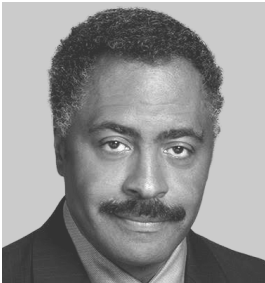




# Keynote Speaker Biographies

## Representative John DeBerry



Representative DeBerry has served House District 90 since 1995. He is currently serving on the House Education Administration and Planning Committee, House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee and Finance Ways and Means Committee. Representative DeBerry was also elected by the Democrat Caucus as Minority Leader Pro Tempore.

Representative DeBerry is a member of the National Conference of State Legislators Education Committee and Co-Chair of the Council of State Governments Education Committee. Representative DeBerry also serves on the Governor's Task force for Sentencing and Recidivism. Representative DeBerry has been appointed by Speaker Harwell to serve on the Second Look Commission and also serves on the Three Branches Institute and is a board member of SCORE, the State Collaborative on Reforming Education.

Representative DeBerry is the former Chairman of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators and Former Chairman of the Children and Family Affairs Committee. Representative DeBerry's community involvement includes membership with the following organizations: NAACP, Boy Scouts of America, Operation Weed & Seed, Junior Achievement, YFU International Youth Exchange, Bethany Homes (Counselor), DMC Task Force, TN Commission on Children and Youth, the Board of Trustees at Freed-Hardeman University, Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court Advisory Council, Tennessee Arts Caucus and the Tennessee Alcohol Commission. Representative DeBerry has also served as President of John J. DeBerry and Associates, where he has over 25 years of experience as a marketing, advertising and public relations executive.

Additionally, Representative DeBerry has been a minister since 1968. He served as Pastor at Parkway Village Church of Christ for 28 years and is currently the Pastor of Coleman Avenue Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee. Representative DeBerry is invited to and participates in lectureships across the county.

Representative DeBerry is a graduate of the University of Memphis and Freed-Hardeman University. Representative DeBerry was married to his wife, Georgia for over 40 years prior to her death in 2015. The DeBerry's have two daughters, Chevida and Victoria, and several grandchildren.



# Keynote Speaker Biographies

## Roland Martin



Roland Martin is the host and managing editor of TV One's NewsOne Now, the first daily morning news program in history to focus on news and analysis of politics, entertainment, sports and culture from an explicitly African American perspective. He is the former executive editor and general manager of the *Chicago Defender*, the nation's most historic Black newspaper. Martin has also served as the owner/publisher of the *Dallas-Fort Worth Heritage*; and as managing editor of the *Houston Defender* and the *Dallas Weekly*.

## Hanna Skandera



Hanna Skandera recently stepped down from nearly seven years of leadership as the Secretary of Education for the State of New Mexico. Appointed by Governor Susana Martinez in 2011, Skandera led the transformation of New Mexico public schools. Under Skandera's leadership, New Mexico graduation rates reached an all-time high, AP course enrollment doubled and the number of "A" and "B" schools increased by one-third. Nationally, Hanna serves as a board member of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, is a member and former chair of Chiefs for Change, serves as the chair of the George W. Bush education advisory and is a former Aspen-Pahara fellow. Prior to serving in New Mexico, Hanna served as Deputy Chief of Staff under U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, Undersecretary of Education under Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Deputy Commissioner under Governor Jeb Bush. Skandera was previously a research fellow with the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and taught education policy at Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy.