Governor Bob Wise

**President, Alliance for Excellent Education**

Bob Wise is president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia. He currently cochairs the Digital Learning Council with Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida. Wise also chairs the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Since joining the Alliance in February 2005, Wise has become a sought-after speaker and advisor on education issues. He has delivered keynote addresses at high-level functions to core groups of the education community, state and federal government entities, as well as business, philanthropic, civil rights, and community organizations—all with a stake in education reform. Wise has also advised the U.S. Department of Education, White House Transition Team, and frequently testifies before the U.S. Congress. In 2011, Wise was named to The NonProfit Times "Power & Influence Top 50," an annual listing of the fifty most influential executives in the nonprofit sector. As governor of West Virginia from 2001 to 2005, he fought for and signed legislation to fund the PROMISE Scholarship program, which has helped thousands of West Virginia high school graduates continue their education in the Mountain State. Wise also established a character education curriculum in all state schools and created the Governor’s Helpline for Safer Schools. Wise serves on several boards, committees, and commissions including the Public Education Network’s board of directors, the Springboard Project Commission, the board of trustees of America’s Promise, and the steering committee for the Coalition for Student Achievement. He is an advisory committee member for a number of organizations, including the Campaign for Educational Equity, Editorial Projects in Education, the Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools, and the National High School Center, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and Office of Special Education Programs and housed at the American Institutes for Research. He also serves on the board of advisors for the Moffitt Cancer Center and the board of directors of C-Change, which works to eliminate cancer as a major public health risk at the earliest possible time. Wise earned a bachelor’s degree from Duke University and a JD from Tulane University School of Law. He has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He and wife, Sandy, live in Washington, DC with their two children.

Bruce Lesley

**President, First Focus**

Bruce Lesley has more than 20 years of public policy experience at all levels of government and a demonstrated commitment to making children’s lives better. Lesley directs all aspects of policy development and internal operations at First Focus.

In 12 years on Capitol Hill, Lesley worked on health care, education, human services, and immigration issues in several different capacities. Most recently he served as Senior Health Policy Advisor on the Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees for U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman. He also worked for U.S. Senator Bob Graham on the Senate Finance Committee, served as minority Chief of Staff for the Senate Special Committee on Aging and was an aide in the offices of U.S. Representatives Ronald Coleman and Diana DeGette. Lesley advocated for better healthcare for children as the Director of Congressional Relations for the National Association of Children’s Hospitals and as Director of Government Relations for Thomason General Hospital, a public hospital in El Paso, Texas. Lesley holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland University College, in College Park, Maryland. He also attended the University of Texas at El Paso and University of Texas at Austin. Lesley resides in Maryland with his wife and four children.
Philip Lovell

**Vice President of Federal Advocacy, Alliance for Excellent Education**

Phillip Lovell serves as the Alliance for Excellent Education's vice president of federal advocacy, where he is responsible for leading the organization's efforts on Capitol Hill to advocate for federal policy in support of the nation's high schools. Lovell has spent the past decade advocating for children and youth on Capitol Hill, focusing in areas such as youth development, homelessness, and education. Lovell also served as policy coordinator for the National Crime Prevention Council, and subsequently as director of public policy for Camp Fire USA and vice president of public policy for America's Promise Alliance. Most recently, he served as vice president for education, housing, and youth policy at First Focus. He has written a number of publications on issues such as children in the federal budget, homeless children and families, and disconnected youth. His work has been referenced in media outlets including CNN, USA Today, and Time magazine. Lovell has an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University in international politics. He and his wife, Beth, have two daughters.

Dana Scott

**State Coordinator, McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth**

Dana Scott is the State Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth program at the Colorado Department of Education. As State Coordinator, she administers Title X, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also known as Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This Act assures educational rights for students in homeless situations with the goal of increasing educational access, school stability and academic success. Scott is the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) and serves on the board for The Burnes Data Institute. She is also a member of the Governor’s Pathways Home Colorado Advisory Committee and the Colorado Advisory Committee on Homeless Youth. Scott was an appointee on the Denver Mayor’s Commission to End Homelessness for seven years and was principal writer for Denver’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, now known as Denver’s Road Home. Scott’s experience in private foundations, the public and non-profit sectors spans 20 years. She has seven years’ experience as a program officer at the Daniels Fund, LMC Community Foundation and El Pomar Foundation and is a graduate of El Pomar Foundation’s Fellowship in Philanthropy and Community Service. Additionally, Scott has 13 years of experience implementing programs, administering grants and fundraising in the public and nonprofit sectors. Her nonprofit experience includes the Washington/Greene County WIC program, Avis Arbor Homeless Shelter and The Women’s Bean Project.
Kathryn Young

Director, National Education Policy for Jobs for the Future

Kathryn Young directs JFF’s education policy development and advocacy at both state and federal levels. Her work includes efforts to improve educational options and outcomes for the large and growing numbers of low-income youth and adults struggling in today’s economy. Prior to joining JFF, Young served as a policy advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. In this role she developed major policy proposals and managed key grant programs within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education related to school improvement, teacher quality, literacy, and secondary schools. Young has also led the development of education policy and legislation as the education legislative assistant for a U.S. Senator serving on the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee and for the National Governors Association’s Education, Early Childhood, and Workforce Committee. Prior to her time in Washington, she worked in special education as a middle school teacher, case manager, and program administrator. Young received her Master’s in learning disabilities, curriculum, and teaching from Teachers College at Columbia University. She also holds a Bachelor’s in political science from Duke University.