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Newly-Crowned Miss America, Nia Franklin, to Keynote CER Summit and Gala
-Miss America 2019's Platform Highlights Education Opportunity and Dedication to the Arts-

WASHINGTON, DC (September 26, 2018) – The newly crowned Miss America 2019 will join CER's 25th Anniversary Summit and Gala Dinner as keynote speaker to share her vision for education and her commitment to making that part of her crowning year.

“We are so thrilled that Nia Franklin was recognized for her many talents and social commitment to education and honored that she will join this critical event. Her contribution to this special convening will enable us to broaden our work as we coalesce to build ‘Road to Innovation for One America,’ across all sectors, and education levels,” said Jeanne Allen, CER’s Founder and CEO.

“Nia shares our vision, best articulated by our sponsoring partner GSV, that to address society’s greatest challenge we must ensure that ‘everyone has equal opportunity to participate in the future,’” added Allen.

Miss America Nia Franklin, 25, proclaimed in the competition that, “As Miss America I will continue my work to make sure students across this nation have access to a quality education.” She is a role model for all, particularly women, of what educational opportunity combined with hard work can do.

Franklin received her Bachelor of Arts in music theory and composition from East Carolina University and her Master’s degree in music composition from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA). She was also a Kenan Fellow at Lincoln Center Education in New York and worked at Success Academy Charter Schools in New York City.

Franklin explained her passion for the arts as a means to bring Americans together and improve student performance, saying, “I grew up at a predominantly Caucasian school and there was only a 5% minority and I felt out of place so much because of the color of my skin. But growing up, I found my love of arts, and through music that helped me to feel positive about myself and about who I was.”

CER’s Summit partners include GSV and Arizona State University, and is sponsored by Strada Education Network, Whittle School & Studios and dozens of other major education, tech and business organizations. Franklin will appear at the CER Silver Summit and Gala which will feature the leading authorities and influencers in education technology, policy and innovation.

To coordinate interviews or to obtain a media credential to attend CER’s 25th Anniversary Summit, please contact Andrew Ricci at andrew@ricconstrategic.com.

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