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U.S. Secretaries of Education Panel to Address #EIE16 on Every Student Succeeds Act

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcelinEd) today announced that **Dr. Condoleezza Rice**, 66th U.S. Secretary of State, will moderate a panel discussion of national leaders in education, including three **former U.S. Secretaries of Education** at the [2016 National Summit on Education Reform](#) on Thursday, December 1 in Washington, D.C.

“It is a given that any legislation as sweeping as the Every Student Succeeds Act will take time for states to digest and translate into action on behalf of their students,” **said Dr. Rice**, a member of the ExcelinEd board of directors. “This distinguished panel of former education secretaries and advisors from three different administrations will offer valuable insight and guidance as policymakers seek to leverage the state-driven opportunities provided in this federal overhaul. I strongly encourage state lawmakers and education leaders to attend what will be a very informative session.”

This esteemed, bipartisan panel will examine the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Their discussion will include: ESSA’s historical context; the law’s major themes; and how state policymakers can harness ESSA to maintain accountability and effect bold and innovative policies that support the academic success of *all* young people. This special presentation will include the following participants:

Moderator: Condoleezza Rice, 66th Secretary of State of the United States

Panelists:

- **William Bennett, former Secretary of Education under President Ronald Reagan**
- **Arne Duncan, former Secretary of Education under President Barack Obama**

- **Rod Paige**, *former Secretary of Education under President George W. Bush*
- **Roberto Rodriguez**, *Deputy Assistant for Education under President Barack Obama*

“This year’s National Summit comes at a crucial time,” said **Dr. Bennett**. “The new ESSA law has transformed the education landscape and given states opportunities they didn’t have before. I’m honored to be a part of this panel discussion to chart how states can seize upon ESSA and make meaningful and lasting reforms.”

“Reforming our nation’s system for providing children a high quality elementary and secondary education is a national priority,” said **Dr. Paige**. “I am indeed grateful to join the distinguished members of this panel in a discussion regarding ways to improve our education system.”

Now in its ninth year, the summit will be held in **Washington, D.C. from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C.** ExcelinEd Founder and Chairman Governor Jeb Bush will open the summit with a morning keynote address on Thursday, December 1. The two-day event will feature general sessions with nationally renowned speakers plus strategy sessions featuring policy experts, legislators and education leaders discussing topics ranging from personalized learning and educational choice to solutions for states implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act.

This unique gathering is a one-stop shop for state policymakers and education leaders who want a comprehensive overview of all elements of education reform. The goal is to share lessons learned across states and arm leaders with the knowledge and know-how to champion all students in every classroom. Last year’s National Summit was attended by more than 900 education leaders from 45 states and D.C.

Follow [@ExcelinEd](#) on Twitter for the latest news and updates, and use [#EIE16](#) to join the National Summit conversation. For event details visit [ExcelinEd.org/National-Summit](#). Keynote and General Sessions will be webcast live at: [ExcelinEd.org/SummitLive](#).

Keynote addresses and strategy sessions will be open to the media. Members of the press interested in covering the event must request credentials in advance of the summit. [Media registration is now open](#).

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