



The Alliance for Excellent Education  
Presents the Release of

## **Bipartisan National Public Opinion Poll on the Need for Immediate Education Reform**

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

### **Speaker Biographies**

#### **Celinda Lake**

President, *Lake Research Partners*

Celinda Lake is one of the Democratic Party's leading political strategists, serving as tactician and senior advisor to the national party committees, dozens of Democratic incumbents, and challengers at all levels of the electoral process. Ms. Lake and her firm are known for cutting-edge research on issues including the economy, health care, the environment and education, and have worked for a number of institutions including the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the Democratic Governor's Association (DGA), The White House Project, AFL-CIO, SEIU, CWA, IAFF, Sierra Club, NARAL, Human Rights Campaign, EMILY's List, and the Kaiser Family Foundation. She has also advised fledgling democratic parties in several post-war Eastern European countries—including Bosnia—and South Africa. In 2008, Ms. Lake worked as pollster for Vice President Biden.

Ms. Lake holds a master's degree in political science and survey research from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and a certificate in political science from the University of Geneva, in Switzerland. She received an undergraduate degree from Smith College in Massachusetts, where she graduated summa cum laude and was recently awarded the Distinguished Alumna Medal by the college.

#### **Christine Matthews**

President, *Bellwether Research and Consulting*

Christine Matthews is president of Bellwether Research and Consulting. She is a former partner and vice president at other leading Republican Party research firms. Ms. Matthews has conducted polling in every state and for campaigns at all levels and her work has taken her to the Philippines, Guam, and Hawaii for onsite research. Her public affairs expertise centers on energy and the environment, including national messaging work for American Clean Skies.

Ms. Matthews has been a political commentator for MSNBC, Fox, NPR, CNN, and served as a 2004 election night analyst for the BBC. She received a bachelor of arts degree from Indiana University and a master of arts degree from Georgetown University, completing her master's thesis on "The Politics of Suburban Sprawl." Ms. Matthews is a member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR).

**Bob Wise**

President, *Alliance for Excellent Education*

Bob Wise, author of *Raising the Grade: How High School Reform Can Save Our Youth and Our Nation*, became president of the Alliance for Excellent Education in February 2005. Under his leadership, the Alliance has continued to build its reputation as a respected authority on high school policy and to advocate for reform in America's secondary education system, working to ensure that all students graduate from high school prepared for success. Since joining the Alliance, Governor Wise has become a sought-after speaker and advisor on education issues. He has advised the U.S. Department of Education and frequently testifies before the U.S. Congress.

As governor of West Virginia from 2001 to 2005, he fought for and signed legislation to fund the PROMISE Scholarship Program, which has helped thousands of West Virginia students remain in the Mountain State for college. During his administration, West Virginia saw a significant increase in the number of students completing high school and entering college. Governor Wise earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a JD from Tulane University College of Law.