



**Attendee Bios**  
**Portfolio School District Network Meeting**  
*July 19-20, 2011 – Washington, DC*

***Cat Alexander***

Cat Alexander is a program officer in US Education at the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation. She oversees efforts to drive student achievement and teacher satisfaction in Los Angeles, Oakland and other California-based charter school management organizations. She also oversees the foundation's investments with the Charter School Growth Fund.



Prior to joining the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation from her position as chief operating officer of Rocketship Education, she was a consultant for the charter schools sector, focused on charter school growth funds, charter school replication, operational performance metrics, business infrastructure and human capital development. She has also held positions with EDTEC Charter School Management, Chicago Public Schools Fund Fellowship and Accenture. Cat holds a master's in business administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a bachelor of arts in English from the University of Texas at Austin.

***Julie Angeley***



Julie Angeley is the Operations and Communications Manager at the Center on Reinventing Public Education. In addition to managing Center administrative and fiscal functions, Julie oversees communications, web and IT. Ms. Angeley has a B.S. in Organizational Psychology from the University of Washington.

***Candace Bell***

Candace is a program officer at the William Penn Foundation and manages the Foundation's portfolio of education-related grants. She is actively involved in a number of citywide efforts, including the Southeastern Pennsylvania Communities for Public Education Reform Funder Collaborative, Project U-Turn, and ArtsRising. She is also co-chair of the national Multiple Pathways to Graduation workgroup of the Youth Transitions Funders Group and a steering committee member for the national Communities for Public Education Reform's advisory board. Prior to joining the Foundation, Candace worked as a researcher



on a variety of research projects at the University of Pennsylvania. She also was program coordinator for a National Science Foundation initiative linking the University of Pennsylvania with public schools in West Philadelphia. Candace holds a Ph.D. in education from the University of Pennsylvania, and an M.A. in elementary education from Nazareth College.

### ***Alan Berube***



Alan Berube is Senior Fellow and Research Director at the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program. He manages the program's research agenda, including the forthcoming *State of Metropolitan America* report, which chronicles a decade of demographic and social change in the nation's cities and suburbs. Prior to joining Brookings in 2001, he served as a policy adviser on community development at the U.S. Treasury Department. Mr. Berube holds a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Stanford University.

Diane Castelbuono was appointed as Associate Superintendent for Strategic Programs for the School District of Philadelphia in July 2010.

Prior to her appointment with the School District of Philadelphia, Diane served for five years as the Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As Deputy Secretary, Diane was responsible for the oversight and support of all K-12 public and private schools in the Commonwealth, serving over 1.8 million students. Key aspects of this work included administering over \$10 billion in federal and state education funding, managing Pennsylvania's school accountability and student assessment system, developing instructional supports and interventions so that all students would have the opportunity to perform at high levels, and ensuring compliance with all federal and state requirements.



### ***Diane Castelbuono***

Prior to her tenure with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Ms. Castelbuono worked for the Philadelphia public school system in several cabinet-level positions, including chief of staff for the School Reform Commission and director of policy and planning.

Diane earned her undergraduate degree from Haverford College, and holds a Master of Business Administration from Eastern University. Diane resides in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where her three children attend public school.

### ***Madeleine Clarke***

Madeleine Clarke is the Development Consultant for the Oakland Unified School District. Previously she was the Director of Development of the Oakland Unified School District. She has also been a consultant for the San Francisco School Alliance and the Director of Development for the Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools.

Brenna Copeland is the Director of Charter Schools in the Office of School Reform and Innovation at Denver Public Schools. Prior to that she was the founding COO of Center City Public Charter schools where she led the areas of finance, operations, human resources, IT and facilities management. She has also been the CFO of KIPP DC, a Branch Director at Self-Help Ventures Fund, and a Consultant at Accenture. She holds an MBA in finance from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University as well as a bachelor's degree from Rice University.

