

# IFE/INFO

## Public Policy Roundtable

*Enriching Washington's Public Policy Life • Making World Affairs Our Business*



Institute  
for  
Education

*Featuring*

**The Honorable Vincent Gray**

*Mayor of the District of Columbia*

*Introduced by*

**Mayor A. Anthony Williams**, *Former DC Mayor and current CEO of the Federal City Council*

*Hosted by His Excellency Rudolf Bekink, Dutch Ambassador to the United States At the Dutch Residence*

*2347 S Street, NW • Washington DC*

**Friday, April 11, 2014**

Public Policy Roundtable



Introduction

Anthony A. Williams  
CEO, Federal City Council

Anthony A. Williams, the fourth Mayor of the District of Columbia, is executive director of it’s government practice division of the Corporate Executive Board. He is also a lecturer at Harvard’s JFK School for Public Service and recently accepted an invitation to join the Bipartisan Policy Center’s Debt Reduction Task Force. Williams, who served two terms as D.C. Mayor from 1999 to 2007, is widely credited with turning around the Districts’ finances.

Through an Institute for Education (IFE) civility initiative, Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner convened regular regional summits during their tenure. Finding commonality, they worked together on the planning process in the region to ensure that the states and the District meet their shared goals.

In 2007 Mayor Anthony Williams received the IFE Leadership Award for his work on regional security, tourism, and transportation. ■



Special Guest Speaker

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

On January 2, 2011, Vincent C. Gray was sworn-in as the sixth elected Mayor of the District of Columbia. He was overwhelmingly elected on November 2, 2010, garnering nearly 75 percent of the vote. During his campaign, he pledged to help unite the District by focusing on job creation and economic development, a collaborative approach to school reform, safer streets in all neighborhoods and restoring fiscal responsibility to city government.

A native Washingtonian, Vince Gray has tirelessly advocated for the residents of the District for more than thirty years. His dedication to children and their families, at-risk and homeless youth, and people with disabilities has been the hallmark of his service in both city government and the non-profit sector. His lifetime of public service to

the District can be best summed up by a singular governing philosophy—that the District of Columbia works best as “One City.”

Vince has lived in the Hillcrest neighborhood of Ward 7 for over 25 years. His wife, Loretta, an outstanding educator in the DC Public Schools, passed away from cancer in 1998. He has two children, Jonice Gray Tucker and Vincent Carlos Gray, and two grandchildren.

Reviving a lost tradition, newly elected Washington, DC Mayor Vincent Gray gives the “State of the INFO” address at today’s INFO Public Policy. The “State of the INFO” address has been an IFE mainstay, delivered by Mayor Anthony Williams in years past. ■



IFE INFO Public Policy roundtable is 23 years strong, with over 280 distinguished speakers including, five Supreme Court Justices, 18 Ambassadors, 46 Senators, a Maestro, 27 senior advisors to the President over five administrations, the heads of the CIA, FBI, World Bank, and the National Academies of the Sciences, one Vice President, five Governors, four Mayors, two Fortune 500 CEOs, and a Miss America. IFE INFO is a Washington Institution promoting civility and encouraging Youth Global Citizenship. You can visit us at [www.instituteforeducation.org](http://www.instituteforeducation.org), or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



IFE/INFO Public Policy Members

**Farhud Batmanglich**  
*Xanthus Design*  
**Andy Burness**  
*Burness Communications*  
**Christopher G. Caine**  
*Mercator XXI, LLC*

**David Fenstermaker**  
*Raymond James & Associates*  
**Joe Haggerty**  
*United Way Worldwide*  
**Jerry Jasinowski**  
*The Manufacturing Institute*

**James Kimsey**  
*Kimsey Foundation*  
**Tom Kuhn**  
*Edison Electric Institute*  
**Tom Patton**  
*Philips Electronics, NA*

**T. Dean Reed**  
*T. Dean Reed Associates*  
**Marci Robinson**  
*Robinson Communications*  
**George Vradenburg**  
*The Vradenburg Foundation*

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### Guests

#### Farhud Batmaglich

Xanthus Design

#### Dr. Rosa Batoreu

Embassy of Portugal

#### H.E. Rudolf Bekink

Embassy of the Netherlands

#### Andy Burness

Burness Communications

#### Eleanor Clift

The Daily Beast

#### Adam Dole\*

Department of Health & Human Services

#### R. David Edelman

White House Senior Advisor

#### Steve and Sharon Edelman

#### Juliet Eilperin

The Washington Post

#### Grace Fenstermaker

Geopolitical Solutions  
at Qorvis/MSLGROUP

#### Dr. Amy Geng

IFE Innovation Steward

#### Sean Glass

GBS Health

#### The Honorable Vincent Gray

Mayor of the District of Columbia

#### Hillary Hartley\*

General Services Administration

#### Ed Henry

Chief White House Correspondent,  
Fox News

#### Joanne Ke

The World Bank; IFE Fellow

#### Coach Kathy Kemper

IFE Founder and CEO

#### Wycee Liu

Embassy of the  
People's Republic of China

#### Gouri Mirpuri

Embassy of Singapore

#### Geoff Mulligan\*

National Institute of Standards  
and Technology

#### Alan Murray

Pew Research Center

#### Tom Patton

Philips NA (former)

