

9th Annual Charter School Conference Fireside Chat Panelist Biographies



Nina Rees

Nina Rees is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS), the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. Rees has more than 20 years of experience in Washington, D.C., most recently as Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives for Knowledge Universe (KU). Prior to her tenure at KU, she served as the first Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement at the U.S. Department of Education. In this capacity, she oversaw the administration of 28 grant programs, supporting 1,300 projects and was responsible for spearheading innovative federal programs and policies such as school choice, charter schools, alternative routes to teacher certification and school leadership.

She also helped coordinate the implementation of several provisions of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Prior to joining the Education Department, Rees served as Deputy Assistant for Domestic Policy to Vice President Dick Cheney. She currently serves on the board of advisors of the Education Policy and Governance Program at Harvard University and NACSA. She is an Aspen Institute Pahlara Fellow.



Greg Richmond

Greg Richmond is president and CEO of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), the leading national organization committed to advancing excellence and accountability among charter schools. Under his leadership, NACSA played a significant role transforming the public education system in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. NACSA continues to provide assistance in cities and states across the U.S. to grow and strengthen charter schools and charter authorizers.

From 1994 to 2005, Richmond served in a variety of roles at Chicago Public Schools, including Chief Officer for New School Development overseeing the creation of all new schools in the city. He established the district's Charter Schools Office and, under his leadership, Chicago became the first urban school district in the nation to release an RFP requesting educators and community organizations to start charter schools. Richmond also established the nation's first

district-funded capital loan fund for charter schools and developed model accountability and monitoring practices. Under then-CEO of the district Arne Duncan, Richmond led Chicago's Renaissance 2010 Initiative, an ambitious plan to open 100 new schools.

In 2011, Richmond was appointed by then Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to serve as the first chair of the Illinois State Charter School Commission. He has served on several boards and committees, including the Aspen Institute's Commission on No Child Left Behind, Tulane University's Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives and the Haitian Development Fund. He is an Aspen Institute Pehara Fellow.



Kenneth L. Campbell

Kenneth Campbell, a founding board member of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO), served as BAEO's president from 2010 to 2015. BAEO is an education reform advocacy organization founded to increase access to high-quality educational options for Black children by supporting education reform initiatives and parental choice policies. Under his leadership, BAEO played an instrumental role in advancing bold education policy reforms in key states. His work resulted in changing the narrative about education reform and parental choice in the Black community nationwide. A retired Army Reserve captain, he began his career in education reform by helping secure the passage of Washington, D.C.'s charter school law. He later founded the D.C. Charter School Resource Center and helped develop schools in Qatar as part of the most progressive education reform effort in the Middle East.

Campbell is a founding board member of 4.0 Schools and he was the founding director of charter schools at the Louisiana Department of Education prior to serving as president of BAEO. Following Hurricane Katrina, he helped rebuild the education system of New Orleans and accelerate the growth of high-performing charter schools across the state.