

The 4th Annual International Conference on School Choice and Reform

Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

Hosted by the

National Institute for Educational Options

at

Nova Southeastern University

Abraham S. Fischler School of Education

In Cooperation with the

European Association for Education Law and Policy

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The International Conference on School Choice and Reform (ICSCR) is sponsored by the Journal of School Choice and is hosted by the National Institute for Educational Options at Nova Southeastern University and in cooperation with the European Association for Education Law and Policy. ICSCR brings together researchers, policy specialists, practitioners, and organizational leaders concerned with educational freedom in its various forms: (1) the freedom of families to choose schools that they think are best for their children, (2) the freedom of educators to create and maintain distinctive schools, and also (3) the sensitive role of government to promote such freedoms while ensuring that every child receives an adequate education.

ICSCR provides a framework for assessing evidence on the effects of different forms of educational choice, including magnet and charter public schools, controlled choice and inter-district transfer programs, vouchers, tuition tax credits, homeschooling, on-line education and the direct public funding of private schools provided in many countries. We are interested in how educational freedom relates to school effectiveness for diverse groups of students. Deliberately designed for around 120 participants to encourage discussion, ICSCR brings together researchers and policy specialists from many different countries to stimulate new thinking and foster international collaboration. By drawing representatives of governments into that discussion, ICSCR also encourages the development and implementation of effective and equitable policies. Through the generosity of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, we are able to offer two prizes of \$2,500 each for Best Papers. If, after attending the sessions, you have nominations, we'd be glad to have them.

Conference Co-Chair,
Charles Glenn, Ph.D.
Boston University, USA

Worlds of School Choice: Connecting Research and Practice

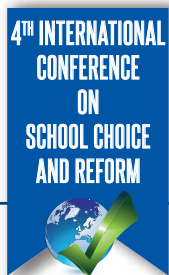


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This Conference would not have been possible without the dedicated and tireless work of:

Charles Glenn
Co-Chair

Priscilla Wohlstetter
Co-Chair

Patrick Wolf
Funding Chair

Judith S. Stein
Host Chair

Robert Fox
Planning Committee

Nina Buchanan
Planning Committee

Lois Lee
Event Coordinator

Nigel Whyte
Event Producer

J. Camilio Yibrin
Hospitality Director

SCHOOL CHOICE EXPERT LEGEND

PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE

MAGNET SCHOOL CHOICE

CHARTER SCHOOL CHOICE

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHOICE

VIRTUAL & ONLINE LEARNING

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE

**Worlds of School Choice:
Connecting Research and Practice**



A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS



Charles L. Glenn
Boston University

Dear Colleagues:

We are delighted to welcome you to the 4th Annual International School Choice and Reform Conference -- an opportunity to renew acquaintances and to meet new friends with shared interests for the first time.

The program reflects the rich variety of school choice solutions being pioneered and studied in the US and many other countries. We have purposely kept the number of conference participants at a level that will permit genuine conversation and debate.

We have modified the program in several ways this year to encourage discussion, including replacing guest speakers with panels, extending the time for sessions, and providing a light supper each evening.

The *Journal of School Choice* will again publish a special section featuring some of the most interesting papers presented at this 2015 Conference.

A special thanks is due to Host Chair Judy Stein, Event Producer Nigel Whyte, and Event Coordinator Lois Lee, and to the new online paper submission and review system, and the dozens of reviewers that made the task of putting together this strong program much easier.

We also want also to thank our generous sponsors, and our colleague Patrick Wolf who has worked tirelessly to ensure that ISCRC15 would have the financial support to bring participants from around the world to join in what we expect to be a very stimulating conversation.

We look forward to seeing you in Fort Lauderdale!

Charles L. Glenn
Boston University
glennsd@bu.edu

Priscilla Wohlstetter,
Teachers College, Columbia University
Wohlstetter@tc.columbia.edu



Priscilla Wohlstetter
Teachers College
Columbia University,

Worlds of School Choice: Connecting Research and Practice



A MESSAGE FROM GEORGE L. HANBURY II, PH.D PRESIDENT/CEO, NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.

Dear School Choice Leader:

As NSU's 6th president and CEO, I welcome you on behalf of our Board of Trustees, students, alumni, faculty and staff to Florida's largest private, not-for-profit university.

NSU's initial class of 17 doctoral students has grown to approximately 26,000 students who learn within 5 million square feet of state-of-the art classrooms, libraries, fitness, and residence facilities. In addition to our 314-acre main campus in Davie, FL, we serve our students at eight regional campuses across Florida and in Puerto Rico, as well as through our online and distance learning programs. We also engage our communities with essential services ranging from medical, dental, pharmaceutical, psychological, vision, and legal.

Through NSU's Abraham S. Fischler School of Education and its National Institute for Educational Options (NIEO), the university has distinguished itself as a leader in graduate education having developed, in conjunction with NIEO, a Master of Science in Charter School Education and Leadership and the first doctoral minor in charter school education.

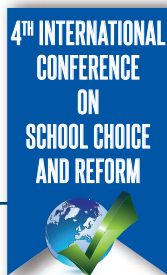
NSU has more than 164,000 alumni, including Abraham S. Fischler School of Education graduates who serve as teachers, administrators, trainers, and other educational professionals working throughout the U.S. and around the world. In fact, there are 260 school superintendents and 35 college/university presidents across the nation who hold degrees from NSU.

We hope you enjoy your time at NSU and that this annual conference will allow you to explore the national and international environment of parental school choice and the complexity of school choice policy design.

Thank you for your commitment to educating tomorrow's leaders-our children.

Sincerely,

George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.
President and CEO



PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary Session I:

EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM and HUMAN RIGHTS

SATURDAY 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This panel, chaired by Joseph Viteritti, will explore the relationship between educational freedom and other human rights. Panelists include: Parth Shah, Centre for Civil Society in New Delhi; Jan De Groof, European Association for Education Law and Policy; and Robert Enlow, Friedman Foundation

Plenary Session II:

INTEGRATION IN CHOICE SCHOOLS

SUNDAY 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Moving to school choice instead of a neighborhood attendance model makes it possible to draw together a different mix of students in a school. In practice, systems of school choice often yield schools tailored to specific student populations defined by culture, religion, or social class—but choice can also be used to create more socioeconomically, racially, and ethnically diverse schools. Representatives from three different regions of the globe -- India, the Netherlands, and the United States -- will discuss the effect that school choice has had on school segregation, and efforts to use choice to promote integration. Importantly, this session will focus attention on how to ensure that teachers reach students effectively in heterogeneous classrooms.

PARTICIPANTS: Chair: Deborah McGriff, New Schools Venture Fund; Parth Shah, Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi, India; Richard Kahlenberg, Century Foundation; Halley Potter, Century Foundation; and Jaap Dronkers, International Comparative Research on Educational Performance and Social Inequality, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Plenary Session III:

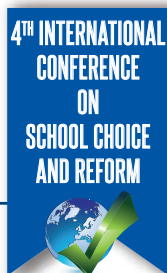
ADVOCACY GROUPS and RESEARCH

MONDAY 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Panelists will discuss the production and/or use of research by think tanks, advocacy groups, and partisans, on matters regarding educational choice. Each panelist will share observations of advocacy or opponent groups using research. When considering advocacy groups' production, reporting, or promoting of research, how have the activities and quality changed over time? How do these organizations maintain or improve research-related activities?

PARTICIPANTS Chair: Paul DiPerna, Research Director, Friedman Foundation
Arianna Prothero, Reporter, *Education Week*; Emmeline Zhao, Editor, RealClearEducation; Amber Northern, Vice President for Research, Fordham Institute; Neal McCluskey, Associate Director, Cato Institute

Worlds of School Choice: Connecting Research and Practice



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015

- 4:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Check-in & Registration – Infinity Ballroom
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. NETWORKING RECEPTION – Infinity Ballroom

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015

- 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Check-in & Registration – Infinity Ballroom
8:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. BREAKFAST – Infinity Ballroom
9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Concurrent Session I

Symposium A: Current Cases in American Courts over School Choice – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Jan De Groof, Chairman, European Association for Education Law and Policy

Panelists: Dick Komer, Attorney, Institute for Justice; Daniel Woodring, Attorney, Woodring Law Firm; and David Barkey, Religious Freedom Counsel, Anti-Defamation League

Paper Session 1: Competition in School Choice Markets – Horizon I

Moderator: Charles Barone, Democrats for Education Reform

- Symbolic Capital and the School Market in a Segregated City: The Case of Stockholm

Presenter: Nihad Bunar, Stockholm University

- Who Chooses What? The Sociocultural Influences of School Choice

Presenter: Ain Grooms; Duke Bradley, Southern Regional Education Board

- Is the New Spanish Education Law an Opportunity for Choice Schools in the Public System?

Presenter: Miguel Ángel Sancho Gargallo, European Foundation Society and Education

Paper Session 2: Financing School Choice Reforms – Horizon II

Moderator: Kara Kerwin, Center for Education Reform

- Charter School Spending and Saving in California

Presenter: Sherrie Reed, Ph. D. Candidate, University of California, Davis

- How Much Money Follows the Students in Weighted Student Funding (aka SBA) Districts?

