

Opening Session
March 22, 2011
7:30 - 8:30am

Presenter Bios

Melody Barnes

Melody Barnes is the President's Domestic Policy Advisor and the Director of the Domestic Policy Council, which coordinates the domestic policy-making process in the White House. Before joining the White House, Barnes served as the Senior Domestic Policy Advisor to President Obama's campaign. Prior to joining the campaign, she was the Executive Vice President for Policy at the Center for American Progress. From 1995 to 2003, she served as Chief Counsel to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee. In those capacities, and as Director of Legislative Affairs for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and assistant counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, she worked extensively on civil rights and voting rights, women's health, religious liberties, and commercial law. Barnes received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her law degree from the University of Michigan. She began her career as an attorney with Shearman & Sterling in New York City, and is a member of both the New York State Bar Association and the District of Columbia Bar Association.

Governor Jeb Bush

Jeb Bush was elected the 43rd Governor of the state of Florida in 1998, and was reelected in 2002. His second term as Governor ended in January 2007. Bush earned a bachelor's degree in Latin American Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin and moved to Florida in 1981. With partner Amando Codina, he started a small real estate development company, which grew to become the largest, full-service commercial real estate company in South Florida. Bush served as Florida's secretary of commerce under Bob Martinez, Florida's 40th governor. Following an unsuccessful bid for Governor in 1994, Bush founded the non-profit Foundation for Florida's Future, which joined forces with the Greater Miami Urban League to establish one of the state's first charter schools. He also co-authored Profiles in Character, a book profiling 14 of Florida's civic heroes-people making a difference without claiming a single news headline. After his election, Florida students made the greatest gains in achievement in the state. Bush put Florida on the forefront of consumer healthcare advances by signing Medicaid reform legislation, "Empowered Care," in June 2006. Bush is currently the head of his own successful consulting business, Jeb Bush and Associates, where his clients range from small technology start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. He is also the chairman of Foundation for Excellence in Education.

Patrick Corvington

Patrick Corvington was sworn in as the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service on February 18, 2010 during a time of extraordinary growth, mandated by the passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. His leadership is guided by four principles: targeting resources to make service a solution to major national challenges; expanding opportunities for more people of all ages and backgrounds to serve; building the capacity of individuals, organizations and communities; and embracing innovation. Corvington is a recognized expert on nonprofit sector leadership and has devoted his life to serving others. He began his career as a case manager working with migrant farm workers and then ran a group shelter home for adjudicated youth. Later he served at The Urban Institute, Innovation Network and most recently as a Senior Associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Corvington, who is of Haitian descent, immigrated to the United States as a teenager and became an American citizen in 1993. He holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Maryland and an M.A. in Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

Alma Powell

Alma Powell serves as board chair of America's Promise Alliance, which is committed to seeing that children experience the Five Promises - the fundamental resources they need to succeed. With more than 400 national partners, the Alliance is currently leading a ten-year campaign, Grad Nation, mobilizing America to end the dropout crisis. Mrs. Powell was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2010 to be a member of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Mrs. Powell sits on the boards of several educational, cultural, charitable and civic organizations, including serving as chair of the advisory board for Civic Change, Inc. and member of the YouthBuild USA Advisory Board. Mrs. Powell serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors' Committee of Community & Friends for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She is the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Human Letters from Emerson College, an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from Shenandoah University and the Civic Change Award from the Pew Partnership for Civic Change. She has been honored as Washingtonian of the Year by Washington magazine and has received the Leadership Award from the Women's Center in Virginia. She is also a

Presenter Bios *(continued)*

successful author of two children's books. Mrs. Powell has been married to Gen. Colin Powell since 1962.

Michael Powell

The Honorable Michael Powell served as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. He was appointed by President Clinton in 1997 and was designated Chairman by President Bush in 2001. As Chairman, Powell created the right regulatory conditions to stimulate the deployment of powerful broadband technologies to narrow the digital divide such as WiFi Hotspots, Cable broadband and DSL. Chairman Powell previously served as the Chief of Staff of the Antitrust Division in the Department of Justice. Prior to that, Powell was an associate in the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers after clerking for the Honorable Harry T. Edwards, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Before starting his legal career, Powell served as a policy advisor on Japan to the Secretary of Defense. He also served as an armored cavalry officer in the United States Army and was retired from service after serious injury from a training accident while on duty. Powell is currently a senior advisor of Providence Equity Partners. He also serves as Rector of the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary; and board member of Cisco, ObjectVideo, the Rand Corporation, and the Aspen Institute. Powell graduated in 1985 from the College of William and Mary with a degree in Government. He earned his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.