



“Education Nation” Concludes With Passionate Debate Between Policy Makers and Panelists

“Education Nation” Sees Over 6,000 Teachers; Over 10,000 “Likes” on Facebook; 12 Panel sessions; Worldwide Trending on Twitter; and Hundreds of Parents, Teachers, Students, Business Leaders and Policy Makers Participating at the Summit with Thousands More Online

New York, NY – September 27, 2010 – NBC News’ “Education Nation” summit concluded today with a passionate discussion between parents, teachers, students, and policy makers about potential solutions to the challenges and obstacles facing America’s education system. “NBC Nightly News” anchor and managing editor Brian Williams moderated the special session, which included Connecticut mom Gwen Samuels demanding of policy makers the tools she needs to be effective in educating her children. The final panel at “Education Nation” was the last in a series of discussions covering a range of topics exploring the greatest challenges, most exciting opportunities and innovative ideas in education today.

To kick off “Education Nation,” it was crucial to hear from teachers to set the tone of the event. The Teacher Town Hall gathered hundreds of teachers at Rockefeller Plaza, and over 6,000 teachers from across the country online for a discussion about the challenges teachers face nationwide, and brainstorm potential solutions: NBC’s Rehema Ellis reports on a teacher who just wants to do her job: <http://bit.ly/agKFYq>. During the Teacher Town Hall Sunday afternoon, #EducationNation became a trending topic on Twitter worldwide.

The summit was host to many spirited discussions among panel members. Notably, American Federation of Teachers’ Randi Weingarten; Chancellor of Washington DC Public Schools Michelle Rhee; Harlem Children’s Zone’s Geoff Canada; Teacher Brian Jones; The Gates Foundation Allan Golston; and National Education Association’s Dennis van Roekel got into a heated debate about what constitutes an effective teacher on their panel: <http://bit.ly/aAfnzd>.

Students joined the conversation too, Ann Curry and Al Roker talk with student participants Andrew Liang and Mariam el Hasan, two of Scholastic’s Kid Reporters, about the status of education in America: <http://bit.ly/98QjuC>

NBC affiliate stations across the country have committed to continued education reporting, 118 affiliates nationwide have aired “Education Nation” programming this week alone. Correspondent Kim Covington from NBC affiliate KPNX in Phoenix reported live from Rockefeller Plaza about the achievement gap minority students face in education: <http://bit.ly/amdWLq>.

Many initiatives and announcements were made, including a new teaching initiative by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who delivered a “Reverse Commencement” address to students nationwide encouraging new college students to considering a career in education: <http://bit.ly/9fDGVm>.

NBC News President Steve Capus noted in a memo on EducationNation.com, “As journalists, we are committed to covering the issues facing America’s schools. As Americans, we’re dedicated to solving them.” The entire memo, along with letters from participants and panelists, are available at EducationNation.com.

Special reports and coverage on the state of education in America will continue to air across all NBC News platforms for the remainder of the week. The conversation will continue online at www.twitter.com/EducationNation and www.facebook.com/EducationNation - which already has over 10,000 “likes.”

Additional Clips from Education Nation are available at EducationNation.com. Transcripts will be available at nbcnewspr.msnbc.com. Members of the press can download photos at nbcumv.com.