***Brenna Copeland***



***Nadya Dabby***



Nadya Chinoy Dabby identifies and evaluates potential investment opportunities for the Broad Foundation. She has a background in management consulting, primarily for nonprofit and government organizations, in the areas of health care, human services, youth development and affordable housing. Most recently, she was with the consulting practice of the Corporate Executive Board in Washington, D.C. Before that, she worked for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Local Economic and Employment Development Program. Chinoy Dabby received a bachelor's degree in international development and a master's degree in urban planning from the University of California at Berkeley, as well as an M.B.A. from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Michael DeArmond is a Research Analyst at the Center on Reinventing Public Education. His research interests include human resource management reforms and teacher policy. Mr. DeArmond's published work includes studies of teacher shortages and teacher compensation, as well as the reform of district human resource departments and school-based hiring initiatives. He is currently studying human resource management in both the charter school sector and in traditional public schools. Mr. DeArmond holds an MPA in social policy and education from the University of Washington and a BA in history from Brown University. He is currently a doctoral student in educational leadership and policy studies at the University of Washington. Prior to working as a researcher he was a middle school history teacher.

***Michael DeArmond***



### ***Mike Delesdernier***



Mike Delesdernier is the President of the Jefferson Parish School Board. Mike Delesdernier who grew up in the Whitney Heights area of Jefferson Parish, graduated from Holy Cross high school.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University and his law degree from Tulane University. He is a self-employed lawyer and is the chief operating officer of River Marine Services.

He is a member of the House of Delegates to the Louisiana Bar Association and the Strive Center. Mike is also a member of the St. Angela Merci Catholic Parish's youth board, the men's association, and the Knights of Columbus chapter.

He is married and has three children.



### ***Rebecca DiBiase***

Rebecca Wolf DiBiase is Managing Director of Programs at The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, a national venture philanthropy dedicated to dramatically improving K-12 urban public education. She is an expert in school district accountability, performance management, and charter schools. She co-manages the foundation with a particular focus on investments in the strategic redesign of urban school districts through the implementation of performance accountability systems and the improvement of human resources operations. She also oversees the foundation's investments in the expansion of charter schools nationwide, most notably in Los Angeles, New York City, and New Orleans. She currently sits on the boards of two other high-performing charter school management organizations: Aspire Public Schools and the Alliance for College Ready Schools. Previously, Ms. DiBiase was director of accountability for the Charter School Office of the Massachusetts Department of Education. She also worked for the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research, where she focused on policy reforms in K-12 education and urban entrepreneurship. Earlier in her career, Ms. DiBiase taught middle school in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She has a bachelor's degree in international relations and Spanish from the University of Virginia, and a master's in public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Romy Drucker is Chief of Staff to the Deputy Chancellor for Portfolio Planning of the New York City Department of Education. Portfolio Planning manages the Department's strategy to increase high-quality PK-12 options across the five boroughs. Over the past few years, Romy has served in several capacities at the NYCDOE including as the Special Assistant to former Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein and as a deputy to the CEO of The Fund for Public Schools, which has raised nearly \$300 million in private funding for the Children First reforms since 2002. She graduated from Yale University.

### ***Romy Drucker***



## ***Josh Edelman***



Josh Edelman is the Deputy Chief of School Innovation (OSI) for the DC Public Schools. OSI oversees efforts to support and empower 58 DC public schools through the infusion of unique programmatic elements targeting student investment and achievement.

Previously, Mr. Edelman was the Executive Officer of the Office of New Schools (ONS) at Chicago Public Schools, which worked to recruit, develop, and support new schools and ultimately, hold them accountable to high performance measures. Mr. Edelman has also held various leadership positions at The SEED Foundation, first on the board of directors, then as principal of The SEED School, a public charter boarding school in Washington DC. Mr. Edelman is also a seasoned educator. After teaching at Milton Academy in Massachusetts, he taught social studies for seven years at Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton, California where he was also the founder and Executive Director for RISE (Realizing Intellect through Self-Empowerment), a youth development program targeted at African-American youth.

Mr. Edelman has a bachelor's degree in American history from Harvard University, a master's degree in education from Stanford University, and a second master's in educational administration with administrative credential, also from Stanford University. Mr. Edelman has received fellowships from the Mellon Foundation and Echoing Green. Mr. Edelman has served on the Boards of The SEED Foundation, Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, and was a MENTor for Real Men Read in Chicago.

