Education Re-Imagined

We are pleased to announce the creation of a global network of schools, with innovations focused on how students learn as well as what they learn. Guided one-on-one by exceptional faculty, Whittle students will achieve a breadth of knowledge while having the time and resources for in-depth exploration of a particular passion.

We invite prospective students, parents, and faculty members to visit us at whittleschool.org and sign up to attend one of our Information Events in Shenzhen and Washington, DC.
The 7th Annual Meridian Global Leadership Summit addresses the increasing influence of digital technology and innovation on foreign policy and international business. How are global leaders responding to these swift changes and preparing for a digitally-driven future across sectors and borders?

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMIT SUPPORTERS

Corporate Chair

Global Engagement Chair

Media Partner

Venue Partner

#MeridianSummit
WELCOME REMARKS AND LAUNCH OF THE MERIDIAN CENTER FOR DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT
AMBASSADOR STUART W. HOLLIDAY, President and CEO, Meridian International Center

CLOSING THE GLOBAL SKILLS GAP
Automation, artificial intelligence and technological advances are challenging traditional employer and education models around the world. Countries are grappling with how best to prepare their citizens for the future of work and thinking through education initiatives and training policies that promote skills-based knowledge and innovation. How can the public and private sector work together to prepare the future workforce? Is there a one-size-fits-all approach or will this vary by nation and by region?

HIS EXCELLENCY JOSE MANUEL G. ROMUALDEZ, Ambassador of the Philippines
CONGRESSMAN FRANCIS ROONEY (R-FL), U.S. House of Representatives
MOLLY KINDER, Senior Advisor on Work, Workers and Technology, New America
SHARON GRANT, Vice President for Community Affairs, United Airlines
Moderated by: SARAH WILDMAN, Deputy Editor, Foreign Policy

NEW SCHOOL VS. OLD SCHOOL: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION
CHRIS WHITTLE, Chairman and CEO, Whittle School & Studios

INNOVATING REGULATION: HOW DO GOVERNMENTS KEEP PACE WITH TECHNOLOGY POLICY?
In the wake of California’s data privacy legislation and the recently-enacted General Data Protection Regulation in the European Union, the question is no longer if governments will regulate giant tech platforms, but when and how. Around the world, there is concern that complex and conflicting policies from regional and national governments on similar issues ranging from data flows to IP threaten to undermine innovation and create unintended economic consequences for businesses. Recognizing that regulation is on the horizon, tech firms are proactively self-regulating as well. How can the private and public sectors work together to advance innovation, while protecting individual liberties and national security?

SENATOR ROGER WICKER (R-MS), U.S. Senate
HIS EXCELLENCY DAVID O’SULLIVAN, Ambassador of the European Union
Moderated by: CECILIA KANG, National Technology Correspondent, The New York Times
BATTLE.GOV: THE CALL FOR GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE TRUST IN OUR DIGITAL WORLD

The largest looming national security threat today is not nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. It is an attack through data and information. As state and non-state hackers spread disinformation, steal intellectual property, meddle in elections and bring private companies to a halt, trust of citizens in both our institutions and the Internet is eroding. Within this paradigm, the need for a strong U.S. government-led response is growing at the same time as long-standing security and economic alliances are being re-examined. How can the U.S. partner with technology companies and allies around the world to combat the spread of disinformation and restore trust?

TIM HWANG, Founder and CEO, FiscalNote

THE HONORABLE KAREN KORNBLUH,
Senior Fellow for Digital Policy, Council on Foreign Relations

Moderated by: KARA SWISHER, Executive Editor, Recode

LEADERSHIP ACUMEN IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

OSCAR MUNOZ, CEO, United Airlines

In conversation with: SECRETARY CARLOS M. GUTIERREZ,
Chair, Albright Stonebridge Group; Chairman, Meridian International Center

MERIDIAN CORPORATE LEADER AWARD PRESENTATION

This annual award recognizes an exceptional business leader whose vision and management abilities have increased international collaboration, made societal impact a corporate priority and helped his or her company succeed in the global marketplace.

CLOSING REMARKS

AMBITASSADOR STUART W. HOLLIDAY, President and CEO, Meridian International Center
We are delighted that you have joined us for the 2018 Meridian Global Leadership Summit. The Summit convenes leaders at the nexus of diplomacy, business and policy to exchange ideas and collaborate on solutions to the global challenges and opportunities we are all facing in this rapidly changing world. This year we are confronting “Tech and Innovation Disrupting Borders and Sectors.” Many of the most pressing issues of the day have resulted from the advent of digital innovation and technologies, such as the rise of disinformation, cyber breaches and privacy concerns. We will explore these issues in detail as well as examine the skills that our workforces and our youth will need to prepare for new and reconstructed careers that will be available and in demand. We will also delve into Internet governance and the many factors that the public and private sectors in every region of the world will need to evaluate in order to determine whether and how best to regulate the massive technology enterprises that are playing an outsized role in our everyday lives.

