

# EVENING PARTICIPANTS

## **JENNIFER C. THOMAS**, *Mistress of Ceremonies*

Jennifer C. Thomas is an assistant professor in the Department of Media, Journalism and Film in the broadcast journalism concentration at her alma mater, Howard University. She is an award-winning veteran broadcast journalist whose career spans more than 25 years in network and local news. Most recently, she was an executive producer for CNN Headline News, and a news producer for CNN, where she continues to stay relevant in the industry as a freelance producer. She played a vital role in the network's coverage of major news stories, and was honored with recognition from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for her contribution to CNN's September 11th coverage and Peabody Award recognition for her contribution to CNN's coverage of Hurricane Katrina. She also received national award recognition from the National Association of Black Journalists. Thomas is also founder of MediaReady Consulting LLC, a media training and marketing, event management, and communications consulting service. Thomas holds a Master of Arts Degree with a concentration in Arts and Culture from The Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism from Howard University.



## **J. MICHAEL MCGINNIS**

J. Michael McGinnis, M.D., M.A., M.P.P., is currently Senior Scholar and Leonard D. Schaeffer Executive Officer at the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). He is also an elected Member of the NAM, Executive Director of the NAM Leadership Consortium on Value & Science-Driven Health Care, and founder and facilitator of its Learning Health System initiative. He served as founding director/chair of: the health program group at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; the World Bank/European Commission Task Force for Health Reconstruction in Bosnia; the federal Office of Research Integrity, and the HHS Nutrition Policy Board. Early in his career, he served as director of the World Health Organization's smallpox eradication program in Uttar Pradesh, India, and director of the U.S.-Eastern Europe cooperative health research program. Educated at Berkeley (AB), UCLA (MA, MD), and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government (MPP), he is perhaps most recognized for his research and publications on population health and the root causes of morbidity and mortality. Honorary recognitions include the federal Distinguished Service Medal, the 1996 National Health Leader of the Year award, and the 2013 national Public Health Hero award.



## **THOMAS RIDGE**

Tom Ridge is Chairman of Ridge Global. Following the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, Tom Ridge became the first Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and, on January 24, 2003, became the first Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. During his DHS tenure, Secretary Ridge worked with more than 180,000 employees from a combined 22 agencies to create an agency that facilitated the flow of people and goods, instituted layered security at air, land and seaports, developed a unified national response and recovery plan, integrated new technology and improved information sharing worldwide. Tom Ridge served as Secretary until February 1, 2005. Before the events of September 11th, Tom Ridge was twice elected Governor of Pennsylvania. Governor Ridge's aggressive technology strategy helped fuel the state's advances in economic development, education, health care and the environment. He serves on the boards of the Institute for Defense Analyses, the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress and other private and public entities. He is currently chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's National Security Task Force.

