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The University of St. Thomas will host a free, public lecture next month by James Shelton III, assistant deputy secretary for innovation and improvement in the U.S. Department of Education.

Shelton, who will give the 13th annual Julian Parker Lecture for the university's School of Education, will speak on "Educational Innovation – Challenges and Opportunities," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, in the auditorium of Schulze Hall on St. Thomas' campus in downtown Minneapolis. A reception precedes the lecture at 6 p.m.

Shelton manages teacher-quality, school-choice and learning-technology programs for the Department of Education. Previously he served as a program director for the education division of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He also has worked for NewSchools Venture Fund and co-founded LearnNow, a school- management company. He also has worked as a management and education-business consultant. He has degrees from Morehouse College and Stanford University and lives in Washington, D.C.

For further information, contact Dr. Robert Brown, (651) 962-4992. For reservations, email Katy Moore at moor5104@stthomas.edu .