



The Alliance for Excellent Education
Presents a Webinar on

MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: College and Career Readiness and the Implications for Teaching

Friday, March 25, 2011 ♦ 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, ET

Speakers Biographies

William R. Hite, Jr, EdD

Superintendent, Prince George's County Public Schools, Maryland

William Hite was named superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) in April 2009 by the Prince George's County Board of Education, after serving as interim superintendent since December 2008.

In June 2006, Dr. Hite was hired as deputy superintendent of PGCPS, Maryland's second-largest school system and the eighteenth-largest system in the nation. During his tenure, he focused on student access and educational equity to ensure that all students graduate college and work ready. Among his many leadership responsibilities, Dr. Hite has led major efforts resulting in increased student achievement, significant improvements in teaching and learning, and school improvement status. Most recently, he oversaw a major reorganization of the district's regions into zones to reduce cost and provide greater support to schools. PGCPS has been recognized nationally during Dr. Hite's tenure.

Dr. Hite received a bachelor of science degree in education from Virginia Tech and a master of education degree in educational leadership from the University of Virginia. He earned an education doctorate degree in educational leadership from Virginia Tech.

Kelly Kovacic

California's 2010 Teacher of the Year, The Preuss School, University of California–San Diego

Kelly Kovacic is California's 2010 Teacher of the Year and one of four finalists for the 2010 National Teacher of the Year. Ms. Kovacic teaches eleventh-grade AP U.S. history, twelfth-grade AP U.S. government, and a seventh-grade advisory class at The Preuss School, University of California–San Diego (UCSD), a public charter school on the UCSD campus serving students who live below the poverty line and will be the first in their families to graduate from college.

Ms. Kovacic received her BA in history from UCSD, where she also minored in literature. While a student at UCSD, she tutored at Preuss the first year it opened and was inspired by the school's mission, diverse student body, and dynamic faculty. In 2002, Ms. Kovacic graduated from Stanford University with a master of education degree and a California professional clear credential. She then returned to Preuss to begin her teaching career.

Ms. Kovacic also serves on the Preuss instructional leadership team. She has worked in collaboration with teachers and administrators nationally and internationally to design and implement authentic learning opportunities for all students. In 2010, she led a delegation of teachers to Japan and in the summer of 2007, she taught reading and writing at a dirt-floor village school in Malawi, Africa. Throughout her career, Ms. Kovacic has focused on providing all students with equitable access to a rigorous and college preparatory curriculum. She believes in the power of education to inspire students to grow, learn, and change the world.

Dana Markow, PhD

Vice President, Youth and Education Research, Harris Interactive

Dana Markow has worked for Harris Interactive since 1997. She has considerable experience working on survey research projects for academia, foundations, and corporations. For these different entities, she has conducted studies related to multiple issues surrounding youth and education. With regard to research with children, these studies include children's media use, the impact of work on parenting and family life and children's school experiences. Dr. Markow has also conducted custom research among other key youth audiences such as educators and parents. One of the major projects she has worked on for the past twelve years is the annual *MetLife Survey of the American Teacher*, which examines different issues on public education and incorporates the perspectives of parents, students, teachers, and other education professionals.

Prior to joining Harris Interactive, Dr. Markow worked as a research consultant with the Children's Television Workshop and Nickelodeon, where she conducted formative research for the guidance of preschool educational television programs. She earned her PhD in psychology from Harvard University and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania.

Susan Traiman

Director of Public Policy, Business Roundtable

Susan Traiman is director of public policy at Business Roundtable and manages the education, innovation, and workforce initiative. She oversees the Roundtable's activities for chief executive officers of leading corporations interested in improving education performance and workforce competitiveness in the United States.

Prior to joining the Roundtable, Ms. Traiman was education policies studies director at the National Governors Association (NGA) where she coordinated assistance to governors in developing and implementing systemic education reform strategies. At the NGA, she participated in planning the 1989 National Education Summit in Charlottesville, Virginia and the subsequent development of National Education Goals. Ms. Traiman was a senior associate with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement and served on the staff of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, contributing to the development of its landmark 1983 report, *A Nation at Risk*.

Ms. Traiman came to Washington, DC from New Jersey where she was a teacher and a consultant at a regional service center of the New Jersey Department of Education. She has a BA in American civilization and an MS in education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dennis White

President and Chief Executive Officer, MetLife Foundation

Dennis White is president and chief executive officer of MetLife Foundation (Foundation) and vice president of the corporate contributions and social investment unit of MetLife. He is responsible for managing Foundation and corporate contributions, company volunteer activities, and directing the social and community investment programs of MetLife and MetLife Foundation.

Mr. White joined MetLife in 1990 to manage the Foundation's program-related investments portfolio. From 1999 through 2008, he was part of MetLife's investment department where he managed social and community investments, housing tax credit activities, and other tax-oriented structured transactions. Prior to joining MetLife, Mr. White worked for the Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc., a private nonprofit group working with tribal governments, as an Economic Development Officer, and for PaineWebber, Inc. as a senior financial analyst.

Mr. White is on the board of directors of Living Cities, Inc. He received his BA in political science and economics from Rutgers College and his MBA in finance from Rutgers Graduate School of Management.

Bob Wise

President, Alliance for Excellent Education

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, and chairs the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. He is author of the book *Raising the Grade: How High School Reform Can Save Our Youth and Our Nation*.

Gov. Wise joined the Alliance in 2005, where he 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. Gov. Wise has become a sought-after speaker and advisor on education issues; he has advised the U.S. Department of Education, White House Transition Team, and frequently testifies before the U.S. Congress.

As governor of West Virginia from 2001 to 2005, he implemented the PROMISE Scholarship program, significantly increasing college attendance. From 1983 to 2001, Gov. Wise served in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he aggressively worked to preserve federal financial aid for students to attend college.

Gov. Wise earned a BA degree from Duke University and a JD degree from Tulane University School of Law. His board and committee services also include the Public Education Network, America's Promise, and the National High School Center.

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