

7<sup>th</sup> annual  
**Presidents' Forum**  
convened by Excelsior College

# ONLINE LEARNING in the 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## TIME FOR AN ASSESSMENT

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 12, 2010

Hall of Flags  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
1615 H Street NW, Washington, DC

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# Presidents' Forum

# THE PRESIDENTS' FORUM

The **PRESIDENTS' FORUM** is a collaborative of over 150 institutions offering distance higher education, associations, and policy bodies that cover all sectors of not-for-profit and for-profit higher learning. It was launched in 2004, in consultation with the American Council on Education and other higher education constituencies. This collaborative provides a vehicle to formulate strategies that drive innovation and best practices in distance learning.

The Forum has been involved in other ground-breaking projects such as:

- 1. *Access to Learning 2006***, a national education project which introduces public policy leaders to the methods, advantages, and quality of online learning (see [www.accesstolearningproject.org](http://www.accesstolearningproject.org)).
- 2. *Transparency By Design 2008***, now in progress (with Lumina Foundation support to the Western Cooperative for Educational Technology), is creating a common, timely and shareable data reporting process to report learning outcomes and institutional performance against a variety of metrics. Information concerning this project can be found at [www.presidentsforum.excelsior.edu](http://www.presidentsforum.excelsior.edu).
- 3. *Aligning State Approval and Regional Accreditation for Online Postsecondary Institutions: A National Strategy 2009*** (with Lumina Foundation support to Excelsior College—The PRESIDENTS' FORUM), is a project to advance new strategies and structures to rationalize the state oversight process, protecting the interests of the public while eliminating unnecessary barriers to student access.

This year, the Forum's annual meeting will focus on the removal of barriers to the provision of cross-state border online learning and the validation of quality online higher education programs. Program participants will examine the relationships between accreditation, online learning, and methodologies for certification of the quality of online courses and online components.

## Speakers



**Margaret Spellings** is the President and CEO of Margaret Spellings and Company and a leading national expert in public policy. Spellings also serves as a Senior Advisor to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Executive Vice President of the National Chamber Foundation and as a Senior Advisor to the Boston Consulting Group. Spellings is the immediate past U.S. Secretary of Education where she led the implementation of the *No Child Left Behind Act* and convened “The Commission on the Future of Higher Education.” Spellings also served as White House Domestic Policy Advisor under President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2005.



**Stanley S. Litow** is IBM's Vice President of Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs and President of IBM's Foundation. He heads global corporate citizenship and corporate social responsibility at IBM. Under his leadership, IBM has been widely regarded as a global leader in Corporate Social Responsibility and prized for its societal and environmental leadership, its labor practices and civic leadership. Under Stan, IBM has developed innovative voice recognition technology to help non-literate children and adults learn to read, automatic language translation and bilingual email, open source technology to help people with disabilities access the Web, a humanitarian grid to power research on cancer and AIDS, and new digital imaging technology to improve water quality. He helped devise IBM's Global Citizen's Portfolio consisting of matching accounts for learning and The Corporate Service Corps, a corporate version of the Peace Corps that trains thousands of IBM's future leaders. IBM's efforts in education have raised student achievement and won the company two Ron Brown Awards presented by the President.

Before joining IBM, he previously served as the Deputy Chancellor of Schools for New York City; founded and ran Interface, a nonprofit “think tank”; and served as an aide to the mayor and governor of New York. He has contributed to such publications as *Brookings Papers*, *The New York Times*, and *Newsday*. Some of his honors include awards from the Anne Frank Center, the Martin Luther King Commission, and the Women's City Club. He has taught at New School University, the City University of New York and Long Island University. *Corporate Responsibility Officer Magazine* voted him CEO of the Year for 2008 and 2009.



**Dr. Mark David Milliron** serves as the Deputy Director for Postsecondary Improvement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, leading efforts to increase student success in the U.S. postsecondary education sector. He is an award-winning leader, author, speaker, and consultant well known for exploring leadership development, future trends, learning strategies, and the human side of technology change. Mark works with universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, corporations, associations, and government agencies across the country and around the world. In addition, he serves on numerous other corporate, nonprofit, and education boards and advisory groups; guest lectures for educational institutions nationally and internationally; and authors and moderates the *Catalytic Conversations Blog*.



**Louis Soares** is the Director of the Postsecondary Education Program at American Progress. He has worked as a nonprofit director, educator, policy analyst, volunteer, and advocate across the fields of workforce, education, and economic development. A leader in workforce development and human capital issues, Louis has published articles and op-eds on workforce and innovation. Prior to joining American Progress, he served as Director of Business Development at the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, where he managed Rhode Island's business attraction, export assistance, government contracting, and small business initiatives. As Director of Education and Training for the Rhode Island Technology Council, Louis developed and managed a workforce training strategy for a 240-member trade association, which included implementing education-business partnerships at the high school, college, and corporate levels to align with relevant workplace skills. He also served as a small business consultant with the U.S. Peace Corps in Romania. Louis brings to us expertise in state strategy and incentives for economic development, adult literacy, and workforce development.

