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John Carver Memorial Fund-for the Future of Governance-

BACKGROUND

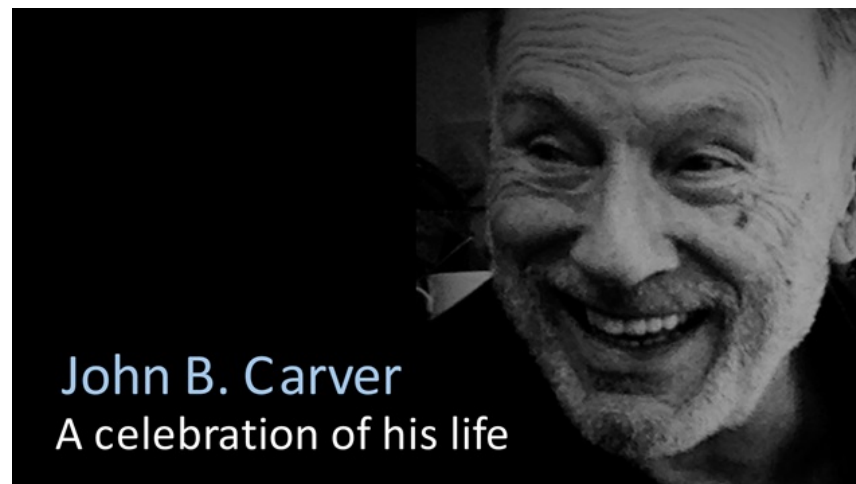
GOVERN for IMPACT has created a new fund in honour of a very special person to the GOVERN for IMPACT community. A person who created a series of key concepts and principles which work together to form the governance system we know as “Policy Governance®”.

This fund is to recognize, appreciate, respect, admire, and celebrate the life of John Carver. John was for many, our friend, colleague, our teacher, inspirer, and our mentor. He was an extraordinary thinker and a generous “sharer” of his ideas, constructs, and ultimately the Policy Governance system.

John was an author noted for his development of the Policy Governance system for Boards of Directors and their organizations. Carver noted that this model is the only systematic theory of governance. He was an adjunct professor in the Institute for Nonprofit Organizations at the University of Georgia School of Social Work. Sadly, John passed away in August 2024 at the age of 86. The international governance community is still mourning this loss.

Early in his career, Carver searched for a reliable guide to lead the work of a Board. His research turned up little on the effective role and processes for the Board of Directors. John noticed that Board Members would often wonder about what the Board's job is and where the line lies that distinguishes the Board's job from that of the Chief Executive Officer. The Policy Governance system clarifies this separation by having the Board explicitly state the Board's and CEO's jobs in a set of written Board policies (hence the name Policy Governance).

Born in Chattanooga, TN, John earned his Ph.D. from Emory University. Early in his career, he managed various mental health organizations, which sparked his interest in governance and the role of governing



John Carver made profound contributions to what is known as modern Board governance. His legacy as a governance author, researcher, teacher, and consultant has significantly shaped both the theory and practice of Board governance worldwide.

Today, the Policy Governance® Model is widely practiced around the world, and it has significantly influenced how Boards operate. In a time when many seek to “decolonize” Board practices, Carver’s framework offers an effective method for establishing clear role delineation, fostering a Board culture informed by its community, and creating a purpose-focused, performance-driven and values-oriented environment.

John Carver was a visionary thinker and innovator. His dream was to see more rational governance prevail over irrational governance practices. His legacy will continue to inspire Boards to transcend mere oversight and become true leaders of purpose and impact within their organizations.



Boards. In the 1970s, he developed the Policy Governance® Model, a groundbreaking theoretical framework for Board governance. Throughout his career, John and his wife Miriam taught, facilitated, and coached Boards and consultants worldwide. He authored five books and hundreds of articles and monographs, making him one of the most prolific writers in this field.

John Carver's Policy Governance® Model employs a systems approach to Board governance, encompassing the entire organization. When effectively implemented, this still revolutionary model not only transforms Board practices but also fosters a culture of accountability throughout the entire organization.

Carver developed the Policy Governance system and registered its trademark. He has permitted others to utilize the Policy Governance term as long as people using the term practice consistently with the Policy Governance principles and approach. Each practice application of the Policy Governance model is specific to the organization being governed. The Policy Governance model has universal meaning, and can be adopted in very different company settings, including for-profit and for-impact organizations. In every application of Policy Governance, the Board represents the ownership/careholdership of the organization as it defines the good that the organization is to achieve for the beneficiaries and at a cost or worth.

