



Coming to Our Senses: Education and the American Future

Gaston Caperton

President
The College Board

Gaston Caperton is the eighth president of the College Board, a not-for-profit membership association founded in 1900 that consists of more than 5,600 of the nation's leading schools, colleges and universities. Among the organization's best-known programs are the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) and the SAT®. A former two-term governor of West Virginia, Caperton was appointed to his current position in 1999.

Responsible for the overall direction of the College Board, Caperton has worked to make it a mission-driven, values-oriented organization, initiating ways to connect more students to academic success and opportunity while simultaneously raising educational standards. In an effort to encourage equity within programs fostering academic excellence, he has more than doubled the size of the College Board's staff and modernized its management structure. Caperton also established collegeboard.com, the nation's predominant comprehensive college-planning Web site serving millions of students a year as they plan their college careers.

Under Caperton's leadership, the College Board has updated the SAT. The nation's premier college admissions test now includes a writing section, reinforcing one of Caperton's priorities: to elevate the importance of writing on the nation's education agenda. Additionally, under his guidance, higher-level math and more critical reading passages have been introduced.

Caperton believes that the high standards found within the College Board's Advanced Placement Program courses transform schools and change lives. During Caperton's nine years as president, the number of low-income students taking AP courses has tripled. Though AP Exams have remained rigorous, student performance has improved. Today, students taking AP Exams are outperforming previous generations of AP students.

Caperton also envisions another important role for the AP Program: impetus for a greater appreciation of globalization's influence on education in the United States. With that as a goal, he has worked to initiate a new series of AP world language and culture courses, including AP Chinese, Italian and Japanese. These join AP courses in World History, Human Geography and Comparative Government and Politics as a series of offerings to prepare students to participate in a global community.

Under Caperton's leadership, two initiatives were created that focus on college preparation for underserved students. College Board Schools were opened as a system of learning laboratories aimed at preparing underserved middle and high school students for successful college matriculation. With the support of the Gates and Dell foundations, the first two schools debuted in New York City's public school system in 2004. There are currently 14 College Board Schools in New York City and in Rochester and Buffalo, N.Y. In total, there are plans for 18 schools in New York state.

The other initiative is the EXCEerator™ program, which is being implemented in existing high schools selected from applicants demonstrating an urgent need and a strong commitment to reform. There are currently 27 EXCEerator Schools in Chicago; Washington, D.C.; Duval County and Hillsborough County, Fla.; and Denver. Caperton believes that with participation in College Board academic programs, students can achieve academic success regardless of their personal circumstances.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina, Caperton went to work for a small insurance agency in Charleston, W.Va. Under his leadership, the company grew into the 10th-largest privately owned insurance brokerage firm in the nation. Gaston Caperton has received many awards, including 10 honorary doctoral degrees. In 2007, he received the prestigious James Bryant Conant Award from the Education Commission of the States because of his significant contributions to the quality of education in the United States.

Joyce V. Brown

Manager, Secondary School Counselors
Chicago Public Schools

Joyce V. Brown is an experienced educator with 39 years of professional experience in the area of student development, including student support initiatives, curriculum development and school counseling. She has demonstrated proven ability in creating, developing and implementing effective student assistance programs. Brown possesses strong communication skills, proven administrative capability and a consistent record of achieving systemwide goals and objectives. She spent her entire school-level career at Kenwood Academy, where she served as a teacher, counselor, SLC Lead Teacher and Guidance Department chair. In these capacities, Brown developed numerous programs focused on student leadership, curriculum development and student engagement.

In 2004, she became a district administrator with the Chicago Public Schools and joined the Department of Postsecondary Education and Student Development as manager of secondary school counselors. Currently, she serves as senior advisor for secondary school counseling within the newly formed Department of College and Career Preparation. In this capacity she leads a citywide professional development initiative to create guidance programs centered upon data, personalization programs and student achievement. In this capacity she provides professional development and strategic planning services to ensure that over 400 urban secondary school counselors located in 130 high schools develop and implement the American School Counseling Association National Counseling Model to support the implementation of a comprehensive evidenced-based counseling program that uses data to support student achievement. For the past four years, she has led the reorganization of Chicago Public Schools high school counselors to help realign their daily practice around this model.

Brown's expertise is in the area of transition practices between the eighth and ninth grade, with a focus on personalization practices to support the transition from elementary to high school. Her doctoral research is in this area and she has developed a "12 Touch Model" to support the transition from grade eight to grade nine. Brown has been at the forefront of leading and implementing a four-week summer program preparing 31,000 CPS eighth-graders to transition into high school, as well as the implementation of personalization practices throughout the freshman year. She is a sought-after counselor leader and speaker. Brown has presented at numerous local and national conferences including the National Association for College Admission Counseling, The Education Trust, ASCA and the College Board. Brown is a National Board Certified Counselor and holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Northern Illinois University.