# Schedule of Events

7:45 AM

## Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM

## Welcome and Introductions

8:35 AM

## Keynote Address

FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

**Margaret Spellings**, Senior Advisor to President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and former U.S. Secretary of Education

### **“Online Learning in Higher Education: Catching Up to Our Students—and the Future”**

*The presentation will examine the positives offered by online learning, challenges that need to be addressed, progress towards addressing the nation's goals for access, affordability, and accountability, and the outlook for change from the Obama Administration and the U.S. Department of Education.*

9:15 AM

## Panel Discussion

FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

### **“Why Are We Still Addressing Questions About Quality?”**

*The panel will examine the relationships between accreditation, online learning, and methodologies for certification of the quality of online courses and online components.*

#### **Moderator**

**Julie Porosky Hamlin**, Executive Director, MarylandOnline

**Gordon Freedman**, Vice President of Strategy, Blackboard Inc.

**Ron Legon**, Executive Director, Quality Matters

**Judith S. Eaton**, President, Council for Higher Education Accreditation

**Carolyn L. Baker**, Chief, DoD Continuing Education Programs

**Bruce Chaloux**, Director, Electronic Campus, Southern Regional Education Board and President, Board of Directors, The Sloan Consortium

10:15 AM

## Break

10:30 AM

## Panel Discussion

FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

### **“Barriers to Reciprocity in Regulation for Online Learning: The Cost of Educating America One State at a Time”**

*The panel will examine issues around a comprehensive plan to encourage and support reciprocal agreements among the states to mutually accept college and university evaluations and reviews, and the necessary actions to authorize institutions to offer educational services to students who are residents of an accepting state.*

#### **Moderator**

**Sally Johnstone, Provost, Winona State University**

**David Dies, Executive Secretary,**  
Wisconsin Educational Approval Board

**Shane DeGarmo, Administrator, Degree Programs**  
Private Institutions & Tuition Reciprocity,  
Ohio Board of Regents

**Margarite Beardsley, Acting Executive Director,**  
New Jersey Commission on Higher Education

**Byron Connell, Associate Commissioner in Higher Education,**  
New York State Education Department

**David Longanecker, President,**  
Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education

11:45 AM

## Break

12:00 PM

## Luncheon

12:15 PM

## Luncheon Address

FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

**Stanley Litow, Vice President for Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs and President of the IBM International Foundation, IBM Corporation**

### **“Creating a Performance Based Culture: A Corporate View of Higher Education’s Capacity for Workforce Development”**

*The presentation will examine the power of technology in addressing the nation’s needs for greater access and increased degree completion and the connection to workforce development and economic competitiveness.*

1:00 PM

## Address

FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

**Mark David Milliron**, Deputy Director for Postsecondary Improvement, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

### **“Innovating Around Access, Quality, and Completion”**

*The presentation will explore leadership development, learning strategies, the potential of technology changes, and anticipated future trends as the nation seeks to improve educational outcomes.*

2:00 PM

## Address

FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

**Louis Soares**, Director, Postsecondary Education Program, Center for American Progress

### **“Leveraging Policy to Improve Higher Education and Degree Completion”**

*The presentation will discuss the role of the federal government in providing a workforce development system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that aligns postsecondary education with relevant workplace skills, maintains working learners employability, and contributes to the nation’s long-term economic stability.*

3:00 PM

## Panel Discussion

FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

### **“On the Horizon: Legislation, Policy and Regulation”**

*The panel will explore the potential for change in policy and regulation and how it may affect higher education offered at a distance and online learning.*

#### **Moderator**

**John Ebersole**, President, Excelsior College

**Rebecca Campoverde**, Vice President, Government Relations, Kaplan

**Russell S. Kitchner**, Associate Vice President for Regulatory and Governmental Relations, American Public University System

**Jennifer Blum**, Partner, Drinker Biddle & Reath

**Charles S. Lenth**, Vice President for Policy Analysis and Academic Affairs, State Higher Education Executive Officers

**Julie Davis Bell**, Education Program Director, National Conference of State Legislatures

4:00 PM

## Summary and Adjournment



Lumina Foundation for Education is committed to enrolling and graduating more students from college—especially low-income students, students of color, first-generation students, and adult learners. Our goal is to increase the percentage of Americans who hold high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina pursues this goal in three ways: by identifying and supporting effective practice, through public policy advocacy, and by using our communications and convening power to build public will for change.



## Blackboard

Blackboard Inc. is a company of more than 1,000 people who believe in the idea of improving education. Blackboard works with more than 5,000 institutions and millions of users to focus on a single mission: to increase the impact of education by transforming the experience of education.



The Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW) is the nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. ICW promotes the rigorous educational standards and effective job training systems needed to preserve the strength of America's greatest economic resource, its workforce. Through its events, publications, and policy initiatives—and drawing upon the Chamber's extensive network of three million members—ICW connects the best minds in American business with the most innovative thinkers in American education, helping them work together to ensure the nation's continued prosperity.

Continue to follow the progress of our discussions at the Presidents' Forum Web site:  
[presidentsforum.excelsior.edu](http://presidentsforum.excelsior.edu)

Please email us at:  
[presidentsforum@excelsior.edu](mailto:presidentsforum@excelsior.edu)