Presenter: Amanda Warco, Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University

Symposium B: The Role of Marketing in Public Education: Comparisons and Implications – Horizon III

Chair: Heather Olson Beal, Associate Professor, Stephen F. Austin State University

Panelists: Heather Olson Beal, Stephen F. Austin State University; Huriya Jabbar, University of Texas; Mary Stewart, Indiana University; Brent Beal, University of Texas at Tyler; and Jin Lee, University of Illinois at Urbana

- 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. BREAK
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Session II

Symposium C: Florida School Choice Debates – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: William Mattox, Resident Scholar, James Madison Institute

Panelists: Manny Diaz, Florida State Legislative Representative, District 103; Douglas Tuthill, President, Step Up for Students; Adam Miller, Florida Department of Education Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice; and Adam Peshek, Policy Director for Education for Florida's Future

Revised 12-23-2014 Rooms and Times Subject to Change

Symposium D: The Rewards and Challenges of Exercising Parental School Choice – Horizon I

Presenters: Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj, Assistant Professor, Seton Hall University; Patrick Wolf, University of Arkansas.

Discussants: Joseph Viteritti, Hunter College, CUNY and Nina Buchanan, University of Hawaii.

Symposium E: Collective Bargaining in Education: Understanding the Process – Horizon II

Chair: Robert Fox, University of Hawaii

Panelists: Robert Fox, University of Hawaii; Rodrigo Queiroz e Melo, Associacao de Estabelecimentos de Ensino Particular e Cooperativo, Portugal; Simon Steen, Dutch Associations of Independent Schools; Howard Stevenson, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom; and Martin Rømer, European Trade Union Committee for Education

Symposium F: Issues and Perspectives on Home Education – Horizon III

Chair: Michael Donnelly, Director of Global Outreach, HSLDA/Adjunct Professor of Government, Patrick Henry College

Panelists: Michael Donnelly, Home School Legal Defense Association; Jonas Himmelstrand, Swedish Association for Home Education, Brian Ray, National Home Education Research Institute; Debra Bell, Aim Academy; and Steven Duvall, Pittsburg State University

Three Decades of Home Education in Canada: Lessons for a Digital Future?

Panelist: Deani van Pelt, Director, Centre for Improvement in Education, Fraser Institute, Canada

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

LUNCH & TABLE DISCUSSIONS: Infinity Ballroom

Sponsors: James Madison Institute and Judith S. Stein, Ed.D.

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

BREAK

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Plenary Session I: EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM and HUMAN RIGHTS – Infinity Ballroom

Moderator: Joseph Viteritti, Chair, Department Urban Affairs & Planning, Hunter College, City University of New York

Panelists: Jan De Groof, Chairman, European Association for Education Law and Policy; Robert Enlow, President, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice; and Vernard Gant, Urban School Services, Association of Christian Schools International

Are freedom and equality compatible? This panel will explore how different kinds of school choice programs implemented in the United States and elsewhere may have advanced these basic democratic ideals

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

BREAK

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Concurrent Session III

Paper Session 3: Human Rights and Access to School Choice - Horizon I

Moderator: Charles Glenn, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Boston University

- Government Tuition Subsidies and Religious Nondiscrimination in Admissions

Presenters: Nina J. Crimm, Law Faculty, St. John's University and Laurence H. Winer, Law Faculty, Arizona State University

- School Choice As A Human Right

Presenter: Zdenko Kodolja, Educational Research Institute, Slovenia

- The Right to a Freely Chosen Education

Presenter: José Luis Martínez López-Muñiz, Law Faculty, University of Valladolid, Spain

- How Secularism, Liberalism, and Neutrality Influence the Right to School Choice and School Reform

Presenter: Georgia Du Plessis, Law Faculty, University of the Free State, South Africa

Symposium G: Regulating Voucher Schools – Horizon II

Chair: Patrick Wolf, University of Arkansas, Department of Education Reform

Panelists: Charles Barone, Democrats for Education Reform; Kara Kerwin, Center for Education Reform; Ed Kirby, Alliance for School Choice, and Doug Tuthill, Step Up for Students, Florida

Symposium H: New Pathways for Teacher Voice – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Halley Potter, Fellow, The Century Foundation

Panelists: Richard D. Kahlenberg, The Century Foundation; and Andrea Maccarini, Professor of Sociology, Department of Political Science, Law, and International Studies, University of Padova, Italy; and Carrie Bakken, Program Coordinator/Teacher, Avalon School, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Symposium I: Faith-Based Schools: Current Issues and Research – Horizon III

Chair: Dale McDonald, Director of Public Policy, National Catholic Educational Association

Panelists: Albert Cheng, University of Arkansas; Lotem Perry-Hazan, University of Haifa; David Sikkink, University of Notre Dame; Ray Pennings, Cardus Foundation; Elizabeth Green, Cardus Foundation.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

TABLE DISCUSSIONS – Hotel Restaurant

Dutch treat, each person participating in the table discussions pays for their restaurant bill.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**

8:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. **BREAKFAST – Impressions/Infinity Ballroom**

9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Concurrent Session IV**

Panel Session 4: Getting Published – Horizon I

Moderator: Priscilla Wohlstetter, Education Policy & Social Analysis, Teachers College, Columbia University

Panelists: Robert Maranto, *Journal of School Choice International Research and Reform*; John Merrifield, *School System Reform Journal*; Andrea Maccarini, *Italian Journal of the Sociology of Education*; and Jan De Groof, *International Journal for Education Law and Policy*

Symposium J: Supplying Private School Choice in the U.S.: Status, Prospects, and Challenges – Horizon II

Moderator: Ed Kirby, Alliance for School Choice

Panelists: Whitney Marcavage, Alliance for School Choice; Megan Austin, University of Notre Dame; and Patrick Wolf, University of Arkansas

Symposium K: Friedman Foundation Research Symposium – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Paul DiPerna, Research Director, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

Panelists: Benjamin Scafidi, Professor of Economics, Kennesaw State University; Jeff Spalding, Director of Fiscal Policy & Analysis, Friedman Foundation

Discussant: Carolyn Herrington, Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy, Florida State University

Discussant: Richard Kahlenberg, Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

Symposium L: The Opportunity Frontier: Charter Management Organizations – Horizon III

Chair: James Lynn Woodworth, Research Associate, CREDO at Stanford University

Panelists: Christopher Chapman, University of Glasgow and Deborah McGriff, New Schools Venture Fund

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **BREAK**

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Concurrent Session V**

Paper Session 5: Measuring the Effects of Choice – Infinity Ballroom

Moderator: Priscilla Wohlstetter, Teachers College, Columbia University

- On Top of the World: Public Charter Schools and International Benchmarking, 2013-14

Presenter: Nora Kern, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

- The Productivity of U. S. Charter Schools

Presenters: Albert Cheng, University of Arkansas, Department of Education Reform

- Charter High Schools' Effects on Long-Term Attainment and Earnings

Presenter: Ron Zimmer, Vanderbilt University

Symposium M: Preserving Autonomy While Being Accountable: How Can Non-Government Schools Remain Distinctive within the Context of Government Regulation? – Horizon I

Chair: Parth Shah, Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi, India

Panelists: Thomas J. Cathey, Legal Legislative Issues, Association of Christian Schools International; John F. Elcesser Indiana Non-Public Education Association; Joe McTighe, Council for American Private Education (CAPE); Rodrigo Quiroz e Melo, Portuguese Association of Private Schools (AEEP); Roel Schoonveld, The Amsterdam Lyceum; and Simon Steen, European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools

Symposium N: A City of Choice: Research Perspectives from Post-Katrina New Orleans – Horizon II

Chair: Patrick Wolf, University of Arkansas, Department of Education Reform

Panelists: Jane Lincove, Tulane University; Paula Arce-Trigatti, Tulane University; Jonathan Mills, University of Arkansas; Betheny Gross, University of Washington, Bothell; Huriya Jabbar, University of Texas, Austin

Paper Session 6: Private School Choice – Horizon III

Moderator: Chair: Parth Shah, Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi, India

- Private School Enrollment in an Italian Region after Implementing a Change in the Voucher Policy

Presenter: Tommaso Agasisti, Politecnico di Milano School of Management

- Education Markets for the Poor in Developing Countries: Investigating the Delivery and Regulation of Private Education Services in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Presenter: Donald Baum, World Bank Group

- Tax Credit Scholarship Determinants

Presenters: John Merrifield and Mike Ford, College of Business – University of Texas, San Antonio

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **LUNCH & Table Discussions: – Infinity Ballroom**
Sponsor: Charter Schools USA

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

BREAK

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Session VI

PLENARY SESSION II: USING CHOICE TO INTEGRATE SCHOOLS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Deborah McGriff, New Schools Venture Fund

Panelists: Parth Shah, Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi, India; Richard Kahlenberg, Century Foundation; Halley Potter, Century Foundation; and Jaap Dronkers, International Comparative Research on Educational Performance and Social Inequality, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

BREAK

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Concurrent Session VII

Paper Session 7: Post-Soviet Education Reform – Horizon I

Moderator: Charles Glenn, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Boston University

- Accessing Classroom through the Courtroom: Contemporary Contours of Russian Case Law on Accessibility of Public Schooling

Presenter: Maria Smirnova, The University of Manchester School of Law, United Kingdom

- New Education Concept in Ukraine by Means of Educational Voucher

Presenters: Anastasiya Kyslynska and Diana Chernyavska, New Education Format, Ukraine

- Tales of Cities in Post-Communist Countries: School Choice in Russia and Estonia

Presenters: Triin Lauri, Kaire Põder and Daniel Alexandrov, Tallinn University, Institute of Political Science and Governance, Estonia

Paper Session 8: Access Issues and Perspectives – Infinity Ballroom

Moderator: Cynthia Gant, Urban School Services, Association of Christian Schools International

- Disparities of Potential Access to Charter Schools

Presenter: Jin Lee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Structures and Policies that Facilitate or Inhibit School Choice: A Review of Evidence from OECD and Partner Countries

Presenter: Gary Miron, University of Western Michigan

- When Educational Choice Encounters Discrimination: The Impact of Litigation on the Rights Consciousness of Israeli Haredi Parents

Presenter: Lotem Perry-Hazan, Oshrat Perlshtein, Leadership and Policy in Education, University of Haifa

- Who Gets to Attend a Great School? Cultural Capital, Student Background Characteristics, and School Choice

Presenter: Sarah Gearhart, Temple University

Paper Session 9: Politics of School Choice – Horizon II

Moderator: Priscilla Wohlstetter, Education Policy & Social Analysis, Teachers College, Columbia University

- State Policy Regimes and the Performance of Charter Schools

Presenter: Mikael Pelz, Calvin College

- School Choice and Electoral Influence: How Charter Advocates Attempt to Increase Political Participation in New York City

Presenter: Basil Smikle, Teachers College, Columbia University

- Language Rights and School Choice

Presenter: Ingo Richter, Irmgard Coninx Foundation, Berlin, Germany

- Politics of Educational Reform: Alberta Charter Schools 20 years later

Presenter: Lynn Bosetti, University of British Columbia

Paper Session 10: Longitudinal Data on School Choice – Horizon III

Moderator: Paul DiPerna, Research Director, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

- An Analysis of Private School Surveys and the Implications for Two States' Private School Choice Marketplaces: Looking at More Than Two Decades of Data on Indiana and Ohio

Presenter: Andrew Catt, The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

- Growth Trends in the Education Management Organization (EMO) Industry: 1999-2013

Presenters: Charisse Gulosino, University of Memphis and Gary Miron, University of Western Michigan

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

RECEPTION & TABLE DISCUSSIONS – Impressions/Infinity Ballroom

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015

7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST – Infinity Ballroom**

9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. **Concurrent Session VIII**

Paper Session 11: Spotlight on North America – Horizon I

Moderator: Andrea Maccarini, University of Padova, Italy

- School Choice in Canada: Diversity Along the Wild – Domesticated Continuum with Implications for Reform in Ontario

Presenter: Derek J. Allison, Western University, Ontario

- Examining the Impact of State Accountability Policies in Louisiana's Recovery School District

Presenter: Sean Corcoran, New York University

Paper Session 12: The Power of Consumers – Horizon II

Moderator: Ingo Richter, Irmgard Coninx Foundation, Berlin, Germany

- Choosing a High School in Amsterdam

Presenter: Roel Schoonveld, Het Amsterdams Lyceum, The Netherlands

- Parental Choice in Multicultural Schools

Presenters: Laid Bouakaz and Rehan Taha, Malmö University

- Islamic Primary Schools in The Netherlands

Presenter: Jaap Dronkers, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Symposium O: Faith Development and Academic Excellence – Horizon III

Chair: Charles Glenn, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Boston University

Presenters:

- **Evangelical** – Vernard Gant, Urban School Services, Association of Christian Schools International
- **Jewish** – Kalman Baumann, Klurman Elementary School of Yeshiva Tora Chaim Toras Emes in Miami, Florida
- **Islamic** – Fawzia Mai Tung, Islamic Schools League of America
- **Catholic** – Kim Pryzbylski, Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Miami, Florida
- **Lutheran** – Gene Ladendorf, South Wisconsin District, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Symposium P: Lessons from School Choice and School Reform in Houston – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Robert Maranto, Endowed Chair in Leadership & Professor, University of Arkansas

Panelists: Soner Tarim, Founder & CEO, Harmony Schools; Jason Bernal, YES Prep; Soner Tarim, Harmony Schools; Donald R. McAdams, Center for Reform of School Systems, Rice University; Duncan Klussman, Spring Branch ISD Superintendent; Rod Paige, HISD Superintendent, 1994-2001.

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Concurrent Session IX**

Plenary Session III: ADVOCACY GROUPS and RESEARCH – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Paul DiPerna, Research Director, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

Panelists: Arianna Prothero, Education Week; Emmeline Zhao, RealClear Education; Neal McCluskey, Cato Institute; Amber Northern, Fordham institute

12:00 p.m.

BOX LUNCH/ DEPARTURE – Impressions/Infinity Ballroom



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015

CONCURRENT SESSION I

9: 15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

SYMPOSIUM A: Current Cases in American Courts over School Choice – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Jan De Groof, Chairman, European Association for Education Law and Policy

Panelists: Dick Komer, Attorney, Institute for Justice; Daniel Woodring, Attorney, Woodring Law Firm; and David Barkey, Religious Freedom Counsel, Anti-Defamation League

This panel will discuss what is at stake in the most significant cases making their way through the courts or recently decided. Perspectives for and against further expansion of the right to publicly-funded parental choice in education.

PAPER SESSION 1: Competition in School Choice Markets – Horizon I

Moderator: Charles Barone, Democrats for Education Reform

Symbolic Capital and the School Market in a Segregated City: The Case of Stockholm

Presenter: Nihad Bunar, Stockholm University

In this article, empirically based on extensive field work in three diverse elementary schools in the Stockholm region, the functioning of two organizing principles of a local school market – distribution of symbolic capital and socio-economic configuration of the urban landscape – will be particularly explored. The aim is to understand how school professionals (teachers and principals) position their schools on a school market and deal with reputation, status and image in a socially and ethnically segregated city. In this context, three empirically generated examples will be examined further: the importance of marketization; how schools cope with students in need of extraordinary support; and the impact of catchment areas and subsequent strategies to manage their stigmatizing or beneficial effects.

Who Chooses What? The Sociocultural Influences of School Choice

Presenter: Ain Grooms; Duke Bradley, Southern Regional Education Board

As competition for students increases, charter schools and management organizations have begun to aggressively market themselves to parents by either trumpeting a history of achievement or by promoting an innovative school model. Using data from three demographically different charter schools in East Atlanta, Georgia, this study explores, first, whether the marketable features of the three schools influenced parents' decisions and, second, whether parents' race, income level, and educational attainment created patterns of interest regarding their selections. In short, this is a study about the factors that influence how parents arrive at the key decision of where they will send their children to school and whether those results align with certain sociocultural indicators.

Is the New Spanish Education Law an Opportunity for Choice Schools in the Public System?

Presenter: Miguel Ángel Sancho Gargallo, European Foundation Society and Education

The recently approved Organic Act for the Improvement of Education (LOMCE) has introduced a series of changes to give schools greater autonomy. Analysis of these new regulations can help us appreciate to what extent they represent real change, bringing diversity and differentiation in schools and making sense of choosing one over another. However, two factors negatively limit autonomy: the legal framework applicable to schools and the legal nature of public schools established as administrative unit, without legal personality and subject to the principle of hierarchy within the education administration. Beyond the new education act, we need to explore whether, in the administrative law, there exists a legal process by which state schools can open pathways towards other, more flexible models, such as charter schools or free schools.

Worlds of School Choice: Connecting Research and Practice

PAPER SESSION 2: Financing School Choice Reforms – Horizon II

Moderator: Kara Kerwin, Center for Education Reform

Charter School Spending and Saving in California

Presenter: Sherrie Reed, Ph. D. Candidate, University of California, Davis

Examining resource allocation practices, including savings, of charter schools is critical to understanding their financial viability and sustainability. Using ten years of finance data from California, I find charter schools spend less on instruction and pupil support services than traditional public schools, a gap that decreases as charters mature. The lower spending on instruction and pupil support is offset, not by administrative costs, but by higher spending on operations, consultant services and a greater rate of saving. Spending on consultant services by charters may suggest efficiency in the early years of operation and the presence of an economy of scale as charters mature. Further, the greater saving rate of charter schools implies preparation for economic uncertainty, vital for financial viability.

How Much Money Follows the Students in Weighted Student Funding (aka SBA) Districts?

Presenter: Amanda Warco, Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University

Weighted student funding (WSF), also known as student based allocation (SBA), is a means of allocating district funds to schools. The budgeting strategy continues to gain traction among larger urban districts, including districts in Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, New York City, Hartford, and others. Under SBA, funds follow students regardless of which school they attend, making it a key component of any school choice program. This study explores twenty-five districts to determine the portion of total district funds allocated by the formula. Specifically, the analysis explored financial records from the 2013-14 budget year to determine the portion of each district's total operating budget that was budgeted via the student based allocation formula.

