

Speakers

listed in order of their appearance during the Summit

Dr. Randy Lowry President of Lipscomb University

Dr. Randy Lowry, founder of the nationally-recognized Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution and professor of law at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA, took office as Lipscomb University's 17th president Sept. 26, 2005. A graduate of Pepperdine University, Lowry earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the Malibu, CA University. He received the juris doctor degree from Hamline University, in St. Paul, MN. In 1986, Lowry joined the law school faculty at Pepperdine and established a new international academic program in the emerging field of dispute resolution.

Dr. Lowry is the co-founder and first president of the Southern California Mediation Association, co-founder to the Ventura Center for Dispute Settlement, served as a gubernatorial appointment to the California Dispute Resolution Advisory Council, a member of the California Judicial Council's Task Force on the Quality of Justice as well as the California Supreme Court Blue Ribbon Committee on Arbitration Ethics.

Through his work at the Straus Institute, Lowry has served churches and individuals in resolving church-related disputes. In addition to teaching at Pepperdine, Lowry has worked, literally, around the world. He is an annual visiting faculty member at Vermont Law School and City University of Hong Kong. Lowry has taught at Shantou University, in Beijing, China; Bond University in Gold Coast, Australia; Hamline University; and the University of Modena in Modena, Italy.

The Honorable Karl Dean, Mayor of Nashville Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

Karl Dean was elected on September 11, 2007 as the sixth mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. Dean's priorities as mayor are improving schools, making neighborhoods safer and bringing more and better jobs to Nashville. Dean's first public office was as Nashville's Public Defender in 1990, a post he held until 2002, having been re-elected by the people of Nashville in 1994 and 1998. Mayor Phil Bredesen appointed Dean to the Commission of Twelve, a special citywide crime prevention task force.

Under former Mayor Bill Purcell, Dean served as Metro Law Director from 1999 to January of this year, advising the mayor on legal issues and bringing people together to solve problems. During his tenure as law director, Dean led the effort to revitalize neighborhoods by closing down over 30 massage parlors and other adult businesses that operated as houses of prostitution.

Dean has served on the boards of Greenways for Nashville, Leadership Nashville Alumni, the Oasis Center, the National Conference for Community and Justice, Reconciliation Ministries and as President of the Board of United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee. A native of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Karl Dean earned his bachelor's degree from Columbia University and was awarded a J.D. from Vanderbilt Law School in 1981. He worked as an assistant public defender in Nashville beginning in 1983. Dean completed the program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard in 1999. He has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Vanderbilt.

Dean is married to Nashville native Anne Davis. They have three children: Rascoe, Frances and Wallen.

James H. (Jim) Fyke
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Commissioner Jim Fyke leads the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) as a strong advocate for Tennessee State Parks and environmental protection. He brings more than 40 years of successful public service to his role as head of the agency responsible for protecting and improving the quality of our state's land, air, water and recreation resources. Jim also serves as Governor Bredesen's point person on land conservation issues. He has been a primary leader helping the Administration and General Assembly establish the new Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund and move forward with the landmark Northern Cumberlands Acquisition.

Prior to his appointment as TDEC Commissioner in 2005, Jim served the department as Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Conservation for two years. Under his leadership, all state parks and facilities were reopened, and the management structure was reorganized to be more responsive to local community needs. As director of Metro Nashville Parks for 25 years and now as TDEC commissioner, Jim has earned the reputation as an effective manager and thoughtful steward of the public's recreational assets. He is the only person to have ever led park systems that have won the prestigious National Recreation and Park Association's Gold Medal Award for Excellence at both the metropolitan and state level.

Paul Sloan
Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

As Deputy Commissioner of Environment at TDEC, Paul Sloan heads the department's Bureau of Environment and serves as co-chairperson of Governor Bredesen's Interagency Alternative Fuels Working Group. Sloan leads the state's senior management team responsible for safeguarding human health and protecting the quality of Tennessee's land, air and water. He is dedicated to identifying practical ways public policy can create a more sustainable, clean energy future for Tennessee.

As a man who is fond of quoting poets and naturalists, Sloan is a strong supporter of Project CENTS (Conservation Education Now for Tennessee Students) and the Tennessee Environmental Education Association as important ways to raise environmental literacy for Tennesseans of all ages. Sloan seeks out partners from across the state to work together to make sure our outstanding natural resources are being protected for the enjoyment of the all the citizens of our state and for future generations.

Paul Sloan was a founding board member of Cumberland Region Tomorrow, a former trustee of The Nature Conservancy and a board member of the Cumberland River Compact. Sloan holds a law degree from Vanderbilt University

Senator Rosalind Kurita
Tennessee State Senate Speaker Pro Tempore

Rosalind Kurita is a Senate member of the 100th through 105th General Assemblies and the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate. She also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on General Welfare, Health & Human Resources. Senator Kurita is a member of the following Senate Committees: Transportation, Rules, Finance, Ways and Means. She also serves on the following Joint Committees: Veterans Affairs, Workers Compensation and the Select Oversight Committee on Education. In 1999, Senator Kurita was awarded the Toll Fellowship for Emerging State Leaders. In 2003, she was named *Legislator of the Year* by the Tennessee Child Care Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Lung Association.

The Tennessee Human Resource Agency named Senator Kurita *Legislator of the Year* in 2004. She received the 2002 *Leadership Award* from the Tennessee School Health Coalition and 2004 *Badge of Courage Award* for Ethics for work on Campaign Finance Reform.