This morning you will hear from the legislators, diplomats, corporate executives, journalists and policy visionaries who are grappling with these societal challenges. In keeping with Meridian’s neutral convening philosophy, a range of perspectives will be shared from across the political spectrum. On stage and in the audience, we are connecting senior members of the diplomatic corps with leaders in business and government. This is by design and it corresponds directly with the mission of the Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement that we are cutting the ribbon on at the Summit. There is a growing need among international diplomats to strengthen nonpartisan channels to address the complex and growing economic and national security issues of our time. The business community and public sector share this interest. The Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement combines Meridian’s convening power with our expertise in professional exchange and cultural diplomacy to bridge the gap among these sectors.

We offer deep gratitude to our speakers and panelists as well as United Airlines, Whittle School & Studios, and our other supporters who have been vital to the success of Meridian’s signature event. Your participation is also appreciated. Your decision to join us to better understand these issues and contribute to our dialogue is meaningful. We hope you will leave this program with new ideas on how to solve the most paramount dilemmas in our digital world and that you walk away with an expanded network to do so. Thank you for sharing our vision that the United States is stronger when globally engaged, and that consensus building across nations creates a more secure and prosperous world for all.

Sincerely,

Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez
Chairman
Meridian International Center

Ambassador Stuart W. Holliday
President and CEO
Meridian International Center
SUMMIT SPEAKERS

SHARON GRANT
Vice President for Community Affairs, United Airlines
@SharonGrantUA

Sharon Grant is Vice President of Community Affairs and Supplier Diversity at United, responsible for developing and leading the company’s strategy in engaging the communities United serves. Grant joined United in 1993, and has also served as the Vice President of Customer Contact Centers for the company. She was responsible for all aspects of reservations, baggage resolution, customer care and refunds leading a global team of 5,000 at 13 centers in nine countries and remotely in over 35 states. Prior to this role, she had over 20 years of accounting experience with emphasis in internal auditing. Grant holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Bradley University and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), and also has a Certification in Risk Management Assurance (CRMA). Grant had been recognized as one of the 2017 Top 15 Women in Business by the Illinois Diversity Council, a 2016 Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, a Chicago United 2015 Business Leader of Color, and was the recipient of the Institute of Internal Auditors Chicago Chapter’s 2013 “Inspirational Woman of the Year” award. Living jointly in Chicago and Houston, she is married with four children.

THE HONORABLE CARLOS M. GUTIERREZ
Chair, Albright Stonebridge Group
Chairman, Meridian International Center
@carlosgutierrez

Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez is Chair of Albright Stonebridge Group (ASG). He served as U.S. Secretary of Commerce from 2005 to 2009 under President George W. Bush, where he worked to advance domestic and international economic relationships, enhance trade, and promote U.S. exports. After assignments in Latin America, Canada, Asia, and the United States, Secretary Gutierrez spent nearly 30 years with Kellogg, holding positions including President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board. Secretary Gutierrez joined ASG from Citi, where he was Vice Chairman of the Institutional Clients Group and a member of the Senior Strategic Advisory Group. Born in Havana, Cuba, he currently serves as the Chair of the National Foreign Trade Council and of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s U.S.-Cuba Business Council, and is also on the boards of the Chamber’s U.S.-India Business Council and the Boao Forum for Asia. He also serves on the many other boards including MetLife, Time Warner, Viridis Learning, and Republicans for Immigration Reform.
THE HONORABLE STUART W. HOLLIDAY
President and CEO, Meridian International Center
@AMBSHolliday

Ambassador Stuart W. Holliday is the President and CEO of Meridian International Center. He served as U.S. Ambassador for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations from 2003-2005. Prior to serving at the United Nations, Holliday was Assistant-Secretary of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Information Programs and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. From 2000-2001, he was Special Assistant to the President and Associate Director of Presidential Personnel at the White House. From 1998-2000, he served as Policy Advisor to the Governor of Texas. He has also served as Executive Director of the Dallas Council on World Affairs and as Regional Director for North Africa, the Middle East, and Turkey at the International Republican Institute. Holliday served on active and reserve duty as an Officer in the U.S. Navy (Intelligence) from 1988-1995 and was recalled to active duty for Operation Desert Storm. He obtained his Bachelor’s in International Affairs from Georgetown University and his Master’s in International Affairs from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