SYMPOSIUM B: The Role of Marketing in Public Education: Comparisons and Implications – Horizon III

Chair: Heather Olson Beal, Associate Professor, Stephen F. Austin State University

Panelists: Heather Olson Beal; Huriya Jabbar, University of Texas; Mary Stewart, Indiana University; Brent Beal, University of Texas at Tyler; and Jin Lee, University of Illinois at Urbana

Current school reform efforts call for increased choice to improve student achievement. A necessary component of such reforms is a strategic focus on marketing choice programs to parents. Despite the expansion of school choice, few studies have explored marketing practices systematically. In particular, little research examines how schools and other publicly-funded educational organizations market themselves, who is involved in marketing, how marketing practices vary across organizational forms, and, ultimately, how marketing influences educational experiences for students and parents. This session brings together four studies with a range of methodologies, conceptual frames, and settings, including key reform districts, charter management organizations, locally-administered magnet schools, and out-of-school providers. Each paper offers nuanced insights and implications of marketing.

CONCURRENT SESSION II

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM C: Florida School Choice Debates – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: William Mattox, Resident Scholar, James Madison Institute

Panelists: Manny Diaz, Florida State Legislative Representative, District 103; Douglas Tuthill, President, Step Up for Students; Adam Miller, Florida Department of Education Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice; and Adam Peshek, Policy Director for Education for Florida's Future

The presenters will discuss the issues and the current state of play in the development of school choice in Florida.

SYMPOSIUM D: The Rewards and Challenges of Exercising Parental School Choice – Horizon I

Presenters: Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj, Assistant Professor, Seton Hall University; Patrick Wolf, University of Arkansas

Discussants: Joseph Viteritti, Hunter College, CUNY and Nina Buchanan, University of Hawaii.

This symposium will explore some of the benefits and challenges of participating in school choice from the perspective of low-income parents. Drawing on the results of studies of New York City's controlled high school choice plan and the District of Columbia's Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), the first federally funded private school choice program in the United States, panelists will discuss the common challenges and opportunities associated with parental choice and suggest strategies at the family, school- and district-levels to help all families take full advantage of the educational possibilities that choice may offer. The symposium will feature a robust discussion of potential policies and practices that may be implemented to furnish support and assistance to families participating in choice and consider arguments for and against investment of public dollars for this purpose.

SYMPOSIUM E: Collective Bargaining in Education: Understanding the Process – Horizon II

Chair: Robert Fox, University of Hawaii

Panelists: Robert Fox, University of Hawaii; Rodrigo Queiroz e Melo, Associacao de Estabelecimentos de Ensino Particular e Cooperativo, Portugal; Simon Steen, Dutch Associations of Independent Schools; Howard Stevenson, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom; and Marfin Rømer, European Trade Union Committee for Education

While collective bargaining in schools has been under public scrutiny for most of the last fifty years, it is ironic that this formalized conflict resolution has been the source of so much conflict, itself. Despite all educational researchers and policy makers are exposed to little information about how negotiation processes actually work. This is particularly true insofar as the bargaining

context varies from country to country. The question of whether unionized teachers have positive or negative effects on student performance or teacher rights rarely touches on an understanding of how collective bargaining is actually conducted in each country's educational arena. We include participants from the U.S. and multiple European countries who possess experience both in educational policy and collective bargaining.

SYMPOSIUM F: Issues and Perspectives on Home Education – Horizon III

Chair: Michael Donnelly, Director of Global Outreach, HSLDA/Adjunct Professor of Government, Patrick Henry College

Panelists: Michael Donnelly, Home School Legal Defense Association; Andreas Vogt, Rechtsanwalt: Law Firm, Brian Ray, National Home Education Research Institute; Debra Bell, Aim Academy; Steven Duvall, Pittsburg State University; and Deani Van Pelt, Centre for Improvement in Education, Fraser Institute, Canada

This panel brings together researchers and practitioners to explore the role of education in a free democratic and pluralistic society. Questions that will be discussed include: What role does school choice play in preserving pluralism and democracy? What role does or should parental involvement and decision making play in education in a free and democratic society? How much regulation of private education is too much? Is freedom in education important in preserving democracy? How much power should the state wield over curriculum, student assessment, educator credentialing, or school accreditation? Please join us for global and domestic perspectives on this subject.

PLENARY SESSION I

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM and HUMAN RIGHTS – Infinity Ballroom

Moderator: Joseph Viteritti, Chair, Department Urban Affairs & Planning, Hunter College, City University of New York

Panelists: Jan De Groof, Chairman, European Association for Education Law and Policy; Robert Enlow, President, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice; and Vernard Gant, Urban School Services, Association of Christian Schools International

Are freedom and equality compatible? This panel will explore how different kinds of school choice programs implemented in the United States and elsewhere may have advanced these basic democratic ideals.

CONCURRENT SESSION III

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

PAPER SESSION 3: Human Rights and Access to School Choice - Horizon I

Moderator: Charles Glenn, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Boston University

Government Tuition Subsidies and Religious Nondiscrimination in Admissions

Presenters: Nina J. Crimm, Law Faculty, St. John's University and Laurence H. Winer, Law Faculty, Arizona State University

As state legislatures aggressively enact innovative, targeted government programs that broadly subsidize private education tuition at the expense of public schools, most of this state money supports parochial schools. This taxpayer support for religious education has been abetted by a troubling series of U.S. Supreme Court circumventions of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. Our forthcoming book, *God, Schools, and Government Funding: First Amendment Conundrums*, describes the many perils of this consequence of the popular school choice movement. Our paper argues for one ameliorating factor, compelled by both strong public policy and constitutional principles, to foster true choice: Any private school participating in such a tuition subsidy program must adopt and adhere to student admissions policies and practices that do not discriminate on the basis of religion.

School Choice As A Human Right

Presenter: Zdenko Kodolja, Educational Research Institute, Slovenia

School choice as a human right is a right of parents to choose private schools. This right to liberty of choice is guaranteed by some international documents on human rights and connected with another right, the right of parents to educate their children in accordance with their religious or philosophical convictions. This is the main reason why parents have – if there are not such schools – the right to establish them. But this does not mean, says the European Court of Human Rights, that the State has an obligation to establish at its own expense, or to subsidise, private schools which provide an education consonant with a particular religious tradition.

The Right to a Freely Chosen Education

Presenter: José Luis Martínez López-Muñoz, Law Faculty, University of Valladolid, Spain

The historical emergence of the right to education after the First World War had no connection with freedom in education in the sense of school choice. The content of that new human right was simply concentrated, in many social programs for long time – and still today under several conceptions- in obtaining the required instruction from the Public Powers established in society. Extended ideological conceptions even were –and still are- opposed to the true freedom in education paradoxically in the name of the same freedom of education but conceived in a totally different way. However full integration of the true educational freedom and the social right to education, required by the deepest development of the human rights doctrine (and proclaimed in UDHR), is the key of solution of the systemic problems in education.

How Secularism, Liberalism, and Neutrality Influence the Right to School Choice and School Reform

Presenter: Georgia Du Plessis, Law Faculty, University of the Free State, South Africa

If religious institutions are to be separated from public institutions and hence, result in the complete separation of religion from public schools, will such a position necessarily enhance religious freedom or amount to equality? It will be argued that, secularism, in the form of the complete removal of religion from the public, is a closed world structure. It is also argued that the creation of secular public schools revert back to and is similar to, albeit in a more subtle sense, the effects of Christian National Education within South Africa during Apartheid.

SYMPOSIUM G: Regulating Voucher Schools – Horizon II

Chair: Patrick Wolf, University of Arkansas, Department of Education Reform

Panelists: Charles Barone, Democrats for Education Reform; Kara Kerwin, Center for Education Reform; Ed Kirby, Alliance for School Choice, and Doug Tuthill, Step Up for Students, Florida

Panelists discuss how and how much governments should regulate private schools participating in parental choice programs in the United States.

SYMPOSIUM H: New Pathways for Teacher Voice – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Halley Potter, Fellow, The Century Foundation

Panelists: Richard D. Kahlenberg, The Century Foundation; Andrea Maccarini, Professor of Sociology, Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies, University of Padova, Italy; and Carrie Bakken, Program Coordinator/Teacher, Avalon School, Minneapolis, Minnesota

One of the earliest visions for charter schools in the U.S. came from American Federation of Teachers union leader Albert Shanker, who proposed starting new public schools where teachers would have more room to innovate and more power to lead. In practice, however, many charter schools have emphasized empowering management over teachers, and most charter schools are non-union. As we experiment with new school models, what are the best ways to tap into teachers' expertise and create environments where effective teachers want to stay teaching? Panelists will debate the role that teachers should play in effective school governance and discuss teacher union reform, teacher-led schools, and other strategies for collaboration.

