



Gala2021



Tuesday, September 28, 2021

**Due South-Dockside in the Navy Yard
and Virtually**

Washington, DC

DIGITAL PROGRAM GUIDE

Freedom for All to Thrive

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On behalf of the 1.7 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, we are proud to support the **Committee for Education Funding** and its 2021 Gala honorees:

- ✧ **Rep. Bobby Scott** for receiving the James O'Hara Award; and
- ✧ **Sen. Edward J. Markey** and **Rep. Grace Meng** for the William H. Natcher Award.

We stand with you as champions of **great schools and colleges** that fulfill the promise of public education, **good jobs** that support a middle-class life, **affordable healthcare** for all, the **fight against discrimination and hate**, and the **defense of democracy**.

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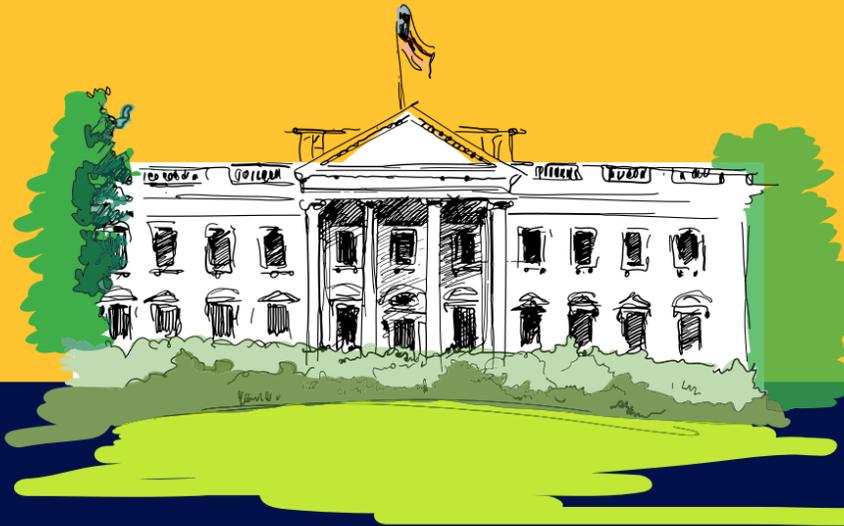
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Gala 2021



Tuesday, September 28th, 5-8pm

Due South-Dockside in the Navy Yard , Washhington, DC

~ Tonight's Program ~

RECEPTION - 5:00PM-6:30PM

AWARDS CEREMONY - 6:30PM-7:15PM

WELCOME

Sarah Abernathy, Executive Director, Committee for Education Funding

OPENING REMARKS

Luis Maldonado, CEF President

AWARD PRESENTATION TO CEF HONOREES

Senator Ed Markey (MA)

Representative Grace Meng (NY)

Representative Robert "Bobby" Scott (VA)

CONCLUDING REMARKS

RECEPTION CONTINUTES - 7:15PM-8:00PM

GREETINGS FROM THE CEF PRESIDENT

Luis Maldonado

Vice President, Government Relations & Policy Analysis, American Association of State Colleges and Universities



Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the Committee for Education Funding's (CEF) Gala and congressional awards ceremony, a special in-person/online hybrid event after a mostly online 18 months that have highlighted both the challenges for education as well as the extraordinary efforts, ingenuity, and lengths that educators, students, and families have taken to continue important academic pursuits successfully. CEF holds a gala each fall, and after skipping last year, we are excited for this opportunity for the education community to gather in a safe way, enjoy a reception, meet others working in the field, and honor those who have consistently demonstrated their commitment to investing in education. For those who can't attend, this year the gala will include a free livestream of the award ceremony and speeches — a synchronous education event, as so many have been.

The CEF gala is the premier education event of the year in DC for Hill and Administration education staff, policy-makers, advocates, and administrators to celebrate advocacy for increased federal investment in education, and to honor this year's congressional champions that help make this happen. Since our last gala in 2019, Congress has provided more funding for education than in any single prior year as it addressed new needs due to the pandemic. In addition, the [House has passed an education appropriations bill](#) for fiscal year 2022 that provides a [41% increase for Education Department programs](#) and additional increases for early childhood education programs in the Department of Health and Human Services and for education-related programs in other agencies. On top of these immediate increases for education, the [President has requested transformational long-term investments](#) in education infrastructure, both physical and human, that Congress is poised to consider this fall.

Despite the challenges that still face education, there is much to celebrate. Tonight, we are honored to recognize three Members of Congress who have demonstrated their strong commitment to increasing the federal investment in education for the success of our nation's students. **Representative Robert "Bobby" Scott (D-VA)**, Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee will receive the [James O'Hara award](#); **Senator Edward Markey (D-MA)** and **Representative Grace Meng (D-NY)** will receive the [William H. Natcher award](#).

