

Ready, Set, READ!

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 | 8:30-10:00 am ET

Event location: [Russell Senate Office Building](#), Room 385 (3rd floor)

Speakers

Members of Congress/Congressional and Governmental Leaders:

Chairman Ed Royce



[Chairman Ed Royce](#) is a former member of the House of Representatives, where he served California's 39th Congressional District. During his time as a Congressman, Representative Ed Royce was Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and a Senior Member of the House Financial Services Committee, as well as a champion for International Education and the 2017 READ Act. Currently, Chairman Ed Royce is on the National Advisory Committee of the U.S. Global Leadership Committee (USGLC) and serves as a Senior Advisor for the Kyle House Group.

Representative Lois Frankel | @RepLoisFrankel



[Representative Lois Frankel](#) proudly serves Florida's 22nd District in the House of Representatives. The Congresswoman currently sits on the House Appropriations Committee, where she is a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies and the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs subcommittees. She is also the Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus and Co-Chair of the Women, Peace, and Security Caucus. A trailblazer in the Florida State Legislature, Congresswoman Frankel served as the first woman Democratic minority leader. Prior to her election to Congress, she served as Mayor of West Palm Beach, raising her city to a new vitality and earning a reputation as an innovative problem solver.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin | @SenatorDurbin



[Senator Dick Durbin](#) is the 47th U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois, the state's senior senator, and the convener of Illinois' bipartisan congressional delegation. Senator Durbin also serves as the Senate Majority Whip, the second highest ranking position among the Senate Democrats. Senator Durbin has been elected to this leadership post by his Democratic colleagues every two years since 2005. Senator Durbin serves as Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and sits on the Appropriations and Agriculture Committees. Senator Durbin is a co-lead of the READ Act Reauthorization Act and original READ Act in partnership with Senator Rubio.

Remarks (by video):

Senator Marco Rubio | @SenMarcoRubio



[Senator Marco Rubio](#) is a current U.S. Senator serving the people of Florida in his third term. Senator Rubio serves as Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, a Senior Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations and a member of the Appropriations Committee and Special Committee on Aging. He is the former Chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Senator Rubio is a co-lead of the READ Act Reauthorization Act and original READ Act in partnership with Senator Durbin.

Chairwoman Nita Lowey



Former Congresswoman and Chairwoman [Nity Lowey](#) is a passionate champion for global education and girls' education. She was an original sponsor of the Education for All Act and READ Act of 2017.

During her time in Congress, Chairwoman Lowey represented the people of New York and was the first woman to Chair the House Appropriations Committee. She served as Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, as well as Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

Representative Grace Meng | @RepGraceMeng



U.S. Congresswoman Grace Meng is serving her sixth term in the United States House of Representatives, where she represents New York's Sixth Congressional District. Grace's district is located entirely in the New York City borough of Queens, including west, central, and northeast Queens. Grace is the first and only Asian American Member of Congress from New York State, and the first female Congressmember from Queens since former Vice Presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro. In Congress, Grace serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where she is New York's senior member and is the Vice Ranking Member.

Grace sits on both the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee and the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies subcommittee. The House Appropriations Committee is responsible for funding the federal government's programs and activities. Grace serves as the First Vice-Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a co-Chair of the House Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Antisemitism, and as a Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus.

LeAnna Marr | @leannajoon @USAID @USAIDEducation



[LeAnna Marr](#) is the Deputy Assistant Administrator and Acting Senior Coordinator of USAID, overseeing the Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation's Center for Education. In her role, she is responsible for the oversight and coordination of all resources and activities relating to the promotion of international basic education, including the implementation of the U.S. Government Strategy for International Basic Education across U.S. government agencies and departments. In addition, Ms. Marr currently serves as the U.S. government representative on the board of directors of the Global Partnership for Education and on the Executive Committee of Education Cannot Wait.

Civil Society and Policy Partners:

Dr. Joanne Carter | @RESULTStweets



[Dr. Joanne Carter](#) is the Executive Director of RESULTS. Under her leadership, RESULTS has grown to include chapters and grassroots volunteers in every state in the U.S., with advocacy partnerships around the world. Joanne has also served in a range of board, governance, and advisory roles with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Micronutrient Initiative, Stop TB Partnership, the Global Campaign for Education-U.S., and the Global Financing Facility for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health.