SYMPOSIUM I: Faith-Based Schools: Current Issues and Research – Horizon III

Chair: Dale McDonald, Director of Public Policy, National Catholic Educational Association

Panelists: Albert Cheng, University of Arkansas; Lotem Perry-Hazan, University of Haifa; David Sikkink, University of Notre Dame; Ray Pennings, Cardus Foundation; and Elizabeth Green, Cardus Foundation

This symposium features four papers pertaining to current issues and research regarding faith-based schools. Lotem Perry-Hazan discusses how litigation over admission policies to Israeli Haredi schools has reshaped the discourse over educational rights. David Sikkink and Ray Pennings present results from the most recent CARDUS Education Survey, exploring vocational and social outcomes of US adults who graduated from faith-based high schools. Albert Cheng presents research on civic values: Using recent data from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002 he describes volunteerism patterns among US adults who attended faith-based schools as adolescents. Finally, Elizabeth Green draws upon the United Kingdom's experience with faith-based schools to consider how a broader understanding of public education can contribute to the common good.

5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

RECEPTION & TABLE DISCUSSIONS – Impression/Infinity Ballroom

Dutch treat, each person participating in the table discussions pays for their restaurant bill.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015

CONCURRENT SESSION IV

9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

PANEL SESSION 4: Getting Published – Horizon I

Moderator: Priscilla Wohlstetter, Education Policy & Social Analysis, Teachers College, Columbia University

Panelists: Robert Maranto, *Journal of School Choice, International Research and Reform*; John Merrifield, *School System Reform Journal*; Andrea Maccarini, *Italian Journal of the Sociology of Education*; and Jan De Groof, *International Journal for Education Law and Policy*

Panelists discuss what editors of scholarly journals in the United States and Europe are seeking to publish, and how authors can navigate the process.

SYMPOSIUM J: Supplying Private School Choice in the U.S.: Status, Prospects, and Challenges – Horizon II

Moderator: Ed Kirby, Alliance for School Choice

Panelists: Whitney Marcavage, Alliance for School Choice; Megan Austin, University of Notre Dame; and Patrick Wolf, University of Arkansas

This panel will present descriptive data about private school choice programs across the U.S., with a special emphasis on the factors that influence the decisions of private schools regarding whether or not to participate in such programs.

SYMPOSIUM K: Friedman Foundation Research Symposium – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Paul DiPerna, Research Director, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

Panelists: Benjamin Scafidi, Professor of Economics, Kennesaw State University; Jeff Spalding, Director of Fiscal Policy & Analysis, Friedman Foundation

Discussant: Carolyn Herrington, Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy, Florida State University

Discussant: Richard Kahlenberg, Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

This session features the latest school choice program data collection, research, and analysis commissioned by the Friedman Foundation. Discussants will respond to the two full presentations. Paul DiPerna will provide a brief overview of the latest data trends and comparisons of programs around the country. Jeff Spalding will report findings from his fiscal assessment of 10 school voucher programs, utilizing finance data collected from state agencies. Ben Scafidi will discuss his forthcoming report that documents the trends in neighborhood and public school segregation for the 2000-2010 period for each of the 300 largest metropolitan areas in the United States.

SYMPOSIUM L: The Opportunity Frontier: Charter Management Organizations – Horizon III

Chair: James Lynn Woodworth, Research Associate, CREDO at Stanford University

Panelists: Christopher Chapman, University of Glasgow and Deborah McGriff, New Schools Venture Fund

CONCURRENT SESSION V:

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

PAPER SESSION 5: Measuring the Effects of Choice – Infinity Ballroom

Moderator: Priscilla Wohlstetter, Teachers College, Columbia University

On Top of the World: Public Charter Schools and International Benchmarking, 2013-14

Presenter: Nora Kern, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Students are no longer competing against just local peers for positions in higher education and the workforce. The commitment to quality and the entrepreneurial spirit of the charter movement positions charter schools to be educational models in the U.S. and abroad. One approach to determine whether a school is globally competitive is to administer an internationally benchmarked assessment. This session briefly look the OECD Test for Schools assessment, public charter school performance on the 2013-14 OECD Test for Schools, and charter schools' instructional and leadership practices that contributed to positive student outcomes.

The Productivity of U. S. Charter Schools

Presenters: Albert Cheng, University of Arkansas, Department of Education Reform

How productive are U. S. charter schools and traditional public schools (TPS)? This panel presents three calculations of school productivity. First, estimate of the cost-effectiveness of charter schools and TPS. Second, the economic literature extrapolates student lifetime earnings from achievement gains. Dividing projected student lifetime earnings over total cost for K-12 schooling in charters and TPS yields return-on-investment estimates for each sector. Third, stochastic frontier analysis estimates the technical efficiency of charters and TPS. Findings show that charter schools are more productive — a result with important policy implications.

Charter High Schools' Effects on Long-Term Attainment and Earnings

Presenter: Ron Zimmer, Vanderbilt University

Since their inception in 1992, the number of charter schools has grown to more than 6,000 in 40 states, serving more than 2 million students. Various studies have examined charter schools' impacts on test scores, and a few have begun to examine longer-term outcomes. This paper is the first to estimate charter schools' effects on student earnings, alongside effects on educational attainment. Using data from Chicago and Florida, we find evidence that charter high schools may have

substantial positive effects on persistence in college as well as high-school graduation and college entry. In Florida, where we can link students to workforce data in adulthood, we also find evidence that charter high schools produce large positive effects on subsequent earnings.

SYMPOSIUM M: Preserving Autonomy While Being Accountable - Horizon I

Chair: Parth Shah, Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi, India

Panelists: Thomas J. Cathey, Legal Legislative Issues, Association of Christian Schools International; John F. Elcesser, Indiana Non-Public Education Association; Joe McTighe, Council for American Private Education (CAPE); Rodrigo Quiroz e Melo, Portuguese Association of Private Schools (AEEP); Roel Schoonveld, The Amsterdam Lyceum; and Simon Steen, European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools

Panelist discuss how can non-government schools remain distinctive within the context of government regulation?

SYMPOSIUM N: A City of Choice: Research Perspectives from Post-Katrina New Orleans – Horizon II

Chair: Patrick Wolf, University of Arkansas, Department of Education Reform

Panelists: Jane Lincove, Tulane University; Paula Arce-Trigatti, Tulane University; Jonathan Mills, University of Arkansas; Betheny Gross, University of Washington, Bothell; and Huriya Jabbar, University of Texas, Austin

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans began the nation's most comprehensive citywide school reform. The teacher contract was dissolved, the majority of schools were taken over by the state, and a process of transfer to charter management organizations began. Today, district, charter, and private schools compete for students through a unique centralized application system called OneApp. This symposia includes four academic research papers that focus on different elements of school reform in New Orleans: 1) differentiation of school programs; 2) school leader responses to competition; 3) parent responses to the OneApp; and 4) outcomes of the state voucher program. Discussants from the New Orleans policy community will add a practitioner perspective on the application of research to policy in a citywide system of school choice.

PAPER SESSION 6: Private School Choice – Horizon III

Moderator: Chair: Parth Shah, Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi, India

Private School Enrollment in an Italian Region after Implementing a Change in the Voucher Policy

Presenter: Tommaso Agasisti, Politecnico di Milano School of Management

This paper estimates the effect of an administrative change in a voucher policy implemented by an Italian Regional government. The voucher has been installed in 2000, and is intended to help families that want enrol their children in private schools. In 2008/09, the policy has been changed, integrating and facilitating the administrative procedure for obtaining the voucher. The effect is estimated by a panel econometric analysis that compares the proportion of first-year students enrolled in private schools with that of other Regions. The policy change is associated with an increase in the proportion of students who enrol to private schools, across all the three (primary, junior and upper secondary) educational levels. According to our estimates, the magnitude of this impact ranges between 0.2%/year in primary to almost 0.5%/year in secondary schooling.

Education Markets for the Poor in Developing Countries: Investigating the Delivery and Regulation of Private Education Services in Sub-Saharan Africa

Presenter: Donald Baum, World Bank Group

Education systems in developing countries face substantial barriers to delivering real learning for all children. In response to increasing demand for affordable quality education, markets for private school services are growing globally. Against this backdrop, this presentation will discuss preliminary results from an international study of private education delivery and regulation, with particular attention to Sub-Saharan Africa. The research offers a cross-country view of private education, (i) benchmarking the regulation of private schooling, (ii) investigating the political relationships, organizational capacities, and information channels influencing private education policy, (iii) and providing insights into important issues such as the affordability of services, the drivers of growth in the private education market, and the relative efficiency of public and private schools.

Tax Credit Scholarship Determinants

Presenters: John Merrifield and Mike Ford, College of Business – University of Texas, San Antonio

By collecting data from the states that have private school choice through tax credit scholarships, the authors/researchers aim to econometrically estimate the effect of plausible determinants of tax credit-driven donations to the scholarship-granting organizations (SGOs) that grant vouchers ('scholarships') to eligible schoolchildren. In the process of reviewing the literature and applying theory to empirical model specification, we will also assess other factors such as eligibility constraints, and average voucher value. Through the school choice fiscal notes calculator we will assess the fiscal impact of a tax credit scholarship program with average parameter values such as eligibility limits, tax credit rate, and annual limits on the tax credit amount. There is fiscal impact sensitivity analysis and separate models for business and personal donations to SGOs.