#### Adrian Pavia

RFFG Fellow

#### Beverly Perry

Pepco Holdings (former)

#### H.E. Elena Poptodorova

Embassy of Bulgaria

#### Sokwoo Rhee\*

National Institute of Standards  
and Technology

#### Lygeia Ricciardi

Department of Health & Human Services

#### Marci Robinson

Robinson Communications;  
Chair, IFE Board of Stewards

#### Henry Schuster

CBS New's 60 Minutes

#### Saifeddin Sharif

Embassy of Libya

#### H.E. Peter Taksøe-Jensen

Royal Danish Embassy

#### Matthew Theall\*

Department of Energy

#### Lena Trudeau

U.S. General Services Administration

#### H.E. Johan Verbeke

Embassy of Belgium

#### Henry Wei, MD\*

Department of Veterans Affairs

#### Anthony Williams

Federal City Council; IFE Steward

#### H.E. Jean-Louis Wolzfeld

Embassy of Luxembourg

### IFE FELLOWS & INTERNS

#### Chris Golden

Joe Trippi Associates, IFE Fellow

#### Quenton Horton

PG Community College, IFE Fellow

#### Michael Klemens

JPMorgan, IFE Fellow

#### Skyla Lilly

IFE Fellow

#### Emily Lowell

American University, IFE Intern

#### Genelle Quarles

Burness Communications, IFE Fellow

\*White House Presidential Innovation Fellows

Design: Xanthus Design

## Governments as Partners in Innovation

**Kathy Kemper**

*Founder and CEO, Institute for Education*

Posted: The Huffington Post – March 17, 2014

**T**his past Thursday, His Excellency Manuel Sager, Switzerland's ambassador to the United States, and his wife Christine, hosted an Institute for Education Public Policy Salon, "Trickle-up Innovation: How Governments Can Support Grassroots Science and Technology". The Swiss residence was a fitting venue: Switzerland has topped the World Economic Forum's competitiveness rankings for three years in a row, and it boasts youth unemployment of just 3.5 percent. It was also a fitting time to reflect on innovation: 25 years ago, a British computer scientist named Tim Berners-Lee drafted a memo to his colleagues at CERN that outlined a new way of managing information; that document was the foundation for what we now call the Internet.

In attendance was Aneesh Chopra, America's first chief technology officer and author of an upcoming book, *Innovative State: How New Technologies Can Transform Government*. Aneesh noted that innovation in the U.S. had, up until recently, tended to occur in the public sector and trickle down to the private sector (consider the work that the Department of Defense did during the Cold War). Today, he explained, the Obama administration is trying to make the two sectors more equal partners in innovation; to that end, the president signed the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act in January 2011 and has taken important steps to make government data more open and accessible.

Aneesh introduced John Paul Farmer, the brain behind the White House's Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIF) Program, along with three current PIFs. John explained that one of the motivations behind the PIF Program

— which is now recruiting its third round of fellows — was a sentiment that's generally attributed to Sun Microsystems Cofounder Bill Joy: "No matter who you are, most of the smartest people work for someone else." In other words, the U.S. government has to make a conscious effort to go beyond its traditional recruitment methods if it wants to identify and cultivate the nation's most talented innovators. He also noted that according to Alec Ross, who served as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's senior advisor on innovation, the principal struggle of the 21st century won't be left vs. right, but open vs. closed (PIF Geoff Mulligan suggested that the divide might be framed more accurately as engaged vs. disengaged). One of President Obama's signature initiatives has been to harness the power of "open data," which, according to an October 2013 study by McKinsey and Company, could "help unlock \$3.2 trillion to \$5.4 trillion in economic value per year across seven 'domains': education, transportation, consumer products, electricity, oil and gas, health care, and consumer finance.

The panelists discussed the role that culture plays in fostering innovation. The Head of the Swiss Embassy's Office for Science, Technology, and Higher Education, Andreas Ledergerber, noted that because Switzerland's startup culture tends to be less risk-taking than America's, Switzerland actually runs six "bootcamps" that train its startups to succeed in the U.S. The panelists also explored an array of initiatives that have emerged because of public-private partnerships: among them, RFP-EZ, which enables small companies to learn about and compete more effectively for government

contracts; and iTriage, which helps consumers manage their personal health care.

The thread that connected their remarks was a strong rejection of the idea that governments can't be innovative. According to Hillary Hartley, who is currently working on a joint White House-General Services Administration initiative to help Americans access government information and services more efficiently, PIFs are brought on board not because the government lacks entrepreneurs, but because government can't always give its entrepreneurs the resources and networks that they need to implement their ideas; in short, PIFs are partners of, not replacements for, government innovators.

The panelists also said that the public tends to hear far more about cases where government-led or supported innovation runs into glitches than cases where it succeeds. Hillary noted, for example, that the difficulties with the rollout of [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) have overshadowed the remarkable work that has been done to fix the website (see TIME Magazine's recent cover story, "Code Red"). Who could've imagined even as recently as a decade ago that governments would enable their citizens to engage with them in real time?

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Kathy Kemper is founder and CEO of the Institute for Education a nonprofit foundation, headquartered in Washington, DC, that recognizes and promotes leadership and civility locally, nationally and in the world community. IFE also encourages youth global citizenship with programs that foster intercultural understanding.