



SXSW EDU® Announces Initial Lineup of Featured Speakers for the 2019 Conference & Festival

Entrepreneurship, Inclusion and Student Agency Among Themes to be Explored

November 28, 2018, Austin, Texas — SXSW EDU® today announced a diverse group of featured speakers, who as leaders represent such important issues as student empowerment, entrepreneurship, inclusion, STEAM, digital transformation in education publishing, and more for its 2019 conference and festival. Speakers ranging from youth activist and author Marley Dias, and NASA Astronaut Leland Melvin, to the Special Olympics' Chairman Timothy Shriver, will participate in SXSW EDU and bring their individual perspectives and voices to shine a light on the core themes of today's education environment.

“From best-selling authors and trailblazers in investing to astronauts and professional poker players, this year's featured speakers represent a cross-section of the leaders and visionaries who are helping to reshape the face of education today,” said Greg Rosenbaum, SXSW EDU General Manager. “Their efforts are giving voice to many who are finding ways to make an impact on behalf of others like them. We are proud of the diverse program and hope that attendees of the 2019 SXSW EDU Conference & Festival will be inspired and motivated to make a greater difference in their communities.”

The featured speakers who will contribute their voices and experiences to the 2019 SXSW EDU Conference & Festival include the following:

Natalia Oberti Noguera, Founder & CEO, Pipeline Angels; Creator & Host, Pitch Makeover — Natalia will bring her insights in advocating for women and the LGBTQ+ community in the investment space to the education community.

Marley Dias, Founder of #1000BlackGirlBooks and Author of *Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You!* — Marley will share her views with conference participants on championing diversity and inclusion in our society today.

David Hogg, Co-Founder, March for Our Lives — As a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, David survived the largest school shooting in American history. He will share his journey in helping to create a youth-led movement that has resulted in one of the largest mass mobilizations in our nation's history.

Timothy Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International — A leading educator focused on the social and emotional factors in learning, Dr. Shriver will share his experiences in serving, with over 5.6 million Special Olympics athletes in 172 countries, all working to promote health, education, and a more unified world through the joy of sports as the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary.



Jack Lynch, President and CEO, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt — Jack will share his experiences in harnessing edtech to extend the abilities of today’s educators and students, as he’s demonstrated in his leadership of multiple successful education companies.

Leland Melvin, Former NASA Astronaut — After 24 years with NASA as a researcher, astronaut, and senior executive service leader, he will share his life story as an athlete, astronaut, scientist, engineer, photographer, and musician to help inspire the next generation of explorers to pursue STEAM careers.

Maria Konnikova, Best-Selling Author and Professional Poker Player — Author of *Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes*, Maria leverages her unconventional background and unique perspective to help attendees find calm and purpose in the increasingly noisy and complex education landscape.

Michele Sullivan, President of the Caterpillar Foundation and Director of Corporate Social Innovation at Caterpillar, Inc. — Michele will share her experiences in leading Caterpillar Foundation’s transformation into one of the most influential corporate foundations, and the organization’s focus on empowering communities in need through access to quality education.

Ron Suskind, Best-Selling Author and Journalist — Ron’s most recent book, *Life, Animated*, chronicles his family’s twenty-year journey raising and connecting to their autistic son through his passion for Disney’s collection of animated films. He will share how his family’s story has driven activism and research about the compensatory strengths of those with autism and others who are “differently-abled” due to distinctive neurology or sociocultural backgrounds.

View the [full list](#) of announced SXSW EDU 2019 speakers and their bios.

About SXSW EDU

The SXSW EDU Conference & Festival cultivates and empowers a community of engaged stakeholders to advance teaching and learning. The annual four-day event affords registrants open access to engaging sessions, immersive workshops, interactive learning experiences, film screenings, early-stage startups, business opportunities, and networking. SXSW EDU is a component of the South by Southwest® family of conferences and festivals. Join the passionate and innovative community at SXSW EDU, March 4-7, 2019 in Austin, Texas. For more information, please visit sxswedu.com.

Press Credentials

Press accreditation for SXSW EDU 2019 is open at sxswedu.com/press/accreditation.

Contact

SXSW EDU Press & Publicity
press@sxswedu.com
512-467-7979