CONCURRENT SESSION VI

2:00 p. m. – 3:30 p. m.

PLENARY SESSION II: USING CHOICE to INTEGRATE SCHOOLS in DIFFERENT PARTS of the WORLD – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Deborah McGriff, New Schools Venture Fund

Panelists: Parth Shah, Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi, India; Richard Kahlenberg, Century Foundation; Halley Potter, Century Foundation; and Jaap Dronkers, International Comparative Research on Educational Performance and Social Inequality, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Moving to school choice instead of a neighborhood attendance model makes it possible to draw together a different mix of students in a school. In practice, systems of school choice often yield schools tailored to specific student populations defined by culture, religion, or social class—but choice can also be used to create more socioeconomically, racially, and ethnically diverse schools. Representatives from three different regions of the globe -- India, the Netherlands, and the United States -- will discuss the effect that school choice has had on school segregation, and efforts to use choice to promote integration. Importantly, this session will focus attention on how to ensure that teachers reach students effectively in heterogeneous classrooms.

CONCURRENT SESSION VII

3:45 p. m. – 5:15 p. m.

PAPER SESSION 7: Post-Soviet Education Reform – Horizon I

Moderator: Charles Glenn, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Boston University

Accessing Classroom through the Courtroom: Contemporary Contours of Russian Case Law on Accessibility of Public Schooling

Presenter: Maria Smirnova, The University of Manchester School of Law, United Kingdom

The paper and presentation gives an overview of the most recent landmark cases of Russian Constitutional Court, Supreme Court and ordinary courts of Russian regions on the issues of accessibility of schools to every child in Russia in the context of the newest Federal Law on Education in Russian Federation (2013) and current education policy. These issues include, but are not limited to ensuring physical accessibility of schools in rural areas; accessibility of public schooling for children with disabilities; accommodation of religious rights of pupils in the public sector of education system in a secular country; economic accessibility of general education; freedom of choice of the form of education (in school or at home) and other issues.

New Education Concept in Ukraine by Means of Educational Voucher

Presenters: Anastasiya Kyslynska and Diana Chernyavska, New Education Format, Ukraine

The key points of New Education Concept are focused on personality and country, where the former is more than a citizen and the latter is more than a state. Three factors of effective education management system on a government level - transparent assessment system, freedom of choice and high autonomy level of education institutions. To make these changes happen the education voucher should be implemented. The principle of educational voucher – “the money follows the person” – is universal for any type of education and each family decides where to allocate the voucher. Achieved educational level is verified in the centers for Education Quality Assessment: state, non-government and/or foreign. We expect with the realization of the Concept, to get a competitive educational environment, efficient usage of state budget, person, family and community involvement in making responsible choices.

Tales of Cities in Post-Communist Countries: School Choice in Russia and Estonia

Presenters: Triin Lauri, Kaire Põder and Daniel Alexandrov, Tallinn University, Institute of Political Science and Governance, Estonia

This panel indicates the sizes of family background effects on student achievement, such as parental education, income and social status, in various districts (mainly cities around Baltic sea) in Russia and Estonia. In operationalizing family background the number of books at home is used as a proxy, and measured its effect in percentages of individual level PISA 2012 score. Findings contribute to the literature by studying choice in the urban environment.

PAPER SESSION 8: Access Issues and Perspectives – Infinity Ballroom

Moderator: Cynthia Gant, Urban School Services, Association of Christian Schools International

Disparities of Potential Access to Charter Schools

Presenter: Jin Lee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

In the theory of school choice embracing market mechanisms, opening up access for students trapped in non-identical districts provides equitable educational opportunities to school-aged children in divided communities. Charter schools with the legislative flexibility of non-resident requirements were expected to play a significant role in reducing or eliminating geographical restrictions on equal education opportunities. This paper depicts catchment areas of charter schools that are exponentially increasing in the United States. As a result of examining the case of the New York metropolitan area, the findings suggest the concern that access to charter schools differs by socioeconomic status combined with geography, which in turn does little to bring about significant changes to accessible zones to diverse schools.

Structures and Policies that Facilitate or Inhibit School Choice: A Review of Evidence from OECD and Partner Countries

Presenter: Gary Miron, University of Western Michigan

This paper examines structures and policies specific to national education systems that can promote or inhibit school choice. The data is derived from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and encompasses

more than 28 OECD member states as well as another 18 countries that participated in the PISA international assessment conducted by the OECD. An overview of the forms of school choice that are permitted is included as well as a summary of the proportion of students enrolled in diverse forms of school choice (i.e., choice across public schools, choice including government-dependent private schools, choice including independent private schools, and homeschooling).

When Educational Choice Encounters Discrimination: The Impact of Litigation on the Rights Consciousness of Israeli Haredi Parents

Presenter: Lotem Perry-Hazan, Oshrat Perlshtein, Leadership and Policy in Education, University of Haifa

This research explores the indirect impact of litigation on mobilization of rights in the admission policies to Israeli Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) schools. It demonstrates that, although court-ordered regulations that were shaped to prevent ethnic discrimination in the admission policies were not implemented, the legal discourse did serve to develop the rights consciousness of Haredi parents who faced discrimination. The institutional backup to their claims empowered a growing segment of Haredi agents, who mobilized not only the rights of their own children but also the rights of other children. The judicial language of rights has been penetrating to the communal consciousness and has managed to overcome deep fears of the social exclusion that might follow any resistance to the prevailing norms.

Who Gets to Attend a Great School? Cultural Capital, Student Background Characteristics, and School Choice

Presenter: Sarah Gearhart, Temple University

Polymakers and proponents of school choice believe that, when presented the opportunity to do so, parents and students will always choose the highest quality school available to them. However, this is not always the case. This study explores the following questions: How does cultural capital have an effect on the quality of school that a student chooses? Does the act of choosing necessarily lead to attendance in a high quality school?

PAPER SESSION 9: Politics of School Choice – Horizon II

Moderator: Priscilla Wohlstetter, Education Policy & Social Analysis, Teachers College, Columbia University

State Policy Regimes and the Performance of Charter Schools

Presenter: Mikael Pelz, Calvin College

Theories of policy innovation and diffusion have been instructive in understanding school choice in the U.S. These theories explain how school choice initiatives interacted with the unique profiles of states to create a variegated system of education policies. This variation, however, makes it difficult to evaluate some of these policies, particularly charter school performance. This study addresses this complexity by categorizing states with charter school laws into distinct policy regimes based on over a dozen different charter school policies. These policy regimes capture a state's approach to charter schools. This study then examines the educational performance outcomes of each policy regime by comparing AYP and NAEP scores of charter schools to scores from non-charter schools while controlling for other factors.

School Choice and Electoral Influence: How Charter Advocates Attempt to Increase Political Participation in New York City

Presenter: Basil Smikle, Teachers College, Columbia University

In New York City, the conflict between charter supporters and opponents has undergone periods of rapid intensification. Supporters of school choice grew at odds with broad coalitions of labor and traditional public school activists during the administration of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, which expressed near-unfailing support for charters. I investigate how charter advocates attempt to convert their influence at the district level to local campaigns and elections toward increased sustainability. I begin with the 2010 controversies around the State's Race to the Top application and examine subsequent activities to influence voters. Using content analysis, voter and donor data, I conclude that charter school influence resides largely among proprietary parents and elites and not among prime voters.

Language Rights and School Choice

Presenter: Ingo Richter, Irmgard Coninx Foundation, Berlin, Germany

This paper discusses the questions should legislators revise laws to protect the rights of minorities who are non-native language speakers in areas of Europe. International law guarantees language rights in Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as of 1966, Article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as of 1989, art. 12-14 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as of 1994 and Article 4 of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities as of 1992, and several other European Conventions on human rights. The aim of these human rights conventions is the protection of traditional minorities who live in consolidated segregated homogenous communities and they include or can be applied also in education and school organizations. But, they do not cover the school organizations in mixed and integrated societies without clear language boundaries, which emerged from the after war migration in Europe.

Politics of Educational Reform: Alberta Charter Schools 20 years later

Presenter: Lynn Bosetti, University of British Columbia

The aim of this paper is to provide a critical policy analysis of Charter Schools in Alberta as an experiment in controlled choice to understand the political motivations that shaped and framed the evolution of charter schools, their impact as a mechanism for system-wide educational reform, and why they have not burgeoned into a viable alternative stream within the Alberta public education system. Discussion will include lessons learned from this experimentation for policy makers and school district leaders interested in leveraging change in their system; and consideration of the implications for the viability

and success of second generation charter schools as laboratories for school improvement under the Government's current reform strategy.