## ***Monique Epps***

Monique Epps is director of iDesign Schools for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Epps previously served as co-founder and chief operating officer for urbanEd solutions, a non-profit education consulting organization which aims to form strategic partnerships with district, school and community leaders to help them develop leadership skills and organizational capacity. Epps also served as the manager of the New School Incubator for Oakland Unified School District. In this role, she lead design teams from Oakland's lowest performing elementary and middle schools through a year-long comprehensive, strategic planning process to create a new schools of choice. During her Residency, Epps served the district in the Office of the State Administrator. Prior to joining the Residency, she was the director of business operations for the National Basketball Development League. Epps started her career in the pharmaceutical industry at Abbott Laboratories as a financial analyst and held subsequent positions in accounting and new business development. Epps hold a bachelor's degree in accounting from Tuskegee University and a master's of business administration from Harvard Business School. Epps participated in The Broad Residency in Urban Education Cohort 2003, serving her two-year Residency in Oakland Unified School District.



### **David Esselman**



David Esselman is a partner at Great Gains, a firm that does strategy consulting for education organization focused on education technology and performance management. David has broad experience in making school districts more efficient and effective organizations, through planning, implementing and evaluating large-scale organizational change on both the operational and instructional sides. He has worked as an associate director at The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. There he specialized in superintendent leadership, hiring and training, strategic planning, school turnarounds and performance management. He has advised more than two dozen large urban school district superintendents and charter management organizations to overcome various systemic challenges including barriers to operational efficiency, deficits, and academic delivery. David has an MBA and a BA in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

### **Lea Ferguson**

Lea Ferguson is the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff at Baltimore City Public Schools. Prior to that she was a Program Assistant at the Open Society Institute in Baltimore. She has interned with the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System. She taught social studies at Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy as a Teach for America corps member. She has a MPP from Johns Hopkins University and a BA in Political Science from the University of Southern California.



### **Michael Goar**



Michael Goar has had over 20 Years of experience in both Higher Education and K-12 Sector. Currently, he is the Deputy Superintendent with the Boston Public Schools, providing leadership to 12 departments.

Recently, he led a cross functional team to reduce empty seats and improve school quality by closing nine school buildings and merging four schools.

Prior to Boston, Michael worked at Minneapolis Public Schools and Memphis Public Schools as Chief Operating Officer. In Memphis, he worked with a team of corporate partners to develop an operational accountability scorecard. He focused on effectiveness and efficiency and high quality service to schools.

### ***Betheny Gross***

Betheny Gross is a Senior Research Analyst at the University of Washington Bothell's Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE). She coordinates CRPE's quantitative research initiatives, including analysis of portfolio districts, charter schools, and emerging teacher evaluation policies. Dr. Gross has examined evidence and outcomes of district reform across the country, including Chicago, New York, New Orleans, Denver, and Broward County, and she has advised and consulted with districts leaders to formulate strategy and implementation. She is an expert at translating complex performance and accountability data for diverse users, from district leaders to parents, in cities including New York and Seattle. She is an authority on teacher quality and labor market issues, and she led the four-year, federally funded "Inside Charter Schools" initiative, which examined human resource and leadership practices in charter schools. Dr. Gross is co-author of an upcoming book on portfolio districts and the author of numerous research reports and articles. Her work has been published in several journals, including Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, American Education Research Journal, Journal of Education Finance, and Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Dr. Gross is a regular contributor to national education conferences and serves as a data advisor for Seattle's Road Map for Education Results, a community and schools collaboration to improve the performance of low-income and minority students in Seattle. Prior to working at CRPE she was a research analyst at the Consortium for Policy Research in Education at the University of Pennsylvania and a math instructor at the University of Wisconsin. She also leads the Center's "Reinventing the Wheel" Bike to Work efforts, with several eager riders and many more reluctant ones.