Rosalind Kurita is a registered nurse with a B.A. from the University of Arkansas. She served as Montgomery County Commissioner 1990-1994 and was a Board Member for the Regional Directors of the Tennessee County Commissioner Association. Senator Kurita has been married since 1972 to George Kurita. They have three grown children.

Senator Mark Norris **Majority Leader, Tennessee State Senate**

Senator Mark Norris is a farmer and an attorney with the law firm of Adams and Reese LLP

As a Senate member of 102nd through 105th General Assemblies and Leader of the Senate Republican Caucus, Senator Norris serves on the following State Senate Committees in the Tennessee State Senate Rules (Chair), Ethics, Calendar, Finance Ways and Means, Judiciary, State and Local Committee. He also serves on the following Joint Select Committees: Veterans Affairs, Corrections Oversight, Workers Compensation, Tax Committee, Joint Pensions and Insurance. Senator Norris also serves on the Joint Tennessee Advisory Commission on Antigovernment Relations Committee. Senator Norris chaired the Senate Republican Caucus in 2006, the Senate Transportation Committee in 2005-2006, the Economic Development, Transportation and Cultural Affairs Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments, 2006-present

He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments, the Executive Committee of the Council of State Governments, 2007 and Vice-Chair Shelby County Legislative Delegation, 2003-2007. Norris has served as Director of the Tennessee County Commissioners Association (1996-1997) and served on the Energy and Land Use Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties Environment (1997-2000). Norris was also the Director of National Conference of Republican County Officials from 1999-2000. Norris served as Commissioner, Shelby County Board of Commissioners from 1994-2000 where he also served as Chair from 1996-1997. Senator Mark Norris was born in Akron, Ohio. He was awarded a B.A. in Political Science from Colorado College in 1977 and a J.D. from the University of Denver in 1980. He is married and a father of two sons.

Rich Hayes **Deputy Director of Communications, Union of Concerned Scientists**

Rich Hayes is lead author of *A Scientist's Guide to Talking with the Media* (Rutgers University Press). For nearly 15 years he has helped hundreds of scientists—from Nobel laureates to college science professors—become more effective with the press. Hayes's media strategies have garnered tens of thousands of print and broadcast stories for environmental advocates and researchers. He has prepared experts for appearances on every major news program, including 60 Minutes, ABC Nightly News, Good Morning America, Crossfire, and The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. He has been quoted in outlets such as *USA Today*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, while his op-eds and editorial letters have been published in newspapers from *The Baltimore Sun* to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Before joining UCS in 1993, Hayes covered environmental and energy issues as a reporter for a bicameral caucus in the U.S. Congress. He also coordinated a task force on climate science chaired by Senator John McCain and then-Senator Al Gore. He began his career working in public television. Hayes received a B.A. in public communications and journalism from American University in Washington, DC.

G. Dodd Galbreath
Executive Director, Institute for Sustainable Practice, Lipscomb University

G. Dodd Galbreath is a seasoned environmental policy expert, having served as policy advisor for Tennessee governors Ned McWherter and Don Sundquist. During his time in state government, Galbreath implemented a nationally recognized wetlands conservation plan, created one of the nation's first environmental justice plans and led passage of legislation to protect Tennessee's water supplies from water-hungry neighboring states.

Beginning in 2008, Lipscomb University's Institute for Sustainable Practice will offer the state's first bachelor's degree and first master's concentration in sustainability. The Institute will host or coordinate five local and statewide conferences on sustainability issues in the coming year, beginning with the *Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee*. Galbreath also manages sustainability consulting projects for clients of URS Corporation, the nation's largest engineering design firm.

Rita Harris
Director, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Program

For over sixteen years, Rita Harris has been a leader in environmental justice efforts in Memphis and the surrounding region. From 1996 to 2001, Harris served on the Enforcement Subcommittee of the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Clean Water Network. Rita Harris began directing the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice Program in 1999. In this role, she has designed and coordinated several successful grassroots environmental conferences

In Memphis, Harris is famous for conducting "Toxic Tours" to educate area groups about environmental justice. Serving as an informed and impassioned tour guide, Rita brings attention to injustices experienced by individuals living in the shadow of polluters. Also, her "Dirty Dozen" and "Terrible Ten" reports shine a spotlight on area polluters while helping communities better understand the health effects of chemical pollution. For her outstanding work as a community organizer and environmental advocate, Harris was chosen by The Chickasaw Group to receive its first annual Environmental Justice Award.

Jim Deming
Executive Director, TN Interfaith Power and Light

As Executive Director of Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light since April 2007, Jim Deming works to engage the faith community in middle and west Tennessee on issues of environmental stewardship. Deming works with individual congregations to explain how faith, values transformation and creation care can help reduce the causes of global warming. His position is funded as a staff position with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

His non-profit experience includes positions as director of the Ohio Field Office for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, director of the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services (the state-wide support organization for legal aid), and director of the Kentucky/Tennessee Water Environment Association. Rev. Deming is an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ and currently serves part-time as the interim minister at First United Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He is also the Tennessee course coordinator for the Northwest Earth Institute. Deming is a graduate of the University of North Texas and holds a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University and a Masters of Education degree in Human Resource Development from Vanderbilt University.