PAPER SESSION 10: Longitudinal Data on School Choice – Horizon III

Moderator: Paul DiPerna, Research Director, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

An Analysis of Private School Surveys and the Implications for Two States' Private School Choice Marketplaces: Looking at More Than Two Decades of Data on Indiana and Ohio

Presenter: Andrew Catt, The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

Policy makers, school choice advocates, education media, and school choice researchers need to know how private school marketplaces in states have changed in terms of how many schools exist, their religious affiliation, association membership, open seats, voucher program participation, student-teacher ratios, how long students are in school, how large classes are, and the racial makeup of students, among other data points. This longitudinal study looks at changes in the private school marketplaces in Indiana and Ohio from 1989-90 to 2013-14 by analyzing data from the National Center for Education Statistics' Private School Universe Surveys, state departments of education, and a statewide survey. It explores how statewide voucher programs in each state have affected any trends in the private school marketplaces.

Growth Trends in the Education Management Organization (EMO) Industry: 1999-2013

Presenters: Charisse Gulosino, University of Memphis and Gary Miron, University of Western Michigan

There is little empirical research available that integrates the broad-based concepts of market education with the expansion of EMOs in the past 15 years. This study fills this void by using an array of multiple data sources on school performance, enrollment, profitability, EMO transactions, as well as other growth attributes. The authors raise three critical questions: How do EMOs address academic performance while remaining profitable? What are the patterns of EMO growth and how do EMOs achieve their growth? What is different about EMO transactions today compared to those of prior years, and how prevalent are EMO transactions today? Several emerging trends of EMO growth are highlighted, including the growth of nonprofit EMOs and expansion of EMOs into virtual schooling.

RECEPTION & TABLE DISCUSSIONS – Impression/Infinity Ballroom

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015

CONCURRENT SESSION VIII

9:00 a. m. - 10:30 a. m.

PAPER SESSION 11: SPOTLIGHT ON NORTH AMERICA – Horizon I

Moderator: Andrea Maccarini, University of Padova, Italy

School Choice in Canada: Diversity Along the Wild – Domesticated Continuum with Implications for Reform in Ontario

Presenter: Derek J. Allison, Western University, Ontario

Policies governing school choice in each of Canada's ten provinces and three territories are analytically compared using a conceptual continuum contrasting "domesticated" and "wild" organizations. Analysis focuses on the evolution of school choice in the six most populous provinces accounting for 93 percent of the Canadian population. Ontario, the largest province, accounting for 38 percent of population, emerges as displaying the greatest contrast between highly domesticated public schools and notably wild non-public schools. Tensions embedded in this conceptual contrast are discussed in the context of recent and emergent school choice debates in Ontario.

High School Choice in New York City: Measures of "Supply" and Effective Access to Quality Schools

Presenter: Sean Corcoran, New York University

This presentation will describe our team's ongoing research on the demand and supply sides of high school choice in NYC. It will (1) introduce our recent pilot study of supports to help low-income students make informed choices, and (2) report the results of a descriptive analysis of the supply of high schools in NYC. While results from the pilot are not yet available, we describe its design and implementation challenges. Specifically, while NYC offers more than 400 high schools from which to choose, most use admissions priorities or screening mechanisms that limit the "effective" supply. We used historical data on high school admissions to estimate students' odds of admission to each school and construct more meaningful measures of school access.

PAPER SESSION 12: The Power of Consumers – Horizon II

Moderator: Ingo Richter, Irmgard Coninx Foundation, Berlin, Germany

Choosing a High School in Amsterdam

Presenter: Roel Schoonveld, Het Amsterdams Lyceum, The Netherlands

Competition between high schools in Amsterdam is huge. There is a big difference in popularity of the schools. In my presentation there is an overview of the factors that are important in that field.

Parental Choice in Multicultural Schools

Presenters: Laid Bouckaz and Rehan Taha, Malmö University

Do public schools in Sweden respond positively to the choice of the newly arrived parents? Do parents know about their right to choose the school they believe meets the needs of their children? Does students' achievement their former school (their home countries) rise their choices of the school they want to attend? How are the choices of the school made by the newly arrived students in Sweden? I review the evidence on these questions from the Swedish context, relying primarily on recent policy experiments made in the town of Malmö, southern Sweden

Islamic Primary Schools in The Netherlands

Presenter: Jaap Dronkers, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

The Dutch educational system allows the foundation of primary schools with different religious background (catholic, protestant). As a consequence of post-WWII migration from Turkey and Morocco more than 30 Islamic primary schools has been founded. These Islamic schools are fully subsidized by the state and are submitted by state regulations as the other religious schools. In this paper I shall outline the current position of these Islamic schools.

SYMPOSIUM O: Faith Development and Academic Excellence – Horizon III

Chair: Charles Glenn, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Boston University

Presenters:

- **Evangelical** – Vernard Gant, Urban School Services, Association of Christian Schools International
- **Jewish** – Kalman Baumann, Klurman Elementary School of Yeshiva Tora Chaim Toras Emes in Miami, Florida
- **Islamic** – Fawzia Mai Tung, Islamic Schools League of America
- **Catholic** – Kim Pryzbyski, Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Miami, Florida
- **Lutheran** – Gene Ladendorf, South Wisconsin District, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

SYMPOSIUM P: Lessons from School Choice and School Reform in Houston – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Robert Maranto, Endowed Chair in Leadership & Professor, University of Arkansas

Panelists: Soner Tarim, Founder & CEO, Harmony Schools; Jason Bernal, YES Prep; Soner Tarim, Harmony Schools; Donald R. McAdams, Center for Reform of School Systems, Rice University; Duncan Klussman, Spring Branch ISD Superintendent; Rod Paige, HISD Superintendent, 1994-2001

Houston is the birthplace of three of the nation's best charter school networks, KIPP, YES Prep and Harmony. Further, the Houston Independent School District is one of the nation's best urban districts, serving as a model for Chicago and other cities. How did this happen? What factors are unique to Houston? What can be copied? Our panel will address these questions.

CONCURRENT SESSION IX

10:30 a. m. -12:00 p. m.

PLENARY SESSION III: ADVOCACY GROUPS and RESEARCH – Infinity Ballroom

Chair: Paul DiPerna, Research Director, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

Panelists: Arianna Prothero, Education Week; Emmeline Zhao, RealClear Education; Neal McCluskey, Cato Institute; Amber Northern, Fordham institute

Panelists will discuss the production and/or use of research by think tanks, advocacy groups, and partisans, on matters regarding educational choice. Each panelist will share observations of advocacy or opponent groups using research. When considering advocacy groups' production, reporting, or promoting of research, how have the activities and quality changed over time? How do these organizations maintain or improve research-related activities?



CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE



Charles Glenn, Ph. D.,
Senior Co-Chair

Charles Glenn, Ph. D., Co-Chair, has been Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Boston University since 1991; before that for two decades he was responsible for equity and urban education in Massachusetts state government. He has published more than a dozen books on comparative educational policy and history. His current efforts include directing a study of citizenship education in Islamic secondary schools across the United States, and advising on education reform in Ukraine.



Priscilla Wohlstetter
Co-Chair

Priscilla Wohlstetter, Ph. D., Co-Chair is Distinguished Research Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. Prior to coming to TC in 2012, she held the Diane and MacDonald Becket Professorship in Education Policy at the University of Southern California. Her research focuses on education reform, policy implementation, and intergovernmental relations, and she has published extensively on school decentralization, public-private partnerships, and charter schools. She is currently conducting a national study of public schools that by design integrate the SES of their students. Her most recent book, *Choices and Challenges: Charter School Performance in Perspective* was published by Harvard Education Press.



Patrick Wolf
Conference Co-Chair

Patrick J. Wolf, Ph. D., Conference Funding Chair, is Professor and 21st Century Endowed Chair in School Choice in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas College of Education and Health Professions. Dr. Wolf has authored, co-authored, or co-edited three books, 36 policy reports, and 36 journal articles and book chapters on school choice, civic values, special education, public management, and campaign finance. His 1997 article on Reinventing Government won the national "Best Article Award" of the Academy of Management, Division on Public and Nonprofit Management and he received the Significant Research Award of the University of Arkansas College of Education and Health Professions in 2011.

Worlds of School Choice: Connecting Research and Practice



Nina Buchanan
Committee Member

Nina K. Buchanan, Committee Member, is a professor emerita of educational psychology at the University of Hawai'i Hilo where she most recently served as Co-Director of the University of Hawai'i Charter School Resource Center and professor of education. She has been an appointed member of the Charter School Review Panel, the sole charter school authorizer for the state of Hawai'i. She is Consulting Editor for the Journal of School Choice and Contributing Editor for Roeper Review and reviewer for the Gifted Child Quarterly and Teachers College Record. She has published articles in Roeper Review, the Journal of School Choice, Education Policy Analysis Archives, MAGIS International Journal of Research in Education, Irish Educational Studies and other journals. She most recently co-authored (with Robert A. Fox and Michael Haas) Multiculturalizing Elementary and Secondary Education in Barack Obama, The Aloha Zen President (Praeger Press, 2011).



Robert Fox
Conference Co-Chair

Robert Fox, Ph. D., Committee Member, brings an unusual background to the study of School choice. As one of the Consulting Editors of the Journal of School choice, dr. Fox's specialty is Charter School Policy, having written extensively on charter laws, collective bargaining in charter schools, and international choice. His most recent article on ethnocentric niche charter schools appeared in the 2012 issue of Reviews of research in Education. Dr. Fox was recently awarded the status of Emeritus Professor of Physics by the University of Hawaii, from which he retired after forty years with Hilo's physics department. He served as Deputy Director of the Public International Space Center for Exploration Systems.