Dr. Gross holds a B.A. in Economics and Urban Studies from the University of Pittsburgh, an M.A. in Economics from the University of Iowa, and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### ***Leah Hamilton***



Leah Hamilton is a program officer in Urban Education at the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Prior to this position, she spent five years working on education reform at the New York City Department of Education. As Executive Director of The Office of Multiple Pathways to Graduation (OMPG), launched in September 2005, Ms. Hamilton worked to drive system innovation and reform by targeting graduation rate improvement for New York City's most at-risk youth. She oversaw the Multiple Pathways to Graduation strategy's aggressive growth from start-up through full implementation of a rigorous model of data-driven strategic planning, partnership capacity building and model portfolio development for a system of recuperative education representing more than \$50 million dollars in targeted investments. She has also served in the Department of Education as the Director of Community-Based Organization Networks and Interim Director of Student Support Services. Ms. Hamilton offers ten years of experience leading diverse teams in large-scale, long-term strategic planning and implementation in both the private and public sectors. She has a B.A. in philosophy from Williams College and an M.B.A. and M.S.W. from Columbia University.

### ***Jane Hannaway***

In addition to being Director of the Education Policy Center, Hannaway directs CALDER (National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education), a federally funded national research center. She previously served on the faculty of Columbia, Princeton, and Stanford Universities. Hannaway has authored or co-authored/edited seven books and numerous papers in education and management journals. She was twice elected vice-president of the American Education Research Association (AERA) and also served on the Executive Board. She also was elected to the Council of the Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) and the Executive Board of the Education Finance and Policy Association. She is on the editorial board of a number of journals, and was editor of Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, the main policy journal of the American Educational Research Association. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University.



### ***Sara Kaufman***

Sara Kaufman is the Senior Director of Planning in the Office of Portfolio Management at the New York City Department of Education. In this capacity, she oversees the portfolio planning efforts at elementary, middle and high schools across the five boroughs. Sara joined Portfolio in 2007 and has worked in several roles on the team over the past four years. Prior to joining the NYCDOE, Sara taught for three years at a high school in New Jersey. She graduated from Bowdoin College and has an MPA from the School of International Public Affairs at Columbia University.

### ***Tammie Knights***

Tammie Knights is the Coordinator of the Office of New Initiatives for Baltimore City Schools where among other things she leads the creation of new schools for the system as well as the workgroup to revise the Charter Schools Policy. Tammie served as a classroom teacher with Teach For America and was a finalist for Teacher of the Year in Baltimore. Tammie was a charter staff member for the Atlanta Teach For America region and then served as a Principal with New Leaders for New Schools. She received her degree in Journalism from the University of Minnesota and her Master's in Education Leadership from the University of Memphis.



### ***Michael Kooi***



Michael D. Kooi is the Executive Director of the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice with the Florida Department of Education. Before joining the Department, Mike was the executive director for the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools. Prior to the Consortium, Mike worked for the Florida House of Representatives as a Staff Director and as Policy Chief for the Education Council.

Mike has also served as assistant general counsel with the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Business and



Professional Regulation, and practiced law as a commercial litigation attorney in Jacksonville for several years prior to moving to the public sector.

Mike has been a longtime supporter of the provision of high quality educational options across the state of Florida and has been instrumental in effecting legislative and executive policy relating to Florida's extensive school choice programs. Mike continues to play an integral role in shaping the quantity and quality of educational options available to Florida's children through the Department of Education's oversight and technical assistance efforts. Mike was also a part of the leadership team that drafted the Department's successful Race to the Top application and is currently overseeing various initiatives to continue to improve Florida's existing charter schools as well as increasing the number of high quality charter schools that serve Florida's neediest children.

Mike earned his bachelor's degree from Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida, College of Law.

### ***Juwen Lam***

Juwen Lam currently heads the Assessment Team in the Research, Assessment and Data Department for the Oakland Unified School District. Her experience includes teaching in Oakland and Tianjin, China as well as serving as the district's former Demographer and School Portfolio Management Coordinator. She recently returned from a trip to King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia where she collaborated with members of the Education Ministry on assessment criteria and evaluation of teacher effectiveness.

### ***Etta Licciardi***



Dr. Etta Licciardi is the Vice President of the Jefferson Parish School Board. Dr. Etta Licciardi was raised in St. Bernard Parish where she graduated from Chalmette High School and pursued a career in education after earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Louisiana State University, a Masters degree from Loyola University and a Ph.D. degree from the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Licciardi joined the Jefferson Parish Public School System as a teacher in 1973 where she taught English. She rose through the ranks becoming Executive Director of Instruction in 1998. Dr. Etta Licciardi was elected to the JPPS School Board in August 2004. During her first term, Dr. Licciardi has pushed for a new elementary school on the West Bank and a wide variety of educational reforms, including Pre-K uniform shirts and Medicare coverage for veteran school employees.

