

**Monday,
September 17, 2018**

**National Press Club,
Washington DC**

Schedule

Opening Remarks

Sandra Williamson
Vice President, AIR

Roundtable Discussion

Moderator:

Scott MacFarlane
Reporter, NBC Washington

Panelists:

Eric Gordon
*CEO, Cleveland Metropolitan
School District*

Dr. John H. Jackson
President & CEO, Schott Foundation

Dr. David Osher
Vice President & Institute Fellow, AIR

Closing Remarks

BIOGRAPHIES



Eric Gordon **CEO, Cleveland Metropolitan School District**

Eric Gordon was appointed CEO of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District in June 2011, following four years serving as the district's Chief Academic Officer. He is responsible for the leadership and daily management of Cleveland's 39,000-student school district.

Together with Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and other business, philanthropic, and educational leaders, Gordon successfully lobbied Ohio legislators to pass "The Cleveland Plan," a revolutionary package of education reform legislation that was signed into law on July 2, 2012. "The Cleveland Plan" has received national attention for its strong bipartisan support and collaborative process.

Gordon is active nationally in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and social and emotional learning standards for children. He serves on the Executive Committee for the Board of Directors for the Council of the Great City Schools, a member organization representing 70 large urban districts across the United States. Gordon also is secretary-treasurer for the council's board of directors.

Gordon was previously executive director for secondary learning at the Olentangy Local Schools in suburban Columbus, Ohio. He is an experienced educator, in both suburban and urban school districts.

In 2016, Gordon received the Green-Garner Award for being the Urban Educator of the Year. He was featured in *Inside Business* magazine's "Power 100" in 2013 and was one of *Cleveland Magazine's* "Most Interesting People" in 2012.

Gordon is a graduate of Bowling Green State University, where he earned his master's in Education Administration and Supervision and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education and Driver Education.



Dr. John H. Jackson

President & CEO, Schott Foundation

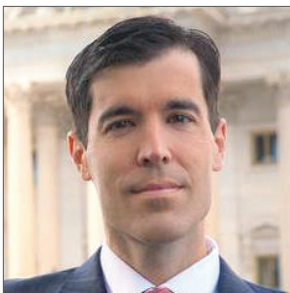
John Jackson is president and CEO of the Schott Foundation for Public Education. Jackson leads the foundation's efforts to ensure a fair and substantive opportunity to learn for all students, regardless of race or gender.

Jackson joined the Schott Foundation after serving in several senior level positions, including as national director of education and chief policy officer at the NAACP from 2000 to 2007. In 1999, President Clinton appointed Jackson to serve as senior policy advisor in the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. Jackson also served on the transition team for the Obama administration as a member of the president's 13-member Education Policy Transition Work Group.

Jackson has served as an adjunct professor of race, gender, and public policy at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. Earlier in his career, Jackson conducted extensive research at the Harvard Civil Rights Project on civil rights and opportunity gap issues.

Jackson has been elected or appointed to serve on many boards and commissions, including the Xavier University of Louisiana board of directors, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation board of directors, the Harvard University board of alumni, the Association of Black Foundation Executives, and the American Bar Association At-Risk Commission.

A native of the southside of Chicago and product of the public school system, Jackson holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Xavier University of Louisiana; a Master of Education in Education Policy from the University of Illinois College of Education; and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois College of Law. In addition, Jackson received a Master of Education and Doctorate of Education in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Scott MacFarlane

Reporter, NBC Washington

Scott MacFarlane is an Emmy and Edward R. Murrow award-winning investigative reporter for the News4 I-Team in Washington, D.C. His reporting has triggered federal prosecutions, led to more than a dozen formal congressional hearings, and led to the creation of new county and state laws to protect the public.

His reporting has been cited on several occasions in official floor speeches at the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

MacFarlane's reporting on misconduct by public school teachers in Fairfax County, Va., led directly to the passage of a new law to improve the state's system for investigating accused teachers. His work was honored multiple times, including by the Associated Press, for outstanding enterprise reporting.

MacFarlane joined NBC4 after a decade of work unearthing government waste, fraud, and abuse as a Capitol Hill reporter for the Cox Media Group. He began his career as a reporter for CBS TV affiliates in Detroit, Cleveland and Syracuse.

Nationally, MacFarlane has served as a contributor to Sirius-XM satellite radio's POTUS politics channel, CBS Radio News and The CBS Early Show. He previously worked as a congressional aide and a radio disc jockey.

MacFarlane has also produced documentaries on the history of two New York radio stations, WJPZ-FM and WAER-FM. He belongs to the WJPZ Radio Hall of Fame. He previously served on the board of advisors of Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications.

A longtime resident of the Washington, D.C., area, MacFarlane is a summa cum laude graduate of Syracuse University.



Dr. David Osher

Vice President and Institute Fellow, American Institutes for Research

David Osher is a Vice President and an Institute Fellow at the American Institutes for Research. Osher is an expert on violence prevention, school safety, supportive school discipline, conditions for learning and school climate, social and emotional learning, youth development, cultural competence, family engagement, collaboration, mental health services, and implementation science. He has led impact and qualitative evaluations of initiatives and programs, systematic reviews, and expert panels. Osher also has supported schools, districts, and states in promoting conditions for learning and addressing disciplinary disparities.

Osher is principal investigator of the National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments, the National Resource Center on Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention, and the National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk. He also serves as principal investigator of the contract that supports the work of the Federal Agency Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs.

Osher helped the U.S. Department of Education develop the National Agenda for Improving Results for Children and Youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance; chaired an expert panel on the relationship between disability and involvement in the juvenile court and correctional systems that was convened for the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice; and led the What Works Clearinghouse review of character education.

Osher serves on numerous expert panels and editorial boards. He also has written or co-written more than 380 books, monographs, chapters, articles, and reports, including *Safe, Supportive, and Successful Schools Step by Step* and *Teaching and Working with Children who have Emotional and Behavioral Challenges*. He has served as dean and taught at a liberal arts college and two professional schools of human services.



Sandra Williamson

Vice President, American Institutes for Research

Sandra Williamson serves as a vice president in AIR's Policy, Practice and Systems Change service area. She works with project teams who focus on Early Childhood, Youth Development and Social Emotional Learning, Special Education, and Human Services and Public Health. She has more than 40 years of experience working in education and other systems to develop safe and supportive learning environments.

For the past eight years, she has been the director of the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments for the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS). Williamson is also the director of the National Resource Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Williamson has also provided technical assistance for the last 18 years to states, schools and agencies that are developing systems of care school based mental health programs. She led technical assistance for Persistently Dangerous Schools, a project for the U.S. Department of Labor, working in Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York. She also provided direct consultation to Cleveland Public Schools, to develop alternatives to suspension in all 130 schools.

Over the past two decades, Williamson has worked in more than 100 communities building successful collaborations and system integration efforts. Williamson's doctoral work focused on educational leadership with an emphasis on virtual training and learning communities.