Judith Stein
Host Committee Chair

Dr. Judith S. Stein is the former Executive Director of the Division of Magnet/Innovative Programs for The Miami-Dade County Public Schools. From 1989-1995, she was the author of successful MSAP grants, which provided over \$18 million in funds for the fourth largest district in the nation. Dr. Stein was also the Director of Career Education, and a national leader in the career education movement. In May of 1992, Dr. Stein was nominated to serve as Interim President of Magnet Schools of America, Inc. (MSA), the national organization for magnet schools and programs. Dr. Stein served as first President of MSA representing all parts of the United States and over 3,000 magnet programs and schools. In 1998, she was appointed Director of the National Institute for Educational Options (NIEO) at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in North Miami Beach, Florida. She leads this Institute at the Fischler School of Education (FSE), one of the largest private, non-profit universities in distance learning. NIEO provides resources and professional development to magnet schools, charter schools, independent schools, and theme/career academies.

She served in leadership capacities for various school choice options including Executive Director of MSA, Operations Director of the National Career Academy Coalition, and Interim Executive Director of the Florida Charter School Alliance. She presently serves on the board of these organizations nationally and for the state of Florida, as well as the National Planning Committee for National School Choice Week, 2015.



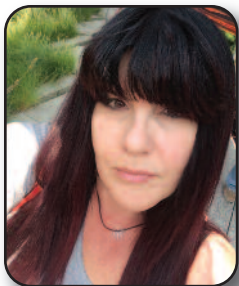
Nigel Whyte
Event Producer

Nigel Whyte, Event Producer, Mr. Nigel Whyte is the Assistant Director for the National Institute for Educational Options (NIEO). He is a graduate of Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, Georgia. He has a master's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Entrepreneurship from the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University. Mr. Whyte has worked with the NIEO and Dr. Judith Stein since 2000 to develop, nurture and grow successful not-for profits and acquire grants that will strategically fulfill its mission of K12 school reform through school choice and parental involvement. He is responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of NIEO and its various.



Lois Lee
Event Coordinator

Lois Lee, Event Coordinator, Lois Lee, Professional Development Coordinator, and Doctoral Candidate, has had an outstanding career as teacher, Saturn School Coordinator, Educational Specialist in Advanced Academic Programs, Administrative Assistant to a Miami-Dade County Public Schools Board member, and District Director in Miami-Dade County Public Schools office of School Choice and Parental Options. Lois, has distinguished herself as an intuitive leader and has received accommodations including, 1st runner-up for Miami-Dade County Public Schools District Teacher of the Year, President Bill Clinton's Distinguished Community Leader, and the Dr. Carlo Rodriguez Champion for School Choice award acknowledging her contributions to the field of education.



Vivian Swift
Creative Consultant &
Event Coordinator

Vivian Swift, Creative Consultant & Event Coordinator, owns and operates visualapeel. Their creative house's objective is to be the leading marketing solution by assisting their clients in communicating with their target audience creating concepts for a diverse clientele developing a message through design that considers all aspects of the individual project. They help captivate what their clients believe in, focusing on their unique brand by learning and understanding their specific needs.

Their services include apparel, printing, signage, photography and over 100,000 customized promotional products dedicated to providing quality and exceptional customer service.

To date they have had the opportunity to work with over 119 Miami-Dade County Public Schools and departments, Nova Southeastern University, Devry University, Johns and Wales University in addition to many local businesses.

With over 20 years of experience specializing in fresh ideas for a changing market, they aspire to nurture old relationships and establish new ones.

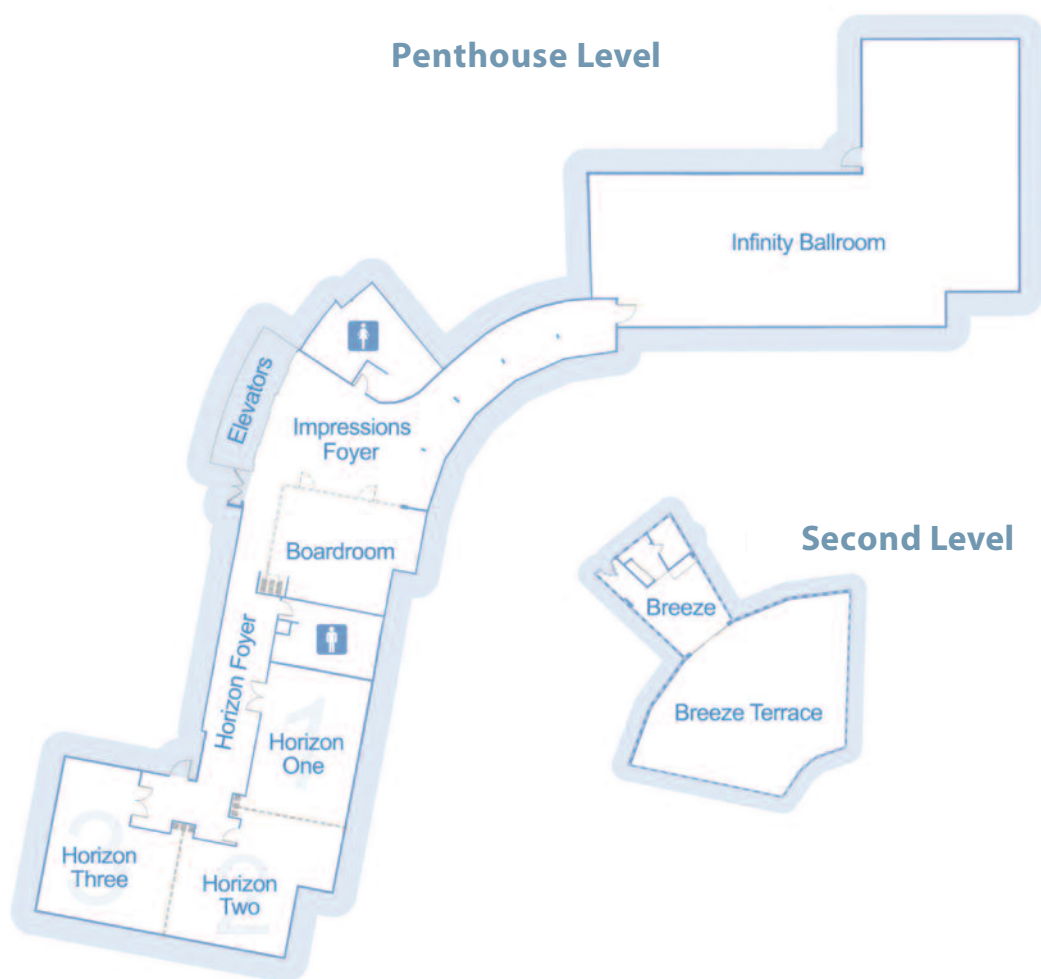


Camilo Yibirin
Hospitality Director

J. Camilo Yibirin, Hospitality Director, is the Director of Hospitality, Activities and Events for Abraham S. Fischler School of Education at Nova Southeastern University, responsible for the day-to-day planning, management, and execution of all meetings and events hosted by the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education.. He is a certified meeting professional, with a certificate provided by the Convention Industry Council. He has been involved with the hospitality industry for over 20 years, including hotels and cruise ships.

SITE PLANS

MEETING ROOM PLANS





January 16, 2015

Dear Conferees:

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On behalf of The James Madison Institute (JMI), a conference sponsor, I am pleased and honored to welcome you to the International School Choice and Reform Academic Conference. The Institute, headquartered in Tallahassee, is a Florida-based research and educational organization (501c3) which keeps Sunshine State citizens informed about practical free-market public policy issues. The Institute has remained independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan since its inception in 1987.

As many of you know, The James Madison Institute's founder, Dr. Stanley Marshall, was a real pioneer in the school choice movement. Dr. Marshall organized Florida's first school choice conference in 1992 and helped launch Florida's charter school movement through something then known as the JMI Center for Education Entrepreneurship. A former school teacher and university president, Dr. Marshall championed a number of market-based education reforms during his time leading JMI, and he remained a vocal advocate for school choice until his death last June at the age of 90.

At The James Madison Institute, we continue to work to advance Dr. Marshall's vision of reforming education so that all Florida schoolchildren can enjoy a rich array of learning options to help them grow and excel. We are delighted that many of our friends in the school choice movement, including some whom Dr. Marshall personally inspired and worked alongside, have chosen to honor his memory at this year's conference.

I hope that you enjoy this conference and learn a lot from the formal and informal discussions you will have with your colleagues. Ours is a great cause – and one that is quietly gaining more and more traction in the public debate. I salute your willingness to take part in this important gathering and hope that you will contact The James Madison Institute if we can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. Robert McClure, III
President and CEO

Trusted Solutions for a Better Florida

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Worlds of School Choice: Connecting Research and Practice