



Tuesday, September 5, 2017

**Thanks to those who have already sponsored CEF's 2017 Gala!**

**Straight "A"s sponsor:** American Federation of Teachers

**Star Student sponsors:** American Continental Group, Lumina Foundation, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, National Education Association, National Student Clearinghouse

**Honor Roll sponsors:** AASA/Consortium for School Networking/National School Boards Association; ACT; American Association of State Colleges and Universities; American Educational Research Association; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities; Coalition on Adult Basic Education; Discovery Education; International Society for Technology in Education; Knowledge Alliance; MRM Associates; National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; National Association of Secondary School Principals/National Association of Elementary School Principals/American Federation of School Administrators; National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators; National Council for Community and Education Partnerships; National PTA/National Association for College Admission Counseling; Service Employees International Union; Thayer Leader Development Group; Washington Partners/Coalition for Higher Education Assistance Organizations; and Women in Government Relations

**You can register for the gala [here](#)**

Dear CEF Members:

**I. Policy Intelligence and Education News**

- The House and Senate returned from August recess today to a busy fall legislative calendar. One portion of that activity includes funding the government before it runs out of money at the end of the month. Earlier today, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy stated that he expects to pass “just about a three-month continuing resolution,” potentially pushing controversial funding fights, including the wall along the Mexican border, until later in 2017.

[As a reminder, the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee will be marking up its fiscal year 2018 spending bill tomorrow morning at 11:00am in 124 Dirksen.](#) The full Appropriations Committee expects to mark up the bill, along with the State-Foreign Operations bill, on Thursday at 10:30am in 106 Dirksen. Both

markups will be [webcast](#) but will only have audio, not video. We will be monitoring the markups and will provide information as soon as we can.

## II. CEF Hill Day and Gala (October 3, 2017)

- **Gala awardees** – We have now confirmed our awardees for the Gala on October 3: Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) will be honored with CEF awards at the Gala. Below is more information on each award.

Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) will receive the *Terrell H. Bell Award*, which recognizes outstanding advocacy of education as a congressional and national priority. Senator Reed’s advocacy on behalf of education investments spans the continuum from preschool to higher education, adult education, and libraries and literacy programs. He is the Senate’s foremost champion of increased funding for adult education, and has sponsored legislation to strengthen adult education through more research and better connections to career and technical education and to the workforce system. He authored the 2010 reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act, advancing the roles of libraries and museums in education, lifelong learning, preservation, and workforce development. This year he is continuing to lead the effort to increase its funding. Senator Reed also focuses on ensuring that college is accessible and affordable for all who want to earn a degree, and has fought increases in student loan interest rates and introduced legislation to incentivize states to offer more grant aid.

Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) will receive the *William H. Natcher Award*, which recognizes distinguished service in elevating the priority for education funding to ensure better opportunities for our nation’s children. Senator Blunt chairs the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and he is well known for his efforts to double the budget of the National Institutes of Health, which supports university research that advances the nation’s health. He also pushes directly for a greater federal investment in education. This spring he spoke out against the President’s proposed \$9 billion cut to the Department of Education, calling it “a difficult budget request to defend,” citing its cuts to afterschool services, career and technical education, and student aid. Last year, Senator Blunt led the successful effort to reinstate year-round Pell grants that will help more low-income students finish college earlier, lowering student loan costs for both borrowers and taxpayers. Within tight fiscal constraints, Senator Blunt crafted a FY 2017 funding bill that increased support for most of the nation’s largest education programs, helping increase access for students from Head Start through college. He has also supported efforts to simplify federal student loan applications and maintain federal grant and tax aid to college students.

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) will also receive the *William H. Natcher Award*. Representative Bonamici has demonstrated her determination and effectiveness as a

volunteer in public schools, through her service in the Oregon legislature where she passed legislation to reduce duplicative testing, and now in Congress, where she played a pivotal role in passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). As a member – now the Vice Ranking Member – of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, she has highlighted the need for a strong federal support for Title IV Part A of ESSA, which Congress designed to support safe and healthy schools, well-rounded programs, and the effective use of technology. Rep. Bonamici continues to advocate for Title IV Part A funding, leading the FY 2017 Dear Colleague request and enlisting the support of 102 colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