Dr. Liccardi presently serves on the board of Phi Delta Kappa, Jeff 25, and Salem Lutheran Church.

### ***Phyllis Lockett***

Phyllis Lockett is the founding President and CEO of New Schools for Chicago, a venture philanthropy organization that invests in the growth of top-performing charter schools and next-generation school models. Originally established as The Renaissance Schools Fund by Chicago's business and civic leadership to launch 100 new public schools of exceptional quality in underserved communities, RSF raised \$50 million, started 70 new public schools, helped create 13 charter networks and tripled the number of charter schools in Chicago. In April 2011, Ms. Lockett announced a new \$60 million fund to open 50 additional top-performing charter schools in the next five years. The organization will also cultivate next-generation school models and drive a public information campaign so parents and communities can demand and obtain the best education for their children, as well as report on performance and advocate for accountability so only schools delivering results serve students.



Ms. Lockett is the former Executive Director of the Civic Consulting Alliance (CCA), a pro bono consulting firm for government agencies. She previously held marketing, sales and business development roles with Fortune 500 companies, including IBM, Kraft Foods and General Mills. Ms. Lockett earned a Master of Management degree from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University.

### ***John Luczak***



John M. Luczak is the Education Program Manager at the Chicago-based Joyce Foundation, which works to close achievement gaps through policy-oriented approaches to improving teacher quality, expanding access to high-quality early childhood education, and supporting charter schools and technological advances. Luczak has worked at the Joyce Foundation since 2004, with a brief leave of absence to work in the Illinois Governor's office on the state's 5<sup>th</sup>-place Phase I Race to the Top application. He helped develop the state's performance evaluation reform act and alternative certification legislation that were passed in early 2010, and serves on the Governor's P-20 Council and the state's Performance Evaluation Advisory Council.

Luczak worked from 1997 to 2000 for the U.S. Department of Education, first as a special assistant to the deputy secretary and then as director of policy for the National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He previously worked for SRI International on curriculum reform and teacher quality issues, for the Ravenswood City School District, and as a high school social studies teacher in Providence, RI, where he also started several mentoring programs while an undergraduate at Brown University. Luczak has a Ph.D. and M.A. from Stanford University in education administration and policy analysis.

### ***Bruno Manno***

Bruno V. Manno is a Trustee Emeritus of Thomas B. Fordham Institute and the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation and Senior Advisor to the Foundation's K-12 Education Reform Initiative at the Walton Family Foundation. He previously worked as the Senior Program Associate at the Annie E. Casey



Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to that, he served as the executive director of the Congressionally-appointed National Commission on the Costs of Higher Education and before that as the executive director of the National Commission on Philanthropy and Civic Renewal. He has also been a Senior Fellow with the Hudson Institute where he was a member of the four-person team involved in the Project on "Charter Schools in Action," a national study of charter schools conducted by the Hudson Institute. He is the co-author (along with Chester E. Finn, Jr. and Gregg Vanourek) of [Charter Schools in Action: Renewing Public Education](#), published by Princeton University Press.

Prior to his appointment with the Hudson Institute, Dr. Manno was Assistant Secretary of Education for Policy and Planning in the United States Department of Education. In that post, he was a principal advisor to both Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander and Deputy Secretary of Education David Kearns on policy matters as well as planning and evaluation services. He served in that capacity for almost a year prior to his confirmation.

Dr. Manno began working with then Secretary-Designate Alexander in February 1991. He directed the work of the team that created AMERICA 2000, President Bush's strategy to achieve the Nation's six education goals. He then served as Special Assistant to Secretary Alexander before becoming Assistant Secretary of Education.

Dr. Manno first came to the U.S. Department of Education in 1986 as Director of Planning for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI). He then held several senior policy and management positions in that office, including Chief of Staff and Acting Assistant Secretary.

