



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Reagan Institute Summit on Education Welcomes Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Education Diane Jones**

*Jones to participate in panel examining future of higher education*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced that Diane Jones, Principal Deputy Under Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education, will serve as a panelist at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE), held in Washington, D.C. on April 10-11, 2019.

“Acting Under Secretary Jones has proven herself a strategic, forward-thinking leader, full of innovative ideas on what we can do to prepare students as workers and as citizens,” said Roger Zakheim, Director of the Reagan Institute. “We are excited she’ll be joining us and very much look forward to hearing her perspective at RISE.”

Jones will participate in a panel session entitled “The Higher Education Horizon.” This panel aims to re-envision higher education in America, looking to develop solutions that help students access an affordable education that prepares them for success in the workplace and instills habits of lifelong learning.

“We must begin to challenge the idea that a four-year university is the only way to success,” said Jones. “These institutions, while critical to our nation’s success, are only part of the postsecondary education story. I look forward to joining the leaders RISE has selected to imagine alternative paths for our students that equip them for personal and professional fulfillment.”

Jones’s extensive background in education stems from her initial career as a biologist at the Community College of Baltimore County. This led her to key leadership roles at Princeton University and the Career Education Corporation. She pivoted to the public sector as a program director at the National Science Foundation and a staff director for the research subcommittee of the House Committee on Science. Her administrative agency experience began when President George W. Bush selected her as Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education at the Department of Education. After an interval serving as a senior fellow at the Urban Institute and a policy advisor in the Department of Labor, she returned to the Department of Education where she focuses on the possibilities and opportunities of apprenticeship programs. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Salisbury University and a master’s degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Jones joins many other leaders in education, policy, business and technology participating in RISE 2019, including Rep. Virginia Foxx, Sen. Tim Kaine, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera, Founder of Khan Academy Sal Kahn and many others. Throughout the conference, bipartisan panels and plenaries will foster conversation on a wide range of education policy issues. These issues include developing a holistic approach to education, preparing students for the job market of the future, surveying the higher education horizon and setting audacious national goals for our education system.

RISE 2019 is open to registered media. For more information, visit [www.reaganfoundation.org/reagan-institute](http://www.reaganfoundation.org/reagan-institute) or follow RISE on Twitter @ReaganInstitute. Join the conversation with #RISE2019.

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### **About the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute**

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the nonprofit organization created by President Reagan himself and specifically charged by him with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion and the award-winning Discovery Center, as well as the Reagan Institute in Washington, D.C. Ronald Reagan said, "**Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.** We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

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