

Harold O. Levy

Executive Director, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Lansdowne, VA



Harold Levy is executive director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. The Cooke Foundation provides the largest scholarships in the United States, along with comprehensive counseling and support services, to outstanding students from low-income families. Founded in 2000, the Foundation has awarded about \$147 million in scholarships to more than 2,000 students and over \$88 million in grants to organizations that serve such students. Levy has led the Foundation's efforts to bring about equal opportunity in college admissions for high-achieving, low-income students. Under his leadership, the Foundation has undertaken groundbreaking education research and gained substantial media coverage for the research. He has traveled around the nation and appeared in the media to discuss unjustified barriers that keep many academically qualified low-income students out of top colleges and universities. He is also the former New York City schools chancellor and headed the nation's largest school district at the time of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Levy received a bachelor's degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University; a master's degree in politics, philosophy; and economics from the University of Oxford, and a law degree from the Cornell Law School.