Dr. John Carver and his wife, Miriam Carver, have trained several hundred practitioners, including consultants at their Policy Governance Academy. Carver wrote several books, including *Boards That Make a Difference*, with updated editions, probably the best known of his works. His book *Reinventing Your Board*, published in a new edition in 2006, is probably the easiest for a beginner to understand.

About the Dr. John Carver Memorial Fund-for the Future of Governance-

This fund has been established by GOVERN for IMPACT to achieve three primary goals, including:

1. To honour the governance work and life of Dr. John Carver, beloved husband and partner of Miriam Carver.
2. To continue to build the GOVERN for IMPACT Policy Governance Proficiency Program to enhance and modernize content, to ensure case example and applied practice relevance, to enhance use of program technology, and to promote engagement in the program of motivated, informed students and highly qualified faculty. The fund is open for contributions, and the funding will continue to be developed. (Please see the report in the October 2025 GOVERN Update newsletter for an update on the fund.)
3. To build a legacy of support to enable the governance excellence education, inspired by Policy Governance, of young professionals to build the next generation of excellent governance practitioners, leaders, researchers, Board Members, consultants, and Board administrators.

**MAKE A DONATION TO JOHN CARVER
MEMORIAL FUND**

USE AND STRUCTURE ON THE FUND

Fund Component One

The initial fund will be structured such that the first component of the fund, the first \$20,000.00 will be invested in the Dr. John Carver Endowment Fund. The interest/income from this component of the fund will be used to create annual scholarships for young professionals committed to governance excellence

John generously shared the Policy Governance System, his vision for its application, and his knowledge and insight as to its rationale. He encouraged and challenged practitioners and Board advisors to dig deeper, think better, and be brave in governing well. Those who have studied this approach to governance will forever be grateful for what John shared. John and Miriam's work has truly had an international impact on the world.



**Total Donations Pledged to Date = \$31,395
(as at October 14, 2025)**

Transforming Your Organization's Impact: Governance and Leadership in Action

Ways to Donate to the Dr. John Carver Memorial Fund-for the Future of Governance-

1. Be part of the Legacy Team and donate \$5000 plus.
2. Be part of the Future Focus Team \$4999 to \$2000.
3. Be part of the Next Generation Team \$1000 to \$1999.
4. Be part of the We Care Team \$25-\$999

Donate monthly as part of our Sustainability Team to this Fund at \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$250 per month.

www.governforimpact.org

2025 Annual Learning & Connecting Conference | June 19-21, 2025 | Montreal, Quebec, Canada
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and who want to achieve a high proficiency level of practitioner knowledge in Policy Governance.

Fund Component Two

A second component of the fund will be used to fund the strategic initiative of ongoing updating of the Policy Governance Proficiency Program. This will include:

- Continuously developing modern Policy Governance content,
- Inclusion of case studies and applied practice to ensure continued relevance,
- Enhancement of technology to support program learning, and
- Ensuring broad engagement in the program of motivated, informed students, and highly qualified faculty.

This component of the fund will use initial and ongoing donations to support advancement in the content and technology of the Policy Governance Proficiency Program.

On September 9, 2025, the GOVERN for IMPACT Board of Directors created by motion the Dr. John Carver Memorial Fund-for the Future of Governance-Endowment Fund.

Caroline Oliver Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations!

ELAINE VANDALE



[Read about Elaine's governance contributions.](#)

The GOVERN for IMPACT Lifetime Achievement Award is a once in a lifetime award – it is our highest award presented by GOVERN. The existence of this award recognizes Caroline Oliver as our amazing founder and a strong governance leader. The Lifetime Achievement Award is designed to honor leaders who have given many years of effective, dedicated, thought-leadership, knowledgeable, and compassionate care and service to GOVERN for IMPACT and to the community committed to excellent, compassionate, thoughtful, purpose-driven and ethical governance. This award is not necessarily presented every year. To receive this important award the individual must have contributed at multiple levels across the organization, in multiple roles, initiatives, teams, projects, etc. over an extended, sustained period of time. This work must have had a substantial impact with GOVERN for IMPACT and with the governance world.

Completed Board Terms

Thank You for Your Board Service!

Patricia McCarver

Chantal Ouellette

Chuck Namit



On June 30, 2025, three of Board Members completed their terms on GOVERN for IMPACT Board of Directors:

1. Pat McCarver, Outgoing Past Chair
2. Chantal Ouellette, Board Secretary
3. Chuck Namit, Board Member

Not only have they supported GOVERN by volunteering their time to serve on the Board they are also Affiliates, donors, and have actively engaged in webinars and conferences. Thank you, thank you!

A few words about their additional involvement with GOVERN...

