

Presenter Bios

Marc Ecko

Marc Ecko was born Marc Milecofsky in 1972. While he was a high school student working from a makeshift design studio located in the garage of his parents' New Jersey home, he built a loyal fan base among the generation's new cultural icons, including Spike Lee and Chuck D. After a brief stint at Rutgers School of Pharmacy, he founded *Ecko Unltd in 1993. The company has grown to include: *Ecko Unltd, the leading young men's brand; Eckored, its female counterpart; Marc Ecko Cut & Sew, a contemporary menswear line; Zoo York, the largest east coast action sport lifestyle brand; Complex Media, inclusive of Complex Magazine and Marc Ecko Entertainment, video & social gaming entity. Ecko dedicates himself to a number of initiatives, including significant work with youth domestically and internationally as well as a dedicated role in reversing the plight of the world's rhino shrinking population. Three in-house charities are part of Marc Ecko Enterprises: Tikva Children's Home, Sweat Equity Enterprise and Stoked Mentoring. Ecko is the youngest member ever inducted into the Board of Directors for Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA).

Brian Gallagher

Brian Gallagher became President and CEO of United Way of America in January 2002. He now leads the national United Way movement, which includes approximately 1,400 community-based United Way organizations, each of which is independent, separately incorporated and governed by local volunteers. Gallagher began his 20-year United Way career immediately after college, when the organization selected him as a management trainee. He most recently served as president of the United Way of Central Ohio, leading the organization as it redesigned itself from a fundraising federation to a collaborative community leadership organization focused on the region's most pressing issues. Prior to moving to Columbus in 1996, Gallagher spent nearly six years at the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, including two years as executive vice president and CEO. He currently serves on the board of INDEPENDENT SECTOR. Born in Chicago and raised in Hobart, Indiana, Gallagher received his bachelor's degree in social work from Ball State University and a master's degree in business from Emory University.

Andrea Mitchell

Andrea Mitchell is an award winning television journalist, anchor, reporter, and commentator for NBC News based in Washington, D.C. Since 1994 she has served as the NBC Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, and is currently the host of "Andrea Mitchell Reports," an hour of political news and interviews that airs daily at 1pm ET on MSNBC. Mitchell currently covers foreign policy, intelligence and national security issues for all NBC News properties. Following the death of Alliance board member Tim Russert in 1998, Mitchell stepped in as MC of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in 2008 and has covered the Alliance priority of the high school dropout crisis ever since. She covered the entire 2008 presidential campaign from the kickoff in February 2007, broadcasting live from every major primary and caucus state and all the candidates' debates. Mitchell has also served as Chief White House Correspondent and as Chief Congressional Correspondent. In 2005, Mitchell authored "Talking Back," a memoir about her experiences as one of the first women to cover five presidents, congress and foreign policy. A native of New York, Mitchell received a B.A. degree in English literature from the University of Pennsylvania where she currently serves as a Trustee, a member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Annenberg School Advisory Board. She also on the board of America's Promise Alliance, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and is a member of the Gridiron Club. Mitchell is married to former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan and resides in Washington, D.C.

Forest Ogunyankin

Simon Scholar Forest Ogunyankin is a positive catalyst in his high school and even around the world. He will be traveling to Africa this summer to provide services to children in underserved communities. The Chamblee Charter High School Junior in Atlanta, GA participates in numerous organizations in his school and his community. An athlete and musician, this Simon Scholar is fluent in German and is learning the Yoruba language. Having been diagnosed with the neurological disorder Hydrocephalus, an abnormal accumulation of fluid on the brain, and having undergone several major surgeries, Forest's challenges have given him the strength and determination to keep focused on his dream of becoming a pediatric neurologist. Ogunyankin is the epitome of a Simon Scholar; he succeeds academically, gives back to his community, serves as a role model for many and accepts challenges without reservation.

Presenter Bios *(continued)***Vicki Phillips**

Vicki Phillips serves as Director of Education, College Ready for the foundation. Phillips oversees work to improve early learning in Washington State; to ensure U.S. high school students graduate ready for success in college, career, and life; and to improve access to college. Phillips has built a strong education reform record throughout her career, at all levels - from neighborhood schools to the federal government. For nearly three decades, she has endeavored to improve education - as a teacher, state-level policymaker, leader of a nonprofit education foundation, superintendent of a large urban school district and now as the director of education for the foundation. Prior to that, she was superintendent of Portland Public Schools in Portland, Ore. Earlier, Phillips served as Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell's appointed secretary of education and that state's chief state school officer. She previously served at the state level in her home state of Kentucky, helping to implement the sweeping changes demanded by the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990. Phillips has worked with the U.S. Office of Education in Washington, D.C., and has been a middle and high school teacher. Born in Kentucky and raised on a small farm, Phillips was the first in her family to go to college, and earned first a bachelor's degree in elementary and special education and a master's degree in school psychology from Western Kentucky University. She also holds a doctorate in educational leadership and management from the University of Lincoln in England, and served as a founding member of the governing council for England's National College for School Leadership.

Laura Sanford

Laura Sanford is President of the AT&T Foundation, the philanthropic arm of AT&T. Sanford oversees AT&T's grant and employee giving programs, including the AT&T Foundation's signature program, AT&T Aspire. Under the AT&T Aspire program, \$100 million over four years (2008-2011) will be invested in programs that help underserved youth succeed in high school and go on to post-secondary education or meaningful employment. In addition to the Foundation, Sanford is responsible for oversight of all employee and retiree volunteerism, which includes the AT&T Pioneers, the nation's largest company sponsored volunteer organization involving over 300,000 employees and retirees. In 2009, AT&T employees and retirees, donated more than 8.5 million hours of time, worth more than \$170 million, to community outreach activities—much of it led by the AT&T Pioneers. On the state level, Sanford serves on the board of regents of Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas. On the national level, Sanford serves on the board of the American Association of People with Disabilities and the Corporate Board of Advisors of the National Council of La Raza. In her 30-year career with AT&T, Sanford has held a wide variety of positions in Operations, Marketing, Advertising, and External Affairs. She holds a B.S. in Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Barry Schuler

Barry Schuler is the managing director DFJ Growth Fund, the chairman of the New Tech Network and director of the Knowledgeworks Foundation. Schuler has developed emerging technologies into successful enterprises for the last 25 years. A serial entrepreneur, his career spans breakthroughs in early video games, computer graphics, interactive media, e-commerce, consumerization of the Internet and most recently Ultrashort Pulse Lasers. Schuler spent eight years with AOL, where he was the architect of the consumer experience that brought the Internet into the lives of more than 25 million households. After performing in several roles of increasing responsibility during AOL's explosive growth, Schuler ultimately served as Chairman and CEO during the height of the company's reach and influence. Prior to AOL, Schuler was CEO and co-founder of multimedia development firm Medior Inc. until its acquisition by AOL in 1995. Under his leadership, Medior pioneered the use of interactive multimedia for applications such as electronic commerce, entertainment, and corporate information systems. The company designed the America Online interface that ultimately made AOL leading consumer online service. Schuler is a graduate of Rutgers University and a member of the Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

Governor Bob Wise

Bob Wise is president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia. He currently cochairs the Digital Learning Council with Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida. Governor Wise also chairs the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Under Governor Wise's leadership, the Alliance continues to build its reputation as a respected authority on high school policy by advocating for reform in America's secondary education system and working to ensure that all students graduate from high school prepared for college, careers, and to be contributing members of society. He is author of the book *Raising the Grade: How High School Reform Can Save Our Youth And Our Nation*.