TIM HWANG
Founder and CEO, Fiscal Note
@timthwang

Tim Hwang is currently the Founder and CEO of FiscalNote. FiscalNote is a technology platform that combines award-winning journalism along with products and services that provide access to large quantities of data, news, and analysis for all levels of government. The global company has now grown to become the largest tech employer headquartered in DC, most recently acquiring CQ Roll Call in August 2018. Prior to founding FiscalNote, Hwang started his career in politics in the Obama ‘08 campaign, assisting in the election of the first Obama Administration. Hwang was profiled in Forbes 30 Under 30, Inc. 30 Under 30, CNN’s Top 10 Startups, Business Insiders Top 25 Hottest Startups, and many others. He is also currently a World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer, a Trustee on the Board of the Greater Washington Community Foundation as well as a Board member of the Afterschool Alliance. He is a member of the The Economic Club of Washington, DC, the Council of Korean Americans (CKA), and the Young Presidents’ Organization (YPO).
CECILIA KANG
National Technology Correspondent, The New York Times
@ceciliakang

Cecilia Kang is a national technology correspondent for The New York Times, with expertise in issues at the intersection of tech and government. Her investigation into Apple's in-app purchase policy led to a Federal Trade Commission investigation and changes in practices by Apple, Google and Amazon. Kang has been covering technology for more than 15 years, previously at The Washington Post and The San Jose Mercury News. She began her career in journalism in Seoul, South Korea, as bureau chief for Dow Jones. Kang frequently appears as an expert on technology and regulatory issues on CNBC, NPR, and PBS NewsHour.

MOLLY KINDER
Senior Advisor on Work, Workers and Technology, New America
@MollyKinder

Molly Kinder is a Senior Adviser on Work, Workers and Technology at New America. At Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy, she is a research fellow and adjunct professor teaching a graduate seminar on the social, economic and policy implications of artificial intelligence. Kinder leads New America’s research on automation and work, including a human-centered initiative exploring workers’ perspectives and constraints to skills and opportunity. Kinder has more than 15 years of experience in innovation, policy, research, and impact investing. Previously, she was co-founder and Vice President of a new $200 million social impact fund, the Global Innovation Fund. She served in the Obama administration as director in a new innovation program at USAID. She directed the Center for Global Development’s Pakistan initiative and co-authored their best-selling book, “Millions Saved: Proven Successes in Global Health”, which is required reading in more than 60 universities. Kinder also worked overseas with the World Bank and Government of Liberia.
THE HONORABLE KAREN KORNBLUH
Senior Fellow for Digital Policy, Council on Foreign Relations
@karenkornbluh

Ambassador Karen Kornbluh is Senior Fellow for Digital Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. Previously, Kornbluh was Executive Vice President of Nielsen, responsible for global public policy, privacy strategy, and corporate social responsibility. Kornbluh served as U.S. Ambassador in Paris to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and served on OECD’s governing board and audit committee. She spearheaded development of the first global Internet Policymaking Principle and launched both the OECD’s Gender Initiative and the Middle East-North Africa Women’s Business Forum. Kornbluh also led the OECD’s expansion to emerging economies and increased anticorruption and governance efforts. Previously, Kornbluh served as Policy Director for then-Senator Obama. She served in the Clinton administration as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Treasury Department, and as Director of the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Federal Communications Commission.

OSCAR MUNOZ
CEO, United Airlines
@united

Oscar Munoz joined United Airlines as CEO in September 2015, having previously served on its Board of Directors since 2010. Under his leadership in 2017 United grew faster than the industry as a whole while also delivering record operational performance, and has been ranked as one of the best places to work by Glassdoor’s Employees’ Choice Awards. Munoz has been named among the top 20 CEOs in Forbes’ “Business Person of the Year” list and has twice placed on Hispanic Business’s “100 Most Influential Hispanics” list. He has served in executive positions at The Coca-Cola Company, PepsiCo, Inc., and AT&T. He came to United from the CSX railroad corporation, where he served as president and COO from 2012 to 2015. He currently serves on the Washington, DC-based Business Council and Business Roundtable, the Partnership for New York City, the Economic Club of Chicago, and World Business Chicago. In 2017, Munoz coordinated United’s unprecedented response to the destruction caused by the series of extreme weather events, raising and matching millions of dollars in relief funds and operating dozens of humanitarian flights that delivered vital supplies to impacted communities in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.
HIS EXCELLENCY DAVID O’SULLIVAN
Ambassador of the European Union to the United States
@EUAmbUS