Pat McCarver

- Served as Board Chair for 2 terms.
- Chair of the Nominations Committee.
- Graduate of the Policy Governance Proficiency (PGP) Program in 2017/2018
- Designated Governance Systems Professional (GSP)

Chantal Ouellette

- Served as Board Secretary.

On behalf of Andrew Bergen, current Board Chair and the GOVERN community, thank you Pat, Chantal, and Chuck for your Board service!

Each of these individuals are advocates for GOVERN's vision to build a world where Boards lead organizations to achieving clear purpose and critical outcomes in an ethical, inclusive, prudent, just, and risk-aware manner.

- Member of Nominations Committee.
- Graduate the 2017/2018 PGP cohort.

Chuck Namit

- Served on the Nominations Committee.
- Volunteered at Annual Learning and Connecting Conferences.

Welcome 2025/2026 PGP Registrants



[Learn more about the PGP Program](#)

On Saturday, September 13, 2025, GOVERN for IMPACT welcomed the registrants for the 2025/2026 cohort via an orientation webinar. Over the next seven months (Oct 2025 to Apr 2026) these individuals will work through the program curriculum delivered via six instructional units. Their learning will culminate in a Team Project on implementing Policy Governance followed by a final exam. We wish you well in your studies!

Looking for Volunteer Opportunities



If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity at GOVERN for IMPACT, there are lots of choices for engagement and many different skillsets needed.

Volunteer Positions that are Available at GOVERN at the present time:

- Member of the Resource Development /Fundraising Team
- Planning Member of the Face-to-Face Advanced Forum - scheduled for late March 2026
- Volunteer Coordinator of the Learning Hubs Communities
- Faith Based Organizations Governance Learning Community Hub-Leader
- Member of Building Our Community Team - new
- Member of Our Program Planning Team

For more information on these open volunteer positions [email Kathy Wiener, Volunteer Coordinator.](mailto:kathy@groupi-i.com) (kathy@groupi-i.com)

Upcoming Educational/Learning Programs

This Fall and Winter, GOVERN for IMPACT invites you to expand your leadership and governance toolkit through a series of dynamic online education events—paired with complimentary engagement opportunities designed to connect you with peers across sectors.

Whether you serve a credit union, a for-impact organization (not-for-profit), a library board, a social service agency, a municipal body, a school board, a regulatory authority, or are interested in being part of the broader governance community, these education/learning sessions will give you fresh insights, practical strategies, and a supportive network.

Don't miss this chance to strengthen your impact, grow your skills, and engage in conversations that matter—register today and step into a season of learning and leadership.

Our **lineup of webinars** features thought-provoking sessions designed to prepare leaders and boards for today's most pressing challenges. Traci Eshelman Ramey shares how to *Integrate AI into Education to Enhance Creativity and Critical Thinking*; Brad Saron and Karen Fryday-Field present practical insights on the *Use of a Scorecard and Governance Accountability*; and our two-part *Boot Camp for Board Chairs* equips chairs to lead with confidence, clarity, and impact. **Each session brings actionable takeaways you can apply immediately in your governance role.**

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

11:00-1:00 pm Eastern Time

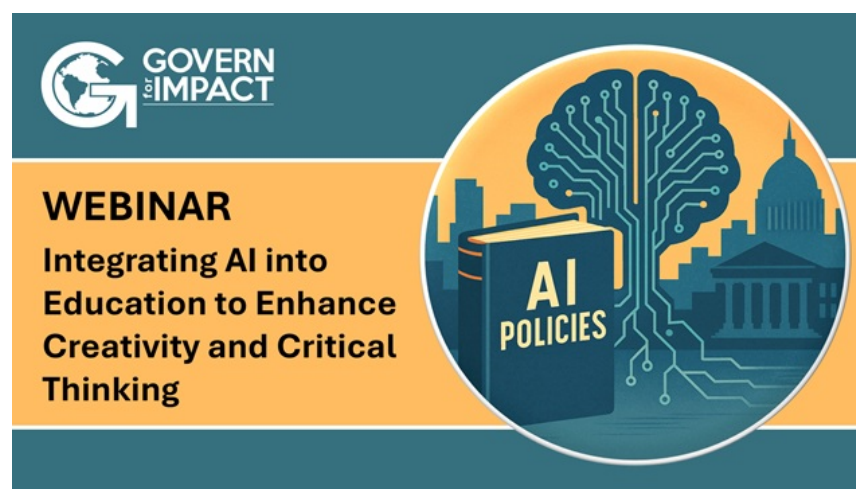
Integrating AI into Education to Enhance Creativity and Critical Thinking - The Governance Perspective