- **CEF Hill day on October 3** – To take full advantage of having so many CEF members and guests already on the Hill, we’re organizing a short CEF Hill Day between the morning legislative conference and the gala in the evening. From 11am – 2pm, groups of CEF members will be provided with CEF’s advocacy materials and a CEF t-shirt for visibility as they meet with targeted Hill offices. We encourage you to include any people who are coming to DC for the day, and will try to match constituents with their Member of Congress where applicable. We’ll work out the logistics of how we arrange the meetings once we see the level of interest. Please sign up at the link below if you and your organization wants to join the Hill day:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1K00jCyAdu\\_gZJHk0WF7cWMbXkmnh0OLcnklGnv4GVbE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1K00jCyAdu_gZJHk0WF7cWMbXkmnh0OLcnklGnv4GVbE/edit?usp=sharing)

- **Gala sponsorships and tickets** – Thanks to the many organizations listed above who have already sponsored CEF’s gala! If you’d like more information about sponsoring the Gala and the benefits that come with each sponsorship option, please contact me ([Cohen@cef.org](mailto:Cohen@cef.org)). As a reminder, this year we are having a longer reception with a buffet in Union Station’s Palm Court to maximize time for networking/socializing among the education community, followed by a seated awards ceremony in the East Hall and then coffee and dessert – with the promise to wrap up by 9 pm. You can purchase individual gala tickets or a sponsorship [directly on CEF’s website](#) through CVENT, or you can contact any of the CEF staff for information or to buy tickets.
- **Hill/Administration staff guests** – As in the past, you may buy tickets for Hill staff that you’d like CEF to invite to join you at the gala; those staffers will be seated with you for the awards presentation. As the sponsor of the event, CEF must issue the invitation to Hill and Administration staff on your behalf. Once you let us know who you’d like us to invite we’ll keep you informed of all responses, and we encourage you to follow up after the initial invitation from CEF.

### **III. Events & Information**

- **Friday, Sept. 8, 9-11 am:** CEF Friday morning meetings resume (AACTE, 1307 NY Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Alicia Molt-West, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)

- The Senate Afterschool Caucus and Caucus Co-Chairs Senators Franken and Murkowski invite you to attend a briefing for Congressional Staff titled “Back to Afterschool: Preparing Young People for Success in School and Life.”

What unites a globally recognized Fortune 500 employer, an elementary school principal, a local health clinic, and a city leader? A belief in the power of afterschool and summer programs to spark interest and help youth find their passion for learning during the hours when school is out. Quality afterschool and summer learning programs offer comprehensive supports, academic enrichment, and development of employability skills to ensure young people are prepared for success in school and beyond. In this panel, experts will share the value of afterschool and summer learning programs from their diverse points of view and express what these programs offer to children, families, businesses, governments, and communities across the nation.

The event occurs on Tuesday, September 12th 2017 from 12pm – 1pm in Senate Russell Office Building room 485. Box lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Austin Hall at [AHall@wpllc.net](mailto:AHall@wpllc.net).

- The National School Boards Association (NSBA) invites you to attend, "Our Public Schools: Expanding the Horizon of Educational Choice," a policy briefing sponsored by NSBA and the National School Boards Action Center. The briefing will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 from 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM, Room 121 Cannon House Office Building, 27 Independence Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003.

NSBA's Center for Public Education (CPE) will release *Busting the Myth of One-Size-Fits-All Public Education*, which shows that the broadest range of educational choices for our nation's students are found inside public schools. In addition, a panel of education leaders representing school districts and public schools from across the nation will explain how they are offering parents and students robust choice options.

- AccessLex Institute invites you to attend their bipartisan event on Capitol Hill entitled *Road to Repayment: The Role of Consumer Information in Federal Student Loans*. The event is co-sponsored by Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1), Vice-Ranking Member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, and Ryan Costello (R-PA-6), co-chair of the new Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) caucus, both of whom will be in attendance and providing remarks.

*Road to Repayment* will engage Hill staffers, think tank fellows, the media, and other policy leaders in a thoughtful, bipartisan discussion about what information students need to succeed and to present potential policy solutions to help students and families

make more sound decisions regarding higher education. Specifically, the event will feature experts who will discuss and present policy ideas about data, information, and simplification. Several policy prescriptions will be offered that have a strong possibility of becoming law in the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA).

The event is on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm in the Cannon House Office Building to learn and engage with policy leaders. For more details and to RSVP: click [here](#).

My best,

Sheryl

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