

GFE's 17th Annual Conference

# PHILANTHROPY RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Leading a Nation More at Risk

HOUSTON, TX • OCTOBER 16-18, 2013

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**I**n 1983, *A Nation at Risk* provided America with a clarion call. Citing a "rising tide of mediocrity," the landmark report drove home the clear connection between educational achievement by all and a vibrant and secure democracy. Today, some 30 years later, America still struggles to achieve excellence in education while other nations have raced ahead. At the same time, education remains our most formidable tool for unleashing our collective potential. How might we move forward, farther, faster? What steps can we take to restore education as our engine of national progress?

Educational excellence for all must be today's moon shot—and philanthropy must step up to lead the charge. Now is the time for us to be

bold, courageous, and self-reflective. Have we been too focused on point solutions at the expense of systemic reform opportunities? Are we committed to taking the long view? If not, let's get clear, double down and propel our nation forward.

In many ways there's no better place for us to do so than in Houston, Texas, the home of NASA and the birthplace of our nation's last big bet. A vast and diverse state, Texas is home to some of our largest cities and most rural communities. As a microcosm of the United States, Texas reflects both our greatest challenges and some of our most promising reforms. Join us this year as education grant-makers rise to the challenge.

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grantmakers<sup>for</sup>education 