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Live Speaker Series



Institute for Education

Harnessing the power of data, innovation and
soft diplomacy in the global community

BIOS

Guest Speaker



JOHN PAUL FARMER

Chief Technology Officer, New York City

@JohnPaulFarmer

John Paul Farmer is the Chief Technology Officer of the City of New York. In this role, he leads a team that deploys technology policy, programs, and products to better serve New Yorkers and build a more future-ready city. He is also an adjunct professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Urban Research.

Previously, John was Managing Director of Microsoft Cities, based in New York. John led a cross-functional team to build partnerships and co-design technology products that make communities more livable, more vibrant, and more equitable. As the Founder & CEO of The Innovation Project, John spread innovation best practices globally. John served as the Senior Advisor for Innovation at the White House under President Barack Obama, where he co-founded and led the Presidential Innovation Fellows program to attract top private sector change-makers for focused tours of duty in government.

Prior to the U.S. government, John built new business units in the private sector. He played professional baseball in the minor league systems of the Atlanta Braves and Los Angeles Dodgers. John holds an M.B.A. with honors from the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University and an A.B. with honors from Harvard University.

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MATT LIRA

*Special Assistant to the President for Innovation Policy and Initiatives,
White House Office of American Innovation | @MattLira45*

Matt is currently at the White House Office of American Innovation, where he works to coordinate priority policy initiatives for the office. For the past decade, Matt's work has placed him at the cross-section of politics, government and the emerging digital economy. With a unique mixture of experiences in Congressional Leadership and national campaigns, he has gained first-hand insight into our nation's political and governing institutions.

Previously, Matt has served as Senior Advisor to House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Digital Director for then-VP Nominee Paul Ryan and a Senior Advisor to House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. In these capacities, he served on the senior leadership staff, participated in daily strategy discussions on the issues facing the House of Representatives and worked to modernize Congressional institutions.

Prior to returning to government, Lira served as the Deputy Executive Director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee during the 2014 election cycle - successfully defending every Republican Senate seat and gained nine seats, the largest Senate gain by either party since 1980.

Throughout his work in government, Lira has aimed to forge trust and consensus by bringing people together to find areas where progress can be made. In an era of deep partisanship, his work has frequently earned the support of both sides of the aisle.

In 2015, Matt served as an Institute of Politics Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, focused on the impact of the digital economy on politics and governance. In 2012, Matt was recognized by Tech Crunch as one of the "20 Most Innovative People in Democracy."

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COACH KATHY KEMPER

Founder and CEO, Institute for Education | @CoachKemper

COACH KATHY KEMPER is CEO and Founder of the Institute for Education (IFE), a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit committed to engaging the global community to harness the power of soft diplomacy, data, and innovation. In 2019, Kemper was recognized, alongside Jeff Bezos, as one of *Washington Life Magazine*' "Tech 25", a prestigious honor reserved for top technology innovators and disruptors.

Extolled as "D.C.'s Networker-in-Chief" by *U.S. News and World Report*, Coach Kemper regularly convenes timely salons, forums, intimate discussions and invitation-only gatherings that draw senior White House and Congressional leaders, distinguished ambassadors and diplomats, business executives, journalists and technology innovators for debate and discussion. Past speakers have included Supreme Court Justices, a Vice President, Senators, Ambassadors, Nobel laureates, Cabinet secretaries, United States Chief Technology Officers, CEOs, and more.

A former professional tennis player, Coach Kemper served as head Women's Tennis Coach at Georgetown University from 1978 to 1990, and coached Georgetown's No. 1 player to the NCAA National Women's Division II title in 1983. Coach has spent more than 40 years coaching tennis for Washington's power brokers — hitting the courts with Supreme Court Justices, kings, queens, and United States Secretaries of State through six administrations at the White House court, Senate court and Embassy courts. Kemper has received awards and recognition from the Swedish, Chinese, and Japanese governments for her commitment to cross-cultural dialogue. In 2017, 3 U.S. CTOs awarded the Challenge Coin to Coach Kemper for her bipartisan leadership in technology. A frequent op-ed writer and columnist, her work has been featured in *The Hill*, *Roll Call*, *The Globalist*, *Huffington Post* and *USA Today*.