David O’Sullivan was appointed Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to the United States in Washington, DC in November 2014. As Ambassador, O’Sullivan oversees the EU’s bilateral relationship with the U.S. including political, economic and commercial affairs. A long-time and distinguished EU official, he has served in a number of senior official posts in the European public service. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador, he was head of and established the EU’s new diplomatic service, the ‘European External Action Service’. Other notable and senior positions within the European Commission include Director General for Trade (2005-2010); Secretary General of the European Commission (2000-2005); and Head of Commission President Prodi’s Cabinet (1999-2000). Before joining the Commission, O’Sullivan started his career with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1977-1979). O’Sullivan was awarded the EU Transatlantic Business Award by the American Chamber of Commerce in 2014.

HIS EXCELLENCY JOSE MANUEL G. ROMUALDEZ
Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the United States of America
@philippinesusa

Jose Manuel “Babe” del Gallego Romualdez was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the United States of America in July 2017 by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. On the 29th of November 2017 he was credentialed by U.S. President Donald J. Trump and formally assumed office as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Additionally, as the head of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC, Ambassador Romualdez is concurrently the Philippines’ emissary to the Commonwealth of Jamaica; Republic of Haiti; Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Antigua and Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Dominica; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Saint Lucia. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Romualdez was designated as a special envoy of the Philippine President to the United States. Formerly the CEO of Stargate Media Corporation and Publisher of People Asia Magazine (The Philippine Star affiliate), he continues to write columns for The Philippine Star. He was president of the Manila Overseas Press Club and Vice President of Rotary Club of Manila.
THE HONORABLE FRANCIS ROONEY
Congressman (R-FL), U.S. House of Representatives
@RepRooney
Francis Rooney is the U.S. Representative for Florida’s 19th Congressional District. He serves on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the Joint Economic Committee, and is Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Representative Rooney was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Holy See (2005-2008), and served on the Advisory Board of the Administration of the Panama Canal (2005-2016). He is currently a member of The Inter-American Dialogue and the Council of American Ambassadors. He has been a leader in the fight for the environment, championing the restoration of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed and the Everglades and prevention of offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. His advocacy efforts have resulted in a commitment of over $600 million for 2019 to finish the Herbert Hoover Dike repairs. Prior to being elected to Congress, he served as the CEO of Rooney Holdings, Inc., a diversified investment company based in Florida, with interests in construction, energy, real estate development and financial services throughout the U.S., Latin America and Spain.

KARA SWISHER
Executive Editor, Recode
@karaswisher
Kara Swisher is the Executive Editor of Recode, host of the Recode Decode podcast and Co-Executive Producer of the Code Conference, all owned by Vox Media. Swisher co-founded former Recode and Code owner Revere Digital and, before that, co-produced and co-hosted The Wall Street Journal’s “D: All Things Digital,” with Walt Mossberg. It was a major high-tech conference with interviewees such as Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and many other leaders in tech and media. She and Mossberg were also the Co-Executive Editors of a tech and media website, AllThingsD.com. Previously, Swisher worked as a reporter at The Washington Post and as an editor at the City Paper of Washington, DC. Swisher is also the author of “aol.com: How Steve Case Beat Bill Gates, Nailed the Netheads and Made Millions in the War for the Web,” and “There Must Be a Pony in Here Somewhere: The AOL Time Warner Debacle and the Quest for a Digital Future.”
CHRIS WHITTLE
Chairman and CEO, Whittle School & Studios
@WhittleSchool

Chris Whittle is a media and education based entrepreneur who conceived of and founded Edison Schools (now Edison-Learning) in 1992 with Benno Schmidt. Edison has been instrumental in establishing the charter-school movement and has served 450,000 students on three continents. Whittle is the author of *Crash Course: Imagining a Better Future for Public Education*. He sits on the board of the Center for Education Reform in Washington, DC, and has funded over 180 full scholarships for students at the University of Tennessee, his alma mater. He began his career in publishing, building a single college magazine into Whittle Communications, one of America’s top 100 media businesses in the 1980s. At the age of 32, his company bought Esquire magazine, where he served as chairman and publisher for many years. Whittle founded Channel One, a national in-school television news program first anchored by Anderson Cooper, which reached eight million students daily in 12,000 schools. Channel One’s programming won the Peabody Award amongst others.