A graduate of the University of Dayton (B.A., 1970; M.A., 1972), Dr. Manno received his Ph.D. from Boston College in 1975. From 1975 to 1978, he was a member of the faculty at the University of Dayton (Ohio). He then undertook post-doctoral studies for one year, which included appointments as Visiting Senior Lecturer at Catholic Teachers College in Sydney, Australia (now The Catholic University of Australia), Visiting Research Associate at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, and Visiting Lecturer at the Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership at the University of San Francisco. From 1979 to 1986, Dr. Manno was Director of Research, Data Bank, and In-service Programs for the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) in Washington, D.C.

He is the author of over 150 articles and nearly 40 book reviews, co-editor of a book, co-author of two major reports on education supported by the Ford Foundation and published by NCEA. He also compiled annual statistical reports on Catholic schools for six of his nearly seven years with NCEA.

### ***James Meza, Jr.***



Dr. James Meza is currently Acting Superintendent of the Jefferson Parish Public School System (JPPSS). Dr. Meza served as Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of New Orleans for more than 11 years. During his 20-year tenure at UNO, he secured more than \$50 million to study education reform in serving children and families in the New Orleans metropolitan area and nationwide. The LSU System has awarded Meza the title Dean Emeritus.

Dean Meza is a leader in Louisiana's charter school reform movement. He is recognized nationally for enhancing charter schools in Louisiana and

launching the state's first Type 5 charter school. His work redefined the role of universities by assuming responsibility for the academic outcomes of kindergarten through twelfth grade students in public schools. His efforts were recognized by City Business by presenting him "innovator of the year" award.

Dr. Meza has served as the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the chief policy-making body for PK-12 education in Louisiana. He served as the Interim State Superintendent of Education for the State of Louisiana and restructured the Louisiana Department of Education as the State Superintendent changed from an elected position to a position appointed by BESE. During his time at BESE he also spearheaded the restructure of Louisiana's post-secondary Vocational Education System.

At the national level, Dr. Meza was the founding chair of the National Policy Board for the Accelerated Schools founded at Stanford University California. He has conducted research nationally on comprehensive school reform in urban settings. He was a major consultant to the Memphis City School District as Memphis launched its citywide Comprehensive Educational Reform Initiative. The results of Dr. Meza's work in schools have been presented at both national and international meetings. This experience became the major theme of more than 40 refereed journal articles and book chapters. Dr. Meza has conducted workshops and lectures on educational reform both at the state and national level.

### ***Shannon Murtagh***

Shannon Murtagh is a Research Coordinator at the Center on Reinventing Public Education working on the Portfolio School Districts project and planning the Portfolio School District Network meeting. She was a Regional Organizer for the Obama campaign, organizing volunteers in the 46<sup>th</sup> LD in Seattle. She has interned with Stand for Children WA as a Seattle Policy Research Intern. Shannon has a B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Yale University and a MPA from the University of Washington.



### ***Elizabeth Nelson***



Elizabeth Nelson is a Research Coordinator at the Center on Reinventing Public Education, working on both the National Charter School Research Project and the Portfolio School Districts Project. Prior to joining CRPE, Elizabeth was in the Office of Portfolio Planning at the New York City Department of Education, where she helped open new schools. She has also worked at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C. Elizabeth holds a B.A. in Political Science from Rhodes College and is a MPA candidate at the University of Washington.

### ***Monyka Price***

Monyka S. Price joined the Jackson Administration in October 2007 as the Chief of Education. Her responsibilities include advancing Mayor Frank G. Jackson's vision of a regional approach to education and serving as the liaison between the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. In her capacity as the liaison, Price can be described as a catalyst for positive change and an advocate for total youth development.



Price's work advances the Jackson Administration's efforts to connect Cleveland residents with high quality educational opportunities from pre-K to college. She manages the Mayor Frank G. Jackson Scholarship Program, serves on the Mayor's Youth Development Committee and is a key organizer of Mayor Jackson's annual citywide Youth Summit. In addition, she is working to advance education to serve both the academic and social needs of youth; and, ensure they have an educational foundation that emphasizes global awareness, financial literacy, citizenship, wellness, and lifelong learning.