At this year's event, we also remember our long-time colleague and former executive director **Joel Packer**, who passed away last year, with the creation of a summer series of spotlights on education advocacy to honor his legacy as an enthusiastic and effective education advocate and mentor to new CEF members.

Many thanks to the Gala Committee and its co-chairs, CEF members, and ACG Advocacy staff, who orchestrated this hybrid event to ensure everyone has a way to participate safely. And thank you to all the sponsors who contributed to this premiere education community event. We would not be able to celebrate without your support.

Enjoy the evening!

Luis Maldonado
CEF President

Gala2021

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ABOUT CEF

The [Committee for Education Funding \(CEF\)](#) is a non-partisan and non-profit coalition started more than 50 years ago by K-12 and higher education groups as an ad hoc “emergency committee for full funding of education.” Today it is the nation’s oldest and largest education coalition that speaks with one voice on one message – to increase federal funding for all education programs to ensure our students’ success. CEF now has more than 110 [members](#) representing the continuum of education — early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, higher education, adult and workforce education, and out-of-school educational enhancements such as libraries, museums, and afterschool services. Members include students and families, teachers and faculty, administrators, specialized instructional support personnel and other school employees, school board members, librarians, businesses, and education-related organizations from across the country.



As the pandemic caused painful disruptions and dramatically increased costs for all those involved in education, CEF expanded its advocacy and informational resources to cover pandemic-relief for students and families, schools and institutions, and all those who provide education. CEF provided virtual briefings for its members that addressed newly vital topics like the mental health needs and resources for the education community as well as education technology and the equity of access. CEF also provided virtual briefings to congressional staff and the education community on the [impact of COVID-19 on state education budgets](#) and the [impact on education jobs](#) (view then at the links noted).

CEF continues to make the case to Congress and the Administration that federal support for education is among the best investment the government can make by meeting with congressional offices, writing [letters](#), providing briefings, publishing our annual [education budget book](#), and sharing information on [education funding](#). Over the last year or so, CEF also tried new approaches to reach more people and make it easier for them to tell leaders why education funding matters. We’ve done Twitter livestreams explaining [how congressional budgeting processes like reconciliation](#) and [return to “earmarking”](#) might impact education. This summer CEF held a #HearOurEdStories Day where people, including three Members of Congress, shared [videos discussing the importance of increasing education funding](#).

This fall, Congress is poised to add to record education funding for pandemic relief. The House has passed a [funding bill](#) for next year that would provide a 41% increase for Education programs and other increases for early childhood education and education-related programs in other agencies. And this fall, Congress is on tap to considerer transformational [long-term investments in “human infrastructure”](#) that could dramatically increase access to pre-school and post-secondary education as well as expand support for child care and other educational opportunities.

How you can be involved. We encourage everyone to join CEF and our members in supporting increased investments in education. CEF’s website (www.cef.org) highlights research on the impact of education along the continuum. We post information on Congressional funding action and how to share your views with Congress. Please follow our advocacy and informational resources at @edfunding on [Twitter](#) and on [Instagram](#), and at Cmte4edfunding on [Facebook](#).

CEF GALA 2021 AWARD



James O'Hara Award

For lifelong commitment in support of education and for outstanding leadership in advocating for education as a congressional and national priority

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott Representative from Virginia

In the years since Representative Bobby Scott received CEF's William H. Natcher award in 2008, he has continued to demonstrate unflagging enthusiasm and support for ensuring that every child in America has access to all the educational opportunities the country can offer. From his position as chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, he directs an agenda focused on equity in education and ensuring that a college education does not result in crippling debt.

In the last year, he helped lead Congress to providing the single largest increase in federal education funding to help students, schools, and colleges continue teaching and learning during the pandemic. He successfully works across the aisle on issues including education for students with disabilities, elementary and secondary education, career technical education, expanding veterans' education benefits, and helping underserved students access and complete a college education. Among his other accomplishments, his work in recent years resulted in permanent funding for HBCUs and MSIs while greatly easing the process of applying for and receiving federal student financial aid via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and expanding access to the Pell grant to prisoners who need a second chance to get on the path to the middle class and the American Dream.

Rep. Scott has represented Virginia's third district in Congress since 1993. He is the first African-American elected to Congress from Virginia since Reconstruction.

"...our public schools are actually more segregated by race and class today than at any time since the 1960s. This segregation just doesn't isolate students. It isolates their opportunities. And it has been shown to isolate their funding."

Representative James G. O'Hara represented Michigan's seventh and twelfth Congressional Districts from 1959-1977. O'Hara served his entire career on the House Education and Labor Committee, rising to Chairman. He played a leading role in the formulation of most of the significant education legislation enacted during the period, most notably the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Higher Education Act of 1965.

