



## 2016 Board Symposium I Changing the lens on governance



### Adm. Mike Mullen

USN (Ret.)

Considered one of the most influential chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in history, Admiral Mike Mullen takes a fresh approach to the most important geopolitical issues of the 21st Century, including America's position in the world and how economic health directly impacts our national security. Mullen believes our national debt is our greatest security threat.

Mullen, who spent four years as chairman—the top military advisor to Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama—is a broad-minded, intellectually curious leader widely recognized as an “honest broker” by policymakers, members of Congress and senior military officers. He brought bold and original thinking to the work of strengthening the U.S. military and advocating for those who serve.

Mullen oversaw the end of the combat mission in Iraq and the development of a new military strategy for Afghanistan, while promoting international partnerships, new technologies and new counter-terrorism tactics culminating in the killing of Osama bin Laden.

A 1968 graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Mullen sought challenging positions including command at every level to develop his leadership skills during his naval career. He rose to be chief of naval operations prior to assuming duties as chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In an unprecedented in-depth feature article, *Fast Company* called Mullen “not just a new model for military officers—and a new kind of business titan—but also a case study in 21st Century leadership”.

Since retiring from the Navy, Mullen has joined the boards of General Motors, Sprint and the Bloomberg Family Foundation. He teaches at the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton University. He is also known for his efforts on behalf of service members, veterans and their families. He is renowned for his role in dismantling “don't ask, don't tell” and allowing gay service members to serve openly.

Today, he shares with audiences his deep experience in leading change in complex organizations, his assessment of geopolitical relationships, diversity implementation, crisis management, economic policy, risk management and the growing and existential threat of cyber.

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