

Keynote

Sowing Seeds of Trust and Truth Through Teachers

[National public opinion polls](#) consistently indicate that K-12 educators experience one of the highest levels of trust from their fellow Americans of all professional groups. K-12 educators also have more in-depth educational backgrounds and knowledge in, and more experience conveying, science, engineering, technology and math information to the public than many other populations in their communities.

For these reasons, K-12 teachers play a vital role as trusted experts who thread accurate scientific information into society before a crisis and misinformation hit. Educators are in a unique position to proactively build a societal foundation of knowledge so that when science gets contentious, sticking to the facts is seen as the safest and soundest route.

We are excited to announce that [Bridging the Gap](#) 2025 will feature keynote speaker Dr. Carla Rodriguez-Watson, who serves as Director of Research for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Rodriguez-Watson will discuss the concept of “prebunking” as a way of improving the understanding of science and getting ahead of misconceptions or rumor. She will discuss collaborations between North Carolina educators and the FDA Foundation to develop resources that convey scientific concepts to the nation’s school children and provide credible evidence-based information around immunity and vaccines.

In an era where the majority of Americans seek health and medical information online and via social media, it is important to give students credible information and a framework to think critically about the information they encounter from sources with varying levels of expertise and resources. Prebunking [helps fill the space so that inaccuracies have less room to grow](#).

Come learn about the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA, its teacher-developed classroom resources and about the vital role K-12 teachers play in promoting credible information and critical thinking – a process that keeps Americans media savvy, informed, safe and healthy.

Presentation Target:
All Audiences
Presenter:
1. Carla Rodriguez-Watson, Director of Research for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA

All Audiences

Presenter:

1. Carla Rodriguez-Watson, Director of Research for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the
FDA