



The Honorable Juan M. Pichardo

&

The Honorable Harold M. Metts

Present

Fourth Annual Rhode Island Education Summit

*The Equitable Delivery of a 21st Century Education:
Closing the Achievement Gap*

**Tuesday,
October 27, 2015
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

**State House
Senate Lounge
Providence, Rhode Island**

*Parking is available in the State House Lower Lot
Capitol TV will be filming LIVE*

Registration 8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

Continental breakfast will be provided

Welcome and Introductory Remarks 8:50 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

- **The Honorable Juan M. Pichardo**, Senator – District 2, Providence
- **The Honorable Harold M. Metts**, Senator – District 6, Providence

Session 1: State of Education for Black, Latino and Southeast Asians 9:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

- **Ken Wagner, Ph.D.**, Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education
Commissioner Wagner will provide an update on our PK-12 public education system and information about the Equity Plan approved by United States Department of Education
- **Jim Purcell, Ed.D.**, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education
Commissioner Purcell will provide an update on minority enrollment, retention and completion in our postsecondary education system
- **Barbara S. Cottam**, Chairperson of the Board of Education
Chairperson Cottam will provide insight into PK-12 strategic plan and updates on the PK-20 public education system
- Question and Answer

Session 2: The Latest Research and State and Local Initiatives 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

- **Micah Ann Wixom**, Policy Analyst for the Education Commission of the States
The Education Commission of the States tracks state policy trends, translates academic research, provides unbiased advice and creates opportunities for state leaders to learn from one another. Ms. Wixom authored a brief titled, Closing the Achievement Gap: Four States' Effort. She will outline and answer questions regarding the findings and efforts by those states to close the achievement gap.
- Superintendents from the Urban Core will present the status of minority students in their school districts and programs, initiatives and future plans for closing the achievement gap.
 - **Victor Capellan**, Superintendent Central Falls Public Schools
 - **Patti DiCenso**, Superintendent Pawtucket Public Schools
 - **Christopher Maher**, Superintendent Providence Public Schools
 - **Patrick McGee, Ed.D.**, Superintendent Woonsocket Public Schools
- Question and Answer

Break

15 minutes

Session 3: Approaches to Assist in Closing the Achievement Gap 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

- **Tracy L. Lafreniere**, 2016 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year
Mrs. Lafreniere will discuss the importance of reading at grade level and the impact reading specialists and literacy coaches can have in closing the achievement gap
- **Offering Dual Language Immersion**
Julie Nora, Ph.D., Director of the International Charter School
Dr. Julie Nora will discuss the benefits of dual language instruction including improvements in academic achievement and cross-cultural awareness
- **Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick**, Director, William M. Davies, Jr. Career & Technical High School
Mrs. Garrick will present information on the benefits of career and technical education and report on the academic performance of minorities at Davies.
- **Philip Less, Ed.D.**, Administrator, Adult Basic Education and GED Programs, Rhode Island Department of Education
Dr. Less will discuss the importance of educating parents and adults to aid in closing the achievement gap.
- **Adam Greenman**, Executive Vice President, Director of Community Investment, United Way
Mr. Greenman will discuss their Hasbro Summer Learning Program and its affect on summer learning loss along with the affect of quality after school programs in closing the achievement gap.
- **Representative from Serve Rhode Island**
A representative from Serve Rhode Island will discuss its programs and benefits as it relates to high quality service and volunteer experiences that benefit both the community and the volunteer.
- Question and Answer

Closing Remarks 12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- **The Honorable Harold M. Metts**
- **The Honorable Juan M. Pichardo**