

A Philip Randolph Institute
52nd National Educational Conference

“Resist! 60 years Later: Stronger Together!”

August 9 - 13, 2023
Reno, Nevada

This year’s conference focused on health care and education.

Randi Weingarten, an American labor leader, attorney, and educator. She is president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and a member of the AFL–CIO. She is the first openly gay individual to be elected president of a national American labor union. She is the former president of the United Federation of Teachers. She strongly believes that the every child has right and must be provided a proper education. Her stated that the 60th Anniversary on the March for Washington will unite jobs and justice. She believes that the union activists are the intersection to assisting people to have a better life through education and the labor movement and that the unions create a path for middle class people. In 2021, 2.5 million books were given out to children who do not have access to libraries or internet. Since January 2023, 50 new unions have been created. She provided information on Ron DeSantis of Florida, trying to ban a second Advanced Placement course as noncompliant with its newly enacted standards, this time barring hundreds of districts from offering a psychology class as long as it includes discussion of gender and sexual orientation.

House Republicans seek 80% (nearly \$15 billion) cut to federal program for students from low-income families. Title I grants do support school districts everywhere, including rural schools in districts like my own, these funds disproportionately support big city public schools: the same public schools that failed to educate the most-vulnerable children entrusted to them, by closing their doors for almost two years.

Dr. Michael Rees, Co-Founder/Surgeon, Rejuvenate Kidney Transplant Solution through his work as a transplant surgeon and director of renal transplantation, Dr. Rees saw a harsh reality for patients facing kidney failure. Ongoing dialysis treatments took a financial, physical and emotional toll on patients, and many died while waiting for a kidney transplant. Dr. Rees founded the non-profit Alliance for Paired Kidney Donation in 2006. It was one of the first national organizations devoted to paired kidney donation. Today, it provides hope and a higher quality of life for kidney patients and their families. Together with his father, a computer programmer, Dr. Rees designed the first prototype of a computer program that matched willing but incompatible kidney donor and recipient pairs. Dr. Rees is trying to provide kidney transplants for union workers. The cost for a kidney transplant is over a \$100,000, while dialysis cost \$30,000 monthly. Dr. Rees goal is to be able to provide transplants to union workers at a much lower cost. He stated that normally, patient will live 10 additional years after a transplant.

Lynne Fox the first female president of the Worker’s United union. Lynne said that in 1950 APRI and Workers United helped to develop the Civils Rights Laws. Lynne said As of June 2023, over 8,000 workers at over 331 Starbucks stores in at least 40 states in the United States have voted to unionize, with Workers United. As of March 2023, none have yet enacted a collective bargaining agreement. Their say “Link arms to fight issues and to find new solutions #nomatterwhat.”

Submitted by: Toni Tuck-Newsome, Annie Pleasant-Combs and Norma Goode
8/15/2023



REAL SOLUTIONS FOR KIDS & COMMUNITIES

The AFT has launched a yearlong \$5 million campaign, Real Solutions for Kids and Communities, that rejects the toxic attacks against public education in favor of working to strengthen public schools, making real solutions for kids a national priority.

We are addressing learning loss, loneliness and literacy through transformative strategies that can be sustained, integrated and scaled to help children recover and thrive:

- **Create joyful and confident readers** by partnering with Reading Universe, First Book, WETA and the Barksdale Institute to help teachers access the best evidence-based reading instructional practices and by continuing to give books away. So while others ban books, we will give away 2.5 million books by July 2024.
- **Expand community schools**, which wrap services around schools and make them hubs for kids and families, tackling mental health challenges, hunger, language barriers, healthcare and career supports for families.
- **Provide all children the opportunity to learn by doing.** Experiential learning, including career and technical education, engages them in deeper learning, provides them with real-world, real-life skills, and boosts academic achievement. Career and technical education is experiential learning at its best, and it prepares students not only for traditional trades programs but also for in-demand careers in healthcare, information technology, skilled manufacturing and more.
- **Further care for children's mental health and well-being** by demanding that social media companies protect, not prey on, children. The report "Likes vs. Learning: The Real Cost of Social Media for Schools" outlines a series of recommendations tech companies must use to keep kids safe and protect learning environments.
- **Fight for investments schools need**, so they can recruit, retain and respect the educators and school staff who help kids thrive, offer a well-rounded curriculum, and provide safe, welcoming and well-maintained school buildings.

These strategies will strengthen and improve public education. Together, they are transformative for kids, regardless of their ZIP code.

As extremists try to divide Americans, we know that public schools unite us. The parents of 90 percent of American children send their kids to public schools. And national polls show that parents overwhelmingly support and trust teachers, and want schools strengthened, not politicized or privatized.

Extremists don't offer a single idea that will improve public schools, because they don't want to strengthen public education; they want to end it—by inserting political divisions, cutting resources, and diverting funding from already underfunded public schools through vouchers, despite evidence that vouchers do not improve achievement.

Public schools are the vehicle that anchors our democracy and creates opportunity for our children. The Real Solutions for Kids and Communities campaign is about strengthening those opportunities and helping kids prepare for college, career and life.



Join us in our mission to have a positive impact on children's lives. Explore [AFT.org/RealSolutions](https://www.aft.org/RealSolutions) to discover various ways to get involved, share and learn from success stories about effective programs in communities nationwide, and find more information on great things happening in public schools.



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