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Jeanne Allen

Jeanne Allen is the Founder and President of The Center for Education Reform (CER), the leading voice and advocate for substantive and structural education reform in the US.

Jeanne's long-time leadership in the movement has earned her national recognition and credibility among policymakers, business leaders and the media. After receiving her BA from Dickinson College, Jeanne worked on Capitol Hill and then moved to the US Department of Education under President Reagan, where she served as special assistant in the Office of Postsecondary Education. From there, Jeanne developed the education policy agenda for The Heritage Foundation, and her long time experience there taught her that advocacy for education reform was best accomplished in an organization exclusively devoted to bridging the ideological and policy divides that had too often impeded the US' educational progress.

With three small children at home, Jeanne founded CER in 1993 to carry out a unique state level agenda that would influence a new generation of reformers and stimulate the modern school reform movement. The Center's early successes included more than a dozen charter school laws, school choice programs, and dozens of broad state standards and curriculum reform efforts. Early supporters included Jerry Hume, CER's Founding Chairman, and the late John Walton.

Jeanne's unique experience is drawn upon by a diverse array of media, business and government leaders. A frequent commentator on education reform in the mainstream media, her insights appeared over the past year in 350 news sources representing more than 100 million people in circulation. In addition to talking to the mainstream media regularly, she is a regular contributor to Politico, the Huffington Post and the Daily Caller. She speaks regularly in education and non-education forums.

Jeanne Allen is a member of the Digital Learning Council, the Arizona State University Innovation Council, America's Promise Alliance, a pioneer member of the DC Region's Capital E, and advises many more organizations. Jeanne is the recipient of the Education Industry Association's 'Friend of the Education Industry' award.

A mother of four, Jeanne in 2010 was named one of Working Mother's Top ten 'Most Powerful Moms in Education' and also ran for the Maryland House of Delegates that year.

She is a member of the Sovereign Order of Malta, the National Italian American Foundation, and the John Carroll Society and active in her alma mater and her children's schools. Jeanne is married to Dr. Kevin Strother, an educator and musician.