



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**DR. SUELLEN REED TO SPEAK AT PRESS CONFERENCE
CO-HOSTED BY THE INDIANA BAR FOUNDATION**

The Indiana Bar Foundation will host Dr. Suellen Reed, State Superintendent of Schools, at a press conference tomorrow, Thursday, August 23rd at the State Capitol at 4 p.m. to discuss Indiana's upcoming Summit on Civic Education. The press conference, co-hosted by the Indiana Cable Telecommunications Association and Bright House Networks will take place at the C-SPAN bus, a mobile multi-media demonstration center and TV production unit.

The purpose of tomorrow's press conference and C-SPAN bus visit is to focus awareness on the upcoming Summit on Civic Education on Tuesday, September 11th at the Indiana Historical Society. The presence of the bus and Indiana's leaders in both education and civics will serve as a launching point from which to educate the public about the importance of civic engagement.

The National Assessment of Education Progress Report released May 16th shows that only 24 percent of students scored a rating of proficient and only 26 percent of eighth graders could accurately explain a passage from the Declaration of Independence. A McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum survey found similar results with 28 percent of those people polled able to name one freedom listed in the First Amendment, however, a staggering 52 percent could name at least two members of the fictitious Simpsons cartoon family.

This important topic and noted deficiency has attracted interest from around the country in Indiana's Summit. Senators Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar along with Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and former Congressman Lee Hamilton are the co-chairs of the Summit. Hamilton has also partnered with another former Congressman, William Goodling of Pennsylvania, to write a series of op-ed pieces as a bipartisan effort to gain interest in civic education and engagement in preparation for the Summit.

The Summit will also be taped and televised throughout the fall by WCTY/Channel 16 & Government TV-2 in Marion County, channel 28 on Comcast and channel 17 on Bright House Networks.

Dr. Reed's remarks to explore the state of civics education in Indiana will begin at 4 p.m. All guests are welcome to tour the C-SPAN bus anytime between 3:30 and 5:00. The bus will be parked on Government Place between the Indiana Government Center's North and South buildings.

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