She brings a unique combination of both education and business expertise to the Jackson Administration. Before assuming the role as Chief of Education, Price served as the Principal of Citizens' Academy, a free, public, Kindergarten through fifth grade charter school, with approximately 400 students. Citizens' Academy is recognized as an exemplary Ohio School of Promise. Additionally, Price taught in Cleveland elementary schools. Prior to her career as an educator, Price built a successful career in sales and marketing.

Price is a graduate of Ursuline College where she earned two Master's degrees in Education-Early Childhood and Education Administration. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Kent State University. She serves as a board member for Positive Education Program, Design Lab Science Technology Engineering and Math, and John Hay Cleveland School of Science and Medicine in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

### ***Paymon Rouhanifard***

Paymon Rouhanifard is the Executive Director of the Office of Portfolio Management at the New York City Department of Education. Previously he served as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Chancellor for Talent, Labor, and Innovation. Before joining the NYCDOE, Paymon worked in the financial sector and as 6th grade teacher in West Harlem. Paymon graduated from the University of North Carolina.

### ***Ann Waterman Roy***

Ann Waterman Roy currently serves as the director of capital and strategic planning for Boston Public Schools. She previously served as the executive director for Excel Academy Charter School, a high-performing charter middle school in East Boston, Mass. As executive director, she oversaw all functions of the school and managed the principal and administrative team. During her Residency, Roy served as the special assistant to the chief operating officer of Boston Public Schools. Prior to joining the Residency, Roy served as program director for the Illinois Network of Charter Schools, where she developed and managed a variety of support programs for public charter schools in Illinois.



Previously, she spent several years as a strategy consultant for L.E.K. Consulting in Boston and Munich, Germany. She has also worked in the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians, where she coordinated a new initiative to increase free and low-cost adult English classes in Boston. Roy holds a bachelor's degree in social studies from Harvard University and a master's degree in business administration from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. Roy participated in The Broad Residency in Urban Education Cohort 2006, serving her two-year Residency in Boston Public Schools.

### ***Adam Schaefer***



Adam Schaefer is a third-year law student at Georgetown University. After graduating from Stanford in 2007, he worked as Director of Operations for the San Jose-based CMO Rocketship Education. This summer, he is a legal intern with the Democratic Staff on the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce, focusing on education policy and the re-authorization of ESEA.

### ***Lori Shorr***

Lori Shorr is the Chief Education office for the City of Philadelphia. Dr. Shorr has served as Mayor Nutter's Chief Education Officer since January 2008. Prior to joining the City of Philadelphia, Dr. Shorr served as Vice President of Policy and Planning at Philadelphia Youth Network, a nationally-recognized non-profit which manages 24 million dollars of investments from government, industry and the foundation's community to serve over 10,000 young people in Philadelphia. In this role she designed programs and secured funding from both public and private sources for large-scale initiatives focused on systemic cross-agency efforts to improve academic outcomes for disengaged urban youth, as well as career and technical education reform.



Dr. Shorr has also served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education at the Pennsylvania Department of Education where she reviewed and analyzed the Department's K-16 initiatives and priorities to ensure they met the educational needs of students, communities and the Commonwealth, providing recommendations to the Secretary where necessary. She also created Governor Rendell's Commission on College and Career Success and served on the Governor's Job Ready Budget Task Force.

Dr. Shorr received a B.A. from Pennsylvania State University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. More information on Mayor Nutter's Office of Education can be found here: <http://www.phila.gov/residents/education>.

### ***Sabrina Skinner Lehmann***



Sabrina Skinner Lehmann develops and manages a portfolio of investments in urban school district redesign, public charter school expansion, and other national education reform organizations at the Broad Foundation. She most recently served as director of Zoom! Data Source, the California Charter Schools Association's student achievement data program. Skinner Lehmann is a graduate

of The Broad Residency, completing the two-year residency and one additional year at the New York City Department of Education, where she held the positions of chief of staff in the office of new schools, director of charter school development and senior director of accountability and strategy. Prior to that, Skinner Lehmann worked for Bay Area School Reform Collaborative (now Pivot Learning Centers) as research project manager. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Colorado College, a master's degree in education policy from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

### ***Sam Sperry***

Sam R. Sperry is a senior communications advisor at the Center on Reinventing Public Education. His career in journalism, government, and business includes service as Policy Director for former Washington State Governor Gary Locke, as a senior editor at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and as a communications consultant for major clients in both government and private business. He taught Political Science as an adjunct professor at Seattle University and holds an M.S. in Public Affairs from the University of Oregon.



