



Annual School Leaders Conference

AUG 4, 2026 • 8 AM-4 PM • SHERATON HARTFORD SOUTH • ROCKY HILL

CLOSING SESSION:

In this inspiring closing session, Dr. Miguel Cardona will explore how intentional leadership helps school leaders reset, refocus, and prepare for the 2026–2027 school year. Emphasizing wellness, balance, and purpose, he will share how aligning time, priorities, and values empowers leaders to show up as their best for students, staff, and communities.



DR. MIGUEL CARDONA

Prior to founding Cardona Solutions, Dr. Miguel Cardona dedicated close to three decades serving the community as a teacher, award-winning school principal, district leader, Commissioner of Education for Connecticut, and U.S. Secretary of Education.

As the 12th U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel focused on safely reopening and reimagining schools, overhauling higher education accountability, improving access and affordability to higher education, and providing upward economic mobility to more students across the country.

Miguel has been a featured speaker at UCLA, University of Texas, Austin, Yale, Harvard, and many other colleges and universities of all sizes across the country. He has partnered with the Brookings Institute, Newsweek, and TIME magazine to chronicle the importance of public education and bring much needed attention to the challenges facing our students at this critical time.

Miguel currently serves on the boards of the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz and the USC Schwarzenegger Institute of Policy. He served as a Resident Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 2025 and a fellow in the School of Management at Yale University in 2026.

Miguel earned his Bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State University, followed by his Master's, Professional and Executive Certifications, and Ed. D. from the University of Connecticut. Miguel was also awarded two Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees from Southern CT State University and Thaddeus Stevens College in PA. Yet, his greatest accomplishment is the family he built with his wife, Marissa, an educator, and their two college-aged children.