Brown has won numerous awards including InRoads Educator of the Year, Jackie Robinson -- Mary McLeod Bethune Life Time Achievement Award, Chicago Chamber of Commerce Youth Motivation Award, Oppenhiemer Foundation Counselor Award, Blum-Kolver Teaching Award and Kenwood Academy Hall of Fame. She was a featured counselor in The College Board Review(r) article entitled: "High School Counselors: Achievement, Struggles and Dreams" and was a featured panelist on ABC TV's "Stop the Violence" series.

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William E. 'Brit' Kirwan

Commission Chair
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

On Aug. 1, 2002, William English Kirwan became the third chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

A widely respected academic leader, Kirwan served as president of Ohio State University for four years (1998-2002), and as president of the University of Maryland, College Park for 10 years (1988-1998). Prior to his presidency, he was a member of the University of Maryland faculty for 24 years.

Kirwan is also a nationally recognized authority on critical issues shaping the higher education landscape. He is a sought-after speaker on a wide range of topics, including diversity, access and affordability, cost containment, accountability, economic impact, gender equity, financial aid, partnerships, and innovation. Along with his national and international presentations on key issues, Kirwan has authored several pieces and has been profiled as a national education leader in academic and mainstream publications.

In May 2006, Kirwan was appointed to serve on the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics and became co-chair of the commission in May 2007. He also serves on the board of directors of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation; chairs the College Board's Commission on Access, Admissions and Success in Higher Education; and is a member of the Business-Higher Education Forum.

He is past chair of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges' board of directors and of the American Council on Education's board. He is the current chair of NASULGC's Committee on Student Learning and Accountability. He was appointed by President Clinton to serve as a member of the National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21st Century and chaired the National Research Council's Commission on the Mathematical Sciences in the Year 2000, which produced the 1991 National Academy Press report titled "Moving Beyond Myths: Revitalizing Undergraduate Mathematics." President Bush appointed Kirwan to the Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Kirwan is also a member of the board of directors of the Greater Baltimore Committee, the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, and the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education. In April 2007, Kirwan was appointed to the editorial board of the newly announced Journal of Diversity in Higher Education, to be published quarterly by the American Psychological Association and the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. In November 2007, he was appointed to the Council of Presidents of the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

Most recently Kirwan was named among 60 "Influential Marylanders" for 2008 by the Daily Record newspaper. He was also the 2008 recipient of the Reginald H. Jones Distinguished Service Award presented by the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to increasing the representation of minorities in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) careers. He also received the 2008 Health Services Leadership Award from the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Kirwan received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Kentucky and his master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, in 1962 and 1964, respectively. He is a member of several honorary and professional societies, including Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. In 2002, Kirwan was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A prolific scholar, he is co-editor of the book "Advances in Complex Analysis" and has published many articles on mathematical research. On Feb. 15, 2007, during ceremonies in Annapolis, Kirwan became the 16th recipient of the Maryland House of Delegates Speaker's Medallion, which recognizes Maryland citizens who have demonstrated exemplary service to the House and to the State of Maryland.

Jerome A. Lucido

Commission Vice Chair / Task Force Chair
Vice Provost for Enrollment Policy and Management
University of Southern California

Jerome A. Lucido serves as executive director of the University of Southern California Center for Enrollment Research, Policy, and Practice. Reporting to USC's senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, he oversees the university's enrollment management operations, including undergraduate and graduate admissions, financial aid, academic records and registration, enrollment policy, as well as the activities of the Center for Enrollment Research, Policy, and Practice. He is an immediate past Trustee of the College Board, and currently serves as past chair of the College Board's Guidance and Admission Assembly Council, chair of the Task Force on Admissions in the 21st Century, and vice chair of the Commission on Access, Admissions and Success in Higher Education. He has played a leading role at the national level in initiatives to improve access for low-income and underrepresented students and to design and execute effective and principled college admission and enrollment management practices. Additionally, he was a member of the steering committee that addressed and reformulated the Statement of Principles of Good Practice on behalf of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Lucido came to USC from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he guided enrollment planning and management, and oversaw the offices of Undergraduate Admissions, Scholarships and Student Aid, and the University Registrar. During his tenure at UNC, the academic quality, diversity and talent of the student body dramatically increased. Lucido played the leading role in UNC's decision to eliminate Early Decision in 2002, an action that was hailed by the Washington Post, Newsweek, and the New York Times. He also played a key role in the introduction of the Carolina Covenant, a groundbreaking student aid program that ensures a debt-free education to students from low-income backgrounds. Additionally, Lucido designed and led a campuswide enrollment planning and management framework that brought together university leaders in academic affairs, faculty and student governance, facilities planning, and financial management. This effort improved academic planning and coordination and provided a forum for addressing critical components of the UNC academic plan.

