funded by Race to the Top, to transform the bottom 5% of schools across the state. Previously, Bob served in similar roles at two large, high-performing urban charter school networks - TEAM Charter Schools, a KIPP Region, in Newark, NJ and the Noble Network of Charter Schools in Chicago.

- **Andrew J. Rotherham** is a co-founder and partner at [Bellwether Education](#), a non-profit organization working to improve educational outcomes for low-income students. Rotherham leads Bellwether's thought leadership, idea generation, and policy analysis work. He also writes the weekly "School of Thought" column for [TIME.com](#) as well as the blog [Eduwonk.com](#) and is the co-publisher of "Education Insider" a federal policy research tool produced by Whiteboard advisors. Rotherham previously served at the White House as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy during the Clinton administration.