

MITCHELL REISS

Major Career Roles

Special Envoy, Northern Ireland Peace Process
Director of Policy Planning, U.S Department of State
President & CEO, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
President, Washington College

Ambassador Mitchell Reiss is an internationally respected diplomat, academic leader and CEO with a career spanning geopolitical negotiation, institutional transformation and strategic advisory work. A former President & CEO of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, he led one of America's largest cultural institutions through a multi year turnaround, strengthening commercial performance, revitalising its external engagement and delivering record fundraising.

Earlier in his career, Mitchell served as President of Washington College, where he reshaped academic priorities, strengthened financial sustainability and enhanced institutional competitiveness, including internationalising the student body and modernising the university's operating model.

He previously held senior diplomatic posts in the United States government, including Director of Policy Planning and Special Envoy for the Northern Ireland Peace Process, where he worked with British and Irish leaders to restore local governance and advance long term stability - earning the State Department's Foreign Affairs Award for Public Service.

He brings deep cross sector expertise in:

- Geopolitical negotiation & conflict resolution – senior level diplomacy across Northern Ireland, North Korea and US national security institutions.
- Institutional transformation & turnaround leadership – repositioning legacy organisations, restoring financial health and modernising stakeholder engagement.
- Governance & public policy – advisory roles across national security agencies, national laboratories and international reporting commissions.
- Higher education leadership & strategy – university governance, internationalisation, academic programme development and philanthropic growth.
- Thought leadership & global security expertise – author of multiple books and more than 100 publications on international security, diplomacy and nuclear policy.

Mitchell holds a BA from Williams College, an MA from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, a JD from Columbia Law School and a D.Phil. from Oxford University. Known for his diplomatic acuity, measured judgement and ability to navigate high stakes political and organisational landscapes, he is a valued mentor for leaders operating at the intersection of governance, geopolitics and institutional change.