Prior to his work at UNC, Lucido served as assistant vice president for enrollment services and academic support at the University of Arizona. There, he led a student recruitment and retention organization that included the offices of Early Outreach, Admissions, Scholarships and Student Aid, the Registrar, Minority Recruitment and Retention, and Career Services, as well as the University Learning Center. Among his achievements at Arizona was the design and direction of recruitment, selection, and scholarship programs that established a history of progressively stronger freshman classes, characterized by students of academic distinction and cultural diversity. During this time, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Western Region of the College Board, the Distinguished Service Award at the University of Arizona, and he was honored at the University of Arizona for his contributions to improve the quality of education for students from underrepresented groups.

Lucido's career in higher education began at Kent State University, where he served as associate director of admissions prior to assuming the director of admissions position at the University of Arizona. He holds a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Arizona, an M.Ed. from Kent State and a B.S. in business administration from Miami University of Ohio.

Congressman Chris Van Hollen

Maryland's 8th District

Rep. Chris Van Hollen was elected to Congress in 2002 in a high-profile election that received national attention, and has quickly earned a reputation as an active, engaged and effective member of Congress. The Washington Post described Rep. Van Hollen as "an astute lawmaker" who has "distinguished himself as a shrewd legislative player in Congress." The Baltimore Sun and Roll Call newspapers called him a "rising star" in Congress and the Democratic Party. Rep. Van Hollen is chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means as well as the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

He is the co-chair of the bipartisan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force and vice chair of the Democratic Task Force on Budget and Tax Policy.

Rep. Van Hollen has been recognized for his leadership in the areas of education, foreign policy, the environment, health care, energy policy, protecting the rights of federal employees and civil rights. He has received numerous leadership awards including the Outstanding New Member of the Year award from the nonpartisan Committee for Education Funding; the Community Health Superhero Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers for his efforts on behalf of the uninsured and medically underserved Americans; the Outstanding Leadership Award from the American Lung Association for efforts to strengthen the Clean Air Act and discourage youth smoking; and the Outstanding Service Award from the Blinded American Veterans Foundation for his legislative efforts on behalf of veterans.

Before his election to the U.S. Congress, Rep. Van Hollen served 12 years in the Maryland General Assembly. Prior to his election to the Maryland Legislature, Rep. Van Hollen served as a senior legislative advisor for federal affairs to Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer. Before that, he was a professional staff member on the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations specializing in national security and a range of foreign policy issues. Earlier, Rep. Van Hollen served as the legislative assistant for Defense and Foreign Policy to former Maryland Sen. Charles McCurdy Mathias Jr.

Rep. Van Hollen received an undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College, a master's in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

James Wright

President
Dartmouth College

Appointed in 1998, James Wright is the 16th President of Dartmouth College. As president, his priorities have included advancing the academic strength of the institution and expanding the faculty, enhancing the out-of-the-classroom experience, and an ambitious facilities agenda that includes academic, residential life and athletic projects. Building on Dartmouth's historic commitment to diversity, he has broadened access for talented students from all backgrounds, most recently spearheading a major financial aid initiative that eliminates tuition and loans for students of modest means, and expands need-blind admissions to international students. He has also served on the NCAA Division I board of directors and the NCAA Task Force on Reform.

In 2005, Wright began a series of visits to U.S. military medical facilities in Washington, D.C., where he met Marines and other U.S. military personnel who had been wounded in the course of service in Iraq and Afghanistan. He encouraged them to continue their education, and he subsequently led the creation and funding of an educational counseling program for wounded U.S. veterans, Severely Injured Military Veterans: Fulfilling Their Dreams, that is now being offered through the American Council on Education. In May 2007, the New York Times presented a feature on this work, and "ABC World News with Charles Gibson" featured Wright as its Person of the Week. The New England Council recognized him as the New Englander of the Year, and he was honored in April 2008 by the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, which conferred upon him its Semper Fidelis Award in recognition of his efforts to ensure educational opportunities for wounded veterans.

Wright has been a member of the Dartmouth faculty since 1969. He received a bachelor's degree from Wisconsin State University-Platteville and a master's and doctoral degree in history from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. An American historian, his teaching and research focused on American political history and the history of the American West. He is the author or editor of five books: "The Galena Lead District: Federal Policy and Practices, 1824-1847" (1966); "The West of the American People" (1970); "The Politics of Populism: Dissent in Colorado" (1974); "The Great Plains Experience: Readings in the History of a Region" (1978); and "The Progressive Yankees: Republican Reformers in New Hampshire" (1987). He received a Social Science Research Council Grant, a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Charles Warren Fellowship at Harvard.

James Wright served as dean of the faculty from 1989 to 1997 and as acting president of the college during the first six months of 1995, while President James O. Freedman was on sabbatical. He served as provost from 1997 to 1998 and was elected to the Dartmouth presidency in April 1998. He took office on Aug. 1, 1998.

President Wright has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and he is a member of the Organization of American Historians and the Western History Association. He serves on the board of trustees of the Sherman Fairchild Foundation.