

Speaker Bios

David S. C. Chu, United States Under Secretary of Defense

David S. C. Chu is the United States Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) responsible as the senior policy advisor on recruitment, career development, pay and benefits, and overseeing the state of military readiness. Dr. Chu also oversees the Department of Defense language transformation plan. He was appointed to the position on June 1, 2001.

Prior to rejoining the Department of Defense, Dr. Chu served in several senior executive positions with the Rand Corporation, including Vice President and Director of the Arroyo Center, the Army's federally funded research and development center for studies and analysis, and Director of RAND's Washington Office.

Dr. Chu is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a recipient of its National Public Senior Award. He holds the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service with Silver Palm.

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Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor State of Ohio; Director, Ohio Department of Development

Lt. Governor Lee Fisher's career has spanned the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. In addition to serving as Governor Ted Strickland's Lieutenant Governor, Fisher is the Director of the Ohio Department of Development, and leads the state's efforts to retain, attract, and create jobs and grow Ohio's economy.

He is a public servant with more than 14 years of service, serving as Ohio Attorney General, State Senator and State Representative. Lt. Governor Fisher also has worked as a private attorney, public company board director, and as a federal appellate law clerk.

Lt. Governor Fisher was a Chase Public Leadership Fellow at Harvard University's Program for Senior Executives in state and local government, and is a graduate of Case Weatherhead School of Management's Professional Fellows Program. He was also a Case Presidential Fellow and taught undergraduate seminars in leadership and collaboration.

Raised in the Cleveland area, Lt. Governor Fisher graduated from Oberlin College, and earned both his law degree and his master's degree of nonprofit organization from Case Western Reserve University.

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Deborah Gavlik, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance Ohio Board of Regents

Deborah Gavlik serves as an Associate Vice Chancellor at the Ohio Board of Regents. She joined the Regents' staff in March of 1999 as Budget Director and has served in various capacities including collaborating with government and campus representatives to develop the Regents' \$2.5 billion operating budget recommendations, coordinating the Board's government relations efforts, leading several studies on medical issues, and coordinating the work of the Task Force on Ohio College Campus Safety and Security. One of Ms. Gavlik's current projects involves examining Ohio's higher education international outreach efforts with the aim of developing strategies to make Ohio a leader in preparing students for the challenges of competing and working in a global economy.

Ms. Gavlik formerly served at the senior education analyst for the non-partisan Ohio Legislative Budget Office of the Legislative Services Commission. She has also taught English as a Second Language while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Afghanistan, and directed a refugee resettlement program in Houston, Texas.

Joseph A. Alutto, Executive Vice President; Provost, The Ohio State University

Joseph A. Alutto was named Executive Vice President and Provost of The Ohio State University this month. Prior to that appointment he had served as Dean of the Max M. Fisher College of Business, The Ohio State University, since March 1, 1991. Dr. Alutto received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Manhattan College, a master's degree in industrial relations from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. in organizational behavior from Cornell University.

Dr. Alutto has lectured widely in China on management issues and was part of the U.S. Department of Commerce and People's Republic of China State Economic Commission's National Center for Science and Technology Management Development. He pioneered the first Sino-U.S. jointly funded MBA program offered in the People's Republic of China in 1984. Dr. Alutto was appointed as Advisor to the First Session of Council for the Dalian Behavioral Sciences Association, has been the first International Dean for the Dalian University School of Business, served as a Visiting Professor at the College of Management, Zhejiang University, and lectured at universities throughout China. He has been a visible and active advocate for advanced management education and research in China.

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Susan Tave Zelman, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Ohio

Susan Tave Zelman, superintendent of public instruction for Ohio since 1999, believes that all children can learn and achieve in an educational system with high expectations and multiple pathways to succeed. Under Dr. Zelman's leadership, the Ohio Department of Education created a mission for the state's educational system that has brought sweeping change through standards-based reform.

Dr. Zelman is working to raise expectations for all students by setting clear and high academic standards, strengthening schools and school districts with fiscal and human resources, and improving student performance through accountability. Ohio now has academic content standards in English language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, technology, foreign language and the arts. These standards are aligned to curriculum models for teachers, achievement tests for students, and an accountability system that measures improvement. Ohio received an "A-" grade for its standards and accountability system in Education Week's Quality Counts 2006 report.

Dr. Zelman holds a doctorate in education from the University of Michigan. She also received an honorary doctoral degree in public service from the University of Rio Grande, an honorary doctoral degree in education from Baldwin-Wallace College and an honorary doctoral degree in humanities from Youngstown State University. Gannett Newspapers named her one of the 10 most powerful and influential women in Ohio state government in March 2003.



Dr. Galal Walker, Director of the Chinese Flagship Program at The Ohio State University

Dr. Walker is a professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and Director of the Ohio State Chinese Flagship and the National East Asian Languages Resource Center. He holds a BA in Economics and Linguistics from the University of Texas and an MA and Ph.D in Chinese Literature from Cornell University. He has edited and authored textbooks, interactive computer-based instruction, and articles on the study of Chinese and other less commonly taught languages. Dr. Walker has served on numerous national and international panels and is currently on the editorial board of the Teacher Standards for Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages (China Ministry of Education). He has been working on programs focusing on advanced Chinese language study for over ten years, including US/China Links and the Flagship. In 2003 he was awarded the “China Language and Culture Friendship Award” by the Ministry of Education in China.

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Jane Ensign, Curriculum Specialist for the Educational Council of Franklin County

Jane Ensign led the development of a foreign language curriculum for the new Metro High School, sponsored by the Educational Council, The Ohio State University and Battelle. She has served as a high school principal and as an administrator for the Ohio Department of Education. Following the June 28th Ohio Language Summit, Jane facilitated the Domestic and International Language Road Map Teams to develop potential solutions to the State’s foreign language issues.

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Dr. Robert O. Slater, Director of the National Security Education Program

Dr. Robert Slater joined the National Security Education Program (NSEP) in 1992 and has served as its Director since 1996. As Director of NSEP he oversees the program’s aggressive efforts to expand opportunities for U.S. students to study in and about areas and languages of the world critical to national security. He is also the principal architect of NSEP’s National Flagship Language Program, a major partnership between the federal government and higher education designed to graduate higher proficiency students in critical languages. Dr. Slater has also developed the concept for new federal National Language Service Corps designed to address needs for language expertise throughout the federal sector.

Prior to joining NSEP, Dr. Slater directed a series of programs for the federal government designed to improve relationships between the higher education and federal sectors on issues related to the Third World. Dr. Slater has served as Chair of the national security community’s Foreign Language Committee and represented the federal government on numerous panels and commissions to address foreign language education issues in the U.S.

Dr. Slater earned a Doctorate in International Affairs from the School of International Service, The American University, in 1975. He earned a B.A. in English from St. Lawrence University. He has published numerous books and articles on international politics, specializing on issues related to globalization.

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Dr. Brad Mitchell, Executive Director of the Educational Council

Prior to joining the Educational Council, Dr. Mitchell served as a professor in the College of Education at the Ohio State University for twenty years. His areas of specialization were educational change and leadership transformation. As the executive director of the Council, he is working with others to co-create innovations in educational policy to help close achievement gaps and drive down the costs of educational reform. Brad earned a BA from the University of Utah, Political Science and International Relations, China Specialist, an MPA at the University of Utah and his PhD in Educational Administration at the University of Utah.