THE HONORABLE ROGER F. WICKER
Senator (R-MS), U.S. Senate
@SenatorWicker

Roger F. Wicker has represented Mississippi in the United States Senate since December 2007. During his time in the Senate, Senator Wicker has championed pro-growth policies to create jobs and has worked to reduce spending, limit federal overreach, and maintain a strong national defense. He is a member of the Senate Republican leadership team, and served as chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee during the 114th Congress. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he chairs the Subcommittee on Seapower. Senator Wicker is also a member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, serving as chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet; Environment and Public Works Committee; Rules Committee; and the Joint Committee on Printing. He is Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and Vice President of the OSCE’s Parliamentary Assembly. Senator Wicker served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force and then joined the Air Force Reserve before retiring in 2004 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.
SARAH WILDMAN
Deputy Editor, Foreign Policy
@SarahAWildman

Sarah Wildman is a Deputy Editor at Foreign Policy and host of the E.R. podcast. She is the author of *Paper Love: Searching for the Girl My Grandfather Left Behind*. Prior to joining Foreign Policy, Wildman was the global identities and borders writer at Vox. She has been on staff at *The New Republic*, a senior correspondent at *The American Prospect* and the Washington correspondent for *The Advocate*, and is a regular contributor to the *New York Times*, *Slate*, the *Forward*, *Washingtonian*, and *The New Yorker* online, among others. Wildman has won a number of awards and fellowships including Arthur F. Burns Fellowship in Berlin, an American Council on Germany Fellowship in Berlin, a Milena Jesenská fellowship at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Austria, and a Pew Fellowship in International Journalism (now called the International Reporting Project). Wildman was the 2014 Barach nonfiction fellow at Wesleyan University’s writing workshop and a 2015 Dart Center Ochberg fellow at Columbia University.
Meridian is a diplomatic and global leadership institution that strengthens U.S. engagement with the world and accelerates collaboration through the exchange of people, culture and ideas. Founded over 55 years ago as a non-partisan, non-profit organization, Meridian works with governments, the private sector and the diplomatic community to develop exchange, training, culture and convening programs to help leaders better address the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly globalized society.

OUR VISION

We believe that the United States is stronger when globally engaged, setting the tone for consensus building across nations to create a more secure and prosperous world for all.

OUR WORK

Meridian designs and implements innovative exchange, training, cultural, and convening programs that:

• Build global leaders who have a more informed global perspective, cultural awareness and peer networks
• Accelerate collaboration on global issues across borders, sectors and cultures
• Drive better policy decisions and outcomes by increasing understanding between the U.S. and other countries

#MeridianSummit
JOIN THE MERIDIAN NETWORK

Individuals and companies can support and benefit from Meridian’s work by joining our distinguished network of business leaders, public sector officials, and the international diplomatic corps. Membership networks include the Meridian Corporate Council and the Meridian Global Leadership Council. To explore these and other ways to support Meridian, please contact the Development Office at (202) 939-5521 or merdevelopment@meridian.org.

MERIDIAN CORPORATE COUNCIL
meridian.org/corporate

The Meridian Corporate Council is a distinguished group of international business leaders who are at the forefront of private sector efforts to strengthen global leadership and collaboration. Council membership provides access to Meridian’s global network of diplomatic, public, private, and non-profit sector leaders, as well as invitations to programs and seminars, and guaranteed seats at networking events and ambassadorial briefings.

MERIDIAN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
meridian.org/mglc

The Meridian Global Leadership Council is a network of leaders in Washington and around the country who support Meridian’s commitment to strengthening international collaboration and advancing U.S. engagement and global leadership. The Council is at the center of engagement between the diplomatic community, government policy makers and leaders from the business, cultural and philanthropic circles. From discussions on foreign policy issues at intimate salon dinners to lively cultural diplomacy receptions and exhibits, our member events focus on cultivating relationships and impactful exchanges of ideas and cultures from around the world.
We fly all over the world, but we’re especially proud of our local connections.

Proud to be the Corporate Chair of the 50th Meridian Ball and Global Leadership Summit.
Diplomacy is evolving and multi-faceted. Skepticism of global engagement is growing, alliances are shifting, and polarization is increasing. Complex policy issues require collaboration among diplomatic, business and government leaders, however gaps exist among these sectors. Stronger neutral, non-partisan channels among these communities are needed.

The Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement accelerates collaboration between the international diplomatic corps and the U.S. public and private sectors to address global challenges and opportunities facing the United States and the world today. Leveraging more than 55 years of deep relationships with the diplomatic community, Meridian convenes programs across borders, parties and industries enabling participants to connect in intimate settings with top officials and policy-makers, dive deeply into issues, understand how Washington works and strengthen peer-to-peer relationships.

To explore partnership opportunities, please contact:
Frank Justice, Vice President, Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement
(202) 939-5583 | fjustice@meridian.org