

Speaker



Walter Isaacson

President and CEO of the Aspen Institute

Walter Isaacson is the president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies institute based in Washington, DC. He has been the chairman and CEO of CNN and the editor of TIME magazine.

Isaacson's most recent book, *Leonardo da Vinci* (2017) brings history's most creative genius at the crossroads of the humanities and the arts to life, and highlights and teaches the importance of creativity and challenging the status quo.

Isaacson is also author of *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution* (2014), a biographical tale of the people who invented the computer, Internet and the other great innovations of the digital age. His other books include *Steve Jobs* (2011), *Einstein: His Life and Universe* (2007), *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* (2003), and *Kissinger: A Biography* (1992), and co-author of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made* (1986).

Isaacson was born in New Orleans. He is a graduate of Harvard College and of Pembroke College of Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He began his career at The Sunday Times of London and then the New Orleans Times-Picayune. He joined TIME in 1978 and served as a political correspondent, national editor, and editor of digital media before becoming the magazine's 14th editor in 1996. He became chairman and CEO of CNN in 2001, and then president and CEO of the Aspen Institute in 2004.

He is chair emeritus of Teach for America, which recruits recent college graduates to teach in underserved communities. From 2005-2007 he was the vice-chair of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, which oversaw the rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. He was appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which runs Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and other international broadcasts of the United States, a position he held from 2009 to 2012. He is on the board of United Airlines, Tulane University, the Overseers of Harvard University, the New Orleans Tricentennial Commission, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Carnegie Institution, the Society of American Historians, and My Brother's Keeper Alliance.