



# THE NATION'S REPORT CARD

## 2018 Civics, Geography, and U.S. History



### Biographies



@SenAlexander

**Senator Lamar Alexander** has represented Tennessee in the U.S. Senate since 2003 and chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, as well as the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. He was a principal sponsor of the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act. From 1979 to 1987, he served as governor of Tennessee. In 1986, he chaired the Alexander-James study group, which established the National Assessment Governing Board. Also during his tenure as governor, he served terms as chair of the National Governors Association and the Southern Regional Education Board. Following his term as governor, Sen. Alexander was the president of the University of Tennessee until 1991, when he served as U.S. Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush.



@JBaghian

**Jessica Baghian** is the assistant state superintendent and chief academic policy officer for the Louisiana Department of Education. In this role, Baghian leads Louisiana's early childhood to grade 2 strategy, humanities and instructional support strategy, assessment, accountability, research, and data functions for the agency. Baghian previously served as the deputy chief of staff and a policy advisor for the department after beginning her career teaching mathematics in St. John Parish, La. She holds degrees from Harvard Law School and Louisiana State University.



 @HaleyBarbour

**Governor Haley Barbour** served as the 63rd governor of Mississippi from 2004 to 2012, including two years as the chairman of the Republican Governors Association. He is the chair of the National Assessment Governing Board. Gov. Barbour's political career began in 1968 with his work on Richard Nixon's presidential campaign, followed by campaign work for Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford. He later served as political director of the Reagan White House, and, from 1993 to 1997, served as chairman of the Republican National Committee. During his tenure as governor, Gov. Barbour received the Thomas Jefferson Freedom Award for his efforts to rebuild the Mississippi Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina and was named Governor of the Year by Governing Magazine. Gov. Barbour is now a senior partner at BGR Group, which he co-founded in 1991.



 @NAEP\_NCES

**Peggy Carr** is the associate commissioner for assessment at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. She oversees the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and a series of large-scale international assessments, including the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). Carr served as acting commissioner for NCES from 2014 to 2018. Previously, Carr served as the chief statistician for the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education, where she engaged in the application of statistics and survey methods to the field of discrimination in American schools and institutions.



 @DocTscigirl

**Tonya Matthews** is the vice chair of the National Assessment Governing Board and a national thought leader in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning, equity and inclusion strategy, and future workforce development. She serves as Wayne State University's associate provost for inclusive workforce development and director of STEM learning innovation. She is the founder of The STEMInista Project, an initiative to engage girls' interest and skills in science and technology careers. Her previous roles include president and CEO of the Michigan Science Center, vice president of museums at the Cincinnati Museum Center, biomedical engineer at the Food and Drug Administration, and bioscience curriculum developer at Project Lead the Way. Matthews was named as one of Crain's Business Magazine's 100 Most Influential Women in Michigan. She was appointed to the National Academy of Sciences Board on Science Education and received an honorary doctorate from Central Michigan University.



 @NEHchair

**Jon Parrish Peede** is the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Peede was previously the publisher of the *Virginia Quarterly Review* (VQR), which expanded its paid readership to 51 countries under his leadership. From 2007 to 2011, Peede was the literature grants director at the National Endowment for the Arts. He has written speeches for a U.S. president, a first lady, and a librarian of Congress. For seven years, he led writing workshops for U.S. troops in Afghanistan, Bahrain, England, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, the Persian Gulf, and on domestic bases. Peede has served on several nonprofit boards, including the national council of the Margaret Walker Center for the Study of the African-American Experience at Jackson State University. He is the co-editor of *Inside the Church of Flannery O'Connor: Sacrament, Sacramental, and the Sacred in Her Fiction* and editor of a bilingual anthology of contemporary American fiction.



 @RosenJeffrey

**Jeffrey Rosen** is president and CEO of the National Constitution Center. He is also a professor of law at The George Washington University Law School and a contributing editor at *The Atlantic*. Rosen is a graduate of Harvard College, Oxford University, and Yale Law School. He is the author of six books including, most recently, *Conversations with RBG: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law*. His other books include biographies of Louis Brandeis and William Howard Taft. His essays and commentaries have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, on National Public Radio, in *The New Republic*, where he was the legal affairs editor, and in *The New Yorker*, where he was a staff writer.



 @NCRGE\_RCN

**Michael Solem** is a Professor of Geography at Texas State University. He also serves the American Association of Geographers (AAG) as Senior Advisor for Geography Education and co-director of the National Center for Research in Geography Education (NCRGE). Solem has twice received the Journal of Geography in Higher Education's award for promoting excellence in teaching and learning for his research on faculty development and graduate education in geography. He is also the 2015 recipient of the AAG Gilbert Grosvenor Honors in Geographic Education.



 @ShelinaWarren

**Shelina Warren** is a social studies teacher/leader now in her fourth year at Dunbar High School in the District of Columbia and her 17th year in education. She teaches Constitutional Law, Law & Justice Advocacy, Peer Mediation, and Human Rights and Social Action to students in grades 10 and 12. She is also the director of the Eleanor Holmes Norton Law and Public Policy Academy, whose mission is to nurture students to use their voices to affect change. Before moving to Washington from Arkansas, she taught 9th grade Civics and Economics for 10 years and spent three years teaching gifted and talented students in grades K to 6. She is pursuing a doctoral degree in Urban Leadership from Johns Hopkins University and achieved National Board Certification in Social Studies, Adolescent to Young Adulthood in 2013. She has won numerous awards, including 2012 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Finalist-2nd Runner-Up, the John Morton Excellence in Teaching Economics (national) Award in 2015, the Mikva Challenge DC Inspiring Education Award 2018, and the Anna Julia Cooper Award in Civic Action and Social Change in 2020. Warren is a native of Arkansas and a U.S. Army veteran.



 @WoodworthEDRE

**James Lynn Woodworth** was appointed as the commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in January 2018. As commissioner, he ensures NCES fulfills its mission of collecting, analyzing, and reporting on complete statistics on the condition of American education, including the achievement of students through the NAEP program and participation in international assessments. Prior to his leadership of NCES, Woodworth was a quantitative research analyst at the Center for Research on Educational Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, where he performed extensive research on charter schools, school closures, online education, and other issues. Before joining CREDO, Woodworth performed research, program evaluations, and administered performance-pay programs at the Office for Education Policy as part of his duties as a distinguished doctoral fellow in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas. Woodworth spent 11 years as a public school teacher in Arkansas. He is also a Marine Corps veteran.