SPEAKERS

Linda Darling-Hammond is President and CEO of the Learning Policy Institute and Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University. She is former President of the American Educational Research Association and a member of the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has authored more than 500 publications and has conducted extensive research on issues of school reform, equity, and accountability. Among her most recent publications are Be the Change: Reinventing School for Student Success and Empowered Educators: How Leading Nations Design Systems for Teaching Quality. @LDH_ed

Nicole Dooley works as a Policy Counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF). She previously worked as an attorney at the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights during which she worked with schools and colleges to resolve concerns of systemic violations of Title IX (discrimination based on sex), Title VI (discrimination based on race), and Section 504 (discrimination based on disability). She also served at the Legal Aid Justice Center where she represented children in special education and school discipline matters in Petersburg, VA. During her 7 years of private practice, she filed and investigated systemic complaints concerning students who are pushed out of school rather than being provided educational services.

Dooley received a B.S. in chemical engineering from Rice University, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a M.P.P. from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

David A. Hawkins is the Executive Director for Educational Content and Policy for the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), a nonprofit membership association that represents more than 15,000 high school counselors and college admission officers throughout the world. NACAC is devoted to making the transition between high school and postsecondary education equitable, transparent, and fair.

Hawkins holds a B.A. and M.A. in Government from the College of William & Mary.

Ellen Hume-Howard is the Executive Director of The New Hampshire Learning Initiative (NHLI). In this role, she supports NHLI’s vision to assist New Hampshire schools and districts to deepen their innovative practices in education and improve learning for all students. In addition, she currently serves as the curriculum director for the NH PACE Project. Before joining NHLI, she worked as the Director of Curriculum for the Sanborn Regional School District where she guided the district’s research, design, and implementation of a nationally-recognized k-12 competency-based learning system. Since 2014, Ellen has also worked with state and national experts to design a competency assessment program using performance assessment for state accountability.

Lindsay E. Jones is the Vice President, Chief Policy & Advocacy Officer for the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD). She leads a team that designs and implements NCLD’s legislative strategy in Washington, DC, aimed at advancing government policies that support the success of individuals with learning and attention issues in school, at work, and in life. She also develops advocacy campaigns and works closely with NCLD’s grassroots network of committed parents. Before joining NCLD, Lindsay was the Senior Director for Policy and Advocacy at the Council for Exceptional Children where she led federal legislative advocacy and worked with dedicated educator advocates across the country. Prior to her national policy work, as a practicing attorney she advised schools and families on special education compliance and litigation. Her focus included Office for Civil Rights investigations, state department of education complaints, IDEA and Section 504 due process hearings and litigation.