By Traci Eshelman Ramey

Ed Tech by Design

- Affiliates: \$175 USD
- Organization Affiliates (3 or more): \$165 USD
- Non-Affiliates: \$225 USD

Are you ready to lead the future of education policy? Join Dr. Traci Eshelman's dynamic workshop and working group designed for board directors, school administrators, and educational leaders who are ready to take action. Grounded in a comprehensive



GOVERN for IMPACT

WEBINAR

Integrating AI into Education to Enhance Creativity and Critical Thinking

REGISTER HERE! DON'T MISS THIS AMAZING WEBINAR!

systematic literature review, this session will unpack the urgent need for coherent, ethical, and inclusive AI policies in school districts. In the US only 13% of districts report having adopted AI policies and most lacking formal guidance. This workshop offers a rare opportunity to explore strategic frameworks, stakeholder engagement models, and real-world implementation strategies. Participants will leave equipped with actionable insights, customizable policy templates, and a collaborative network of peers committed to responsible innovation in education.

This is more than a workshop - it's a movement. As AI rapidly reshapes the educational landscape, school leaders face mounting pressure to respond with clarity, integrity, and foresight. This session will dive deep into the "how" of policy development, how districts can leverage institutional resources, navigate state and federal mandates, and build capacity for sustainable AI integration. Drawing from national policy matrices, regional level toolkits, and institutional theory, Dr. Eshelman will guide participants through the design of agile, equity-centered policies that protect student data, promote AI literacy, and empower educators. Whether your district or organization is just beginning or refining its AI policy and strategy, this session will provide a roadmap to support your leadership.

Thursday, November 20, 2025 ****NEW DATE****

10:00-5:30 pm Eastern Time

If you did not attend the 2025 Annual GOVERN Learning & Connecting Conference you will not want to miss this amazing learning day!

Virtual Conference Seminar Series - a series of topics and presentations on the theme of Transforming Your Organization's Impact: Governance and Leadership in Action

Monday, November 24, 2025



Dr. Eshelman Ramey, Ph.D.- Educational Technology and Instructional Design, graduated with High Distinction from Liberty University. She has been an educator for 15 years in public and private school systems.

Dr. Eshelman Ramey has received numerous university awards in research, writing, and MEd capstone on digital game-based learning. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Hiram College with a BA in Spanish and Rhetoric and a minor in International Marketing and is a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa honors society.

Dr. Eshelman Ramey has spoken at ISTE, Harvard, TRETc, and ASCD on integrating technology to improve learning outcomes. At Harvard, she outlined a global learning program that connected classrooms in the United States with India on sustainable agriculture projects.

- Affiliates: \$599 USD

Fluent in Organization and Affiliates Dr. Eshelman Ramey has lived, traveled, and worked in 40 countries.

REGISTER HERE

Note: The fee includes access to the full 2025 Annual Learning & Connecting Conference (June 2025 Montreal, Quebec, Canada) syllabus, materials and recordings.

11:00-1:00 pm Eastern Time

Use of Scorecards in Governance Accountability – Supporting Leaders Accountable for Effective Governance

by Dr. Brad Saron and Karen Fryday-Field

Thursday, December 4, 2025

1:00-4:00 pm eastern time

Boot Camp for Board Chairs – Part 1 How to be a top-drawer, effective Board Chair

and Day 2

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

1:00-4:00 pm eastern time

Boot Camp for Board Chairs – Part 2 How to be a top-drawer, effective Board Chair

February 2026

How to Write Effective, Succinct Executive Boundaries for CEOs

Thursday, June 11 - Saturday, June 13, 2026

Save the Dates! - 2026 Annual Learning and Connecting Conference

Engagement Opportunities

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

6:00-7:30 pm Eastern Time

GOVERN Book Club Meeting

Complimentary

- Affiliates: \$175 USD
- Organization Affiliates (3 or more): \$165 USD
- Non-Affiliates: \$225 USD

REGISTER HERE

- Affiliates: \$175 USD
- Organization Affiliates (3 or more): \$165 USD
- Non-Affiliates: \$225 USD

Note: The fee covers both Part 1 and Part 2

REGISTER HERE

Date and Registration Coming Soon

Registration Opening Soon

Current Book

Governance Solutions, The Ultimate Guide to Competence and Confidence in the Boardroom by David A.H. Brown and Dr. Debra L. Brown

REGISTER HERE

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

1:00-2:00 pm Eastern Time

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Affiliate Quarterly Engagement Session #2025/3

Complimentary

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The work of GOVERN for IMPACT is supported by people who believe in the work of this organization. [Click for more information on giving and contributing to the organization and board excellence work being undertaken by the people of GOVERN for IMPACT.](#) Join our generosity team.

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