Carol Jenkins | @CarolJenkins_WL @WorldLearning



[Carol Jenkins](#) is the Chief Executive Officer of World Learning as well as serving as the President of the Global Development and Exchange Division where she oversees programs in more than 30 countries. Carol Jenkins is the CEO of World Learning Inc., which encompasses three distinct branches: The Experiment in International Living; School for International Training, which includes SIT Study Abroad and SIT Graduate Institute; and the nonprofit global development and exchange unit World

Learning. Jenkins has served in multiple positions at World Learning over more than a decade. She first joined in June 2007 as senior director of international programs after a 16-year career in humanitarian aid and development. She spent seven years at the organization, including three years as head of its International Development and Exchange. In 2014, after nearly a year working on business and program development for World Vision in East Africa, Jenkins returned to World Learning. Under Jenkins's leadership, World Learning's development portfolio has seen revenue increase by 14 percent with continued anticipated growth. She oversaw the merger of World Learning's three development and exchange offices into one location, leveraging the assets of more than 100 staff members. She was named CEO in February 2018. Prior to joining World Learning, Jenkins was director of program development for International Medical Corps, where she managed a team of technical business development professionals to improve the quality of field programs and expand the coverage to project recipients. She also previously spent 12 years working for World Vision, including a period during which she was posted in Southern Africa. Jenkins holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Messiah College in Pennsylvania. She was a fellow at the Luskin School of Public Affairs at University of California, Los Angeles, in 2012 and a participant in the Leadership Program at the International Civil Society Center.

Ngozi Lawal



[Ngozi Lawal](#), is the Principal at Early Actions, a consulting group based in Washington, DC which works to ensure every child reaches their full potential in school and life. Ngozi brings 20 years of early childhood policy experience to the early childhood field. During her career she worked at the Center for the Study of Social Policy, the American Public Human Services Association and Zero to Three national organizations, advancing various early childhood and family policies. At the the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, she supported the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Education and oversaw federal grant programs such as the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge and Preschool Development Grants. Ngozi serves as a board officer with the Global Campaign for Education-US and was appointed as an inaugural National Black Child Development Institute Policy Fellow in 2019.

Dr. Alison Bryant | @JAlisonBryant @SesameWorkshop



[Dr. Alison Bryant](#) is the Chief Research, Data, and Impact Officer at Sesame Workshop, where she oversees all research, data strategy, analytics, and impact measurement. In this capacity, Dr. Bryant and her team ensure that their research and data insights further the Workshop's global thought leadership on the power of media and outreach to educate and support kids and their families. Dr. Bryant is a renowned expert on the development and impact of media, technology, and play on consumers.

Previously, she led AARP's world-class Research Center and Technology & Digital Equity social impact area where she focused on re-envisioning data storytelling, integrating insights, building research products and expanding the impact of their work.

Laura Denham | @lidenham22 @malalafund



[Laura Denham](#) is a human rights and education advocate, and joined Malala Fund in early 2018. In her current role as Government Relations Adviser, she works with governments and civil society to advance policies, initiatives and financing frameworks that allow every girl to claim her right to education. She holds a BA in Hispanic Studies from King's College London and an MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics.

Maha Shoaib | @mahashoaib4 @GCE-US



[Maha Shoaib](#) is a Fulbright Scholar from Pakistan, currently pursuing her studies in International Education Policy at the University of Maryland College Park. As a Graduate Fellow at the Global Campaign for Education-US, she is actively engaged in collaborative efforts aimed at promoting Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) through advocacy, public policy initiatives, strategic communications, and youth engagement. She previously played a pivotal role in expanding access to quality education by teaching in a rural

community in Islamabad and collaborating with various stakeholders. Her efforts were recognized by the Teacher Task Force at the United Nation's Transforming Education Summit 2022. With professional experience working with the Ministry of Finance in Pakistan and the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Maha is driven by a profound passion for creating sustainable education systems that provide equitable opportunities for every child to learn, grow, and thrive.

Francine Niyomuhoza | @_____Francine @GPforEducation



[Francine Niyomuhoza](#) is a 21-year-old Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Youth Leader originally from Rwanda who lives in a refugee camp in Malawi. Recently, she worked as a community social worker for [JRS](#) on the Naweza Project. Growing up as a refugee, she knows that the only way of succeeding is by getting educated. She believes that education allows refugees and young people to attain knowledge and skills that can be used in different aspects of their lives.