CEF GALA 2021 AWARD



The William H. Natcher Award

For distinguished service in elevating education as a priority to ensure better opportunities for our nation's citizens

The Honorable Edward J. Markey

Senator from Massachusetts

Senator Ed Markey has been a champion for education and a leader in efforts to address the homework gap. That gap, the difficulty of completing homework for students who lack internet access at home compared with those who do have access, was already a problem but became a crisis at the onset of the pandemic in an education system that was suddenly entirely online. A long-time champion of the E-Rate program and the importance of ensuring connectivity for students, schools and libraries, Senator Markey emerged as a strong leader on including funding for homework gap in early COVID-relief packages. When initial efforts fell short, his tireless leadership helped maintain and build broad, bipartisan support and to pressure Congressional colleagues to ensure that the final relief package included federal funding for the E-Rate program, a provision totaling \$7.2 billion for the Emergency Connectivity Fund. In response to the unique challenges facing America's graduate students as a result of the pandemic, he introduced the RISE Act to help provide a lifeline to the promising next generation of innovators who saw their studies, their projects, and their futures disrupted.

Throughout his career, Senator Markey has shown great respect for every point on the education continuum – as a leader in seeking more funding for Head Start, a supporter of K-12 investments, and an advocate for research grants for higher education and for lowering student loan interest rates to make college more affordable. He consistently demonstrates a deep understanding that our nation and the ladder of opportunity are strongest when education is supported broadly.

He has represented Massachusetts in Congress since 1976, first as a Representative and since 2013 as a Senator.

“ Although children are only 24 percent of the population, they’re 100 percent of our future and we cannot afford to provide any child with a substandard education ”

Representative William H. Natcher, representing Kentucky's second District from 1953-1994, chaired the House Committee on Appropriations and its Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. One of the nation's most committed advocates for children and education, Rep. Natcher stated, "When you take care of the health of your people and educate your children, you continue to live in the strongest country in the world."

CEF GALA 2021 AWARD

The William H. Natcher Award

For distinguished service in elevating education as a priority to ensure better opportunities for our nation's citizens



The Honorable Grace Meng Representative from New York

Representative Grace Meng is an ardent supporter of education, advocating to hire more teachers, expand after-school and other out-of-school educational services, and to lower student loan interest rates and decrease student debt, as well as to address the homework gap. That gap, the difficulty of completing homework for students who lack internet access at home compared with those who do have access, was already a problem but became a crisis at the onset of the pandemic in an education system that was suddenly entirely online. In the last year, Representative Meng emerged as a strong leader on including funding for homework gap in early COVID-relief packages.

When initial efforts fell short, her tireless leadership helped maintain and build broad, bipartisan support and to pressure Congressional colleagues to ensure that the final relief package included federal funding for the E-Rate program, a provision totaling \$7.2 billion for the Emergency Connectivity Fund.

Since 2013, Representative Meng has represented the borough of Queens and New York's 6th congressional district, serving as the first and only Asian American Member of Congress from New York.

“ It is imperative that we offer all our young people access to high-quality, affordable education. ”

Representative William H. Natcher, representing Kentucky's second District from 1953-1994, chaired the House Committee on Appropriations and its Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. One of the nation's most committed advocates for children and education, Rep. Natcher stated, “When you take care of the health of your people and educate your children, you continue to live in the strongest country in the world.”

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NOTE: 2021 Board Members continued on next page

2021 CEF LEADERSHIP

2021 CEF Board Members, continued

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For more information about CEF's [members](#), [advocacy](#) efforts, research on the importance and impact of education investments, and [charts and data](#) on current federal funding, please visit [CEF's website](#) or follow CEF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).



THE
**COUNCIL FOR
OPPORTUNITY IN
EDUCATION**

is proud to sponsor the
Committee for Education Funding's
2021 Gala.



Congratulations to the honorees including **Chairman Bobby Scott** receiving the James O'Hara Award and **Senator Ed Markey** and **Rep. Grace Meng** receiving the William H. Natcher Award.

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for your leadership and longstanding
commitment to our nation's students
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THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA) is more than 3 million people—educators, students, activists, workers, parents, neighbors, friends—who believe in opportunity for all students and in the power of public education to transform lives and create a more just and inclusive society.

That is why NEA is proud to honor and congratulate this year's CEF award recipients—Sen. Ed Markey, Chairman Bobby Scott and Rep. Grace Meng—for their tireless efforts to ensure that public schools, students, educators and their families get the support and resources they need. **THANK YOU.**

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU

to Senator Markey, Representative Meng, and Chairman Bobby Scott for your continued leadership on education funding.



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Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA)

Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)

Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)

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