### ***Scott Thompson***



Scott Thompson is Director of Teacher Effectiveness Strategy for the District of Columbia Public Schools. In this role, Scott manages DCPS's strategic human capital work in areas including teacher evaluation design, teacher recognition and retention, and teacher effectiveness research. Scott previously served with DCPS as Manager of IMPACT Design and Assistant Director of the Master Educator Program, helping to manage the first-year implementation of IMPACT, DCPS's teacher evaluation system, and leading the work to redesign the system for its second and third years. Scott taught middle and high school history in New York City. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University and also studied at Oxford University as a Rhodes

Scholar, where he received a Masters in Social Policy.

### ***Stephanie Waller***

Stephanie Waller is the Executive Assistant to the Chief in the Office of Human Capital at DC Public Schools. In this capacity, Stephanie manages logistical operations related to scheduling, procurement, and staffing for the Office of Human Capital. A 2010 graduate of Duke University with a bachelor's degree in Public Policy Studies, Stephanie joined DCPS in August of 2010 as a Program Assistant for IMPACT Operations, where she assisted with supporting school staff and administrators assessed under DCPS' innovative performance management system, IMPACT. Though just beginning her career, Stephanie is excited to continue learning about the exciting work districts across the country are doing in education reform.

### ***Alyssa Whitehead-Bust***



Alyssa Whitehead-Bust serves as the Chief of Innovation and Reform for Denver Public Schools. In that role, Alyssa oversees the Office of School Reform and Innovation (OSRI) and serves on the Superintendent's senior cabinet. In addition to overseeing a portfolio of autonomous schools, OSRI works to drive transformational change in district policy and procedures in order to improve student outcomes for all students served by Denver Public Schools. Specifically, OSRI supports and provides performance management for the district's 32 charter schools (SY 2011) and 19 innovation schools (SY 2011); oversees the new schools process; provides leadership for the Denver district-charter compact; and supports systemic change initiatives.

Prior to joining DPS, Alyssa spent 15 years in other facets of education reform both at the policy and the practice level. For 10 years, Alyssa provided consulting services to school districts, educationally-focused not-for-profits, schools, and state agencies. Most recently, she facilitated the work of the Colorado State Council for Educator Effectiveness (SCEE) and supported SCEE's work crafting recommendations for the implementation of Colorado's precedent-setting teacher effectiveness legislation, SB191. In her consulting career, Alyssa has focused on leadership development, educational design, and strategic planning. She has supported the start-up of more than 15 charter schools across the country, and served for 5 years as the founding principal of Denver-based Highline Academy Charter School. Founded in 2004, Highline has become one of the district's and state's top performing K-8 schools, earning accolades such as a Governor's Distinction, a Commissioner's Choice Award, and a "top of town" designation from 5280 who rated Highline as one of the top schools in the Denver-Boulder region.

Alyssa's commitment to education reform is grounded in a passion for spurring systemic change that promotes equity and achievement for all students. All of her work is guided by a commitment to building inclusive excellence both within schools and across the educational system. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the Building Excellent Schools fellowship program, Alyssa continues to be involved in higher education through a position as a cohort instructor in the University of Denver's Education Leadership for Successful Schools (ELSS) principal preparation program. She is the mother of three daughter and proud to be a parent of students successfully being served by DPS autonomous schools.

### ***Helen Williams***

Helen Williams oversees the Cleveland Foundation's grantmaking in all areas of education. She has more than 25 years of experience in executive management and consulting in nonprofit, public, and corporate organizations, specializing in strategic planning and leadership development. Helen is the former associate director of the Cleveland Initiative for Education. Under former Ohio Gov. Richard F. Celeste, Helen directed the State of Ohio's regional office in Cleveland.

She holds a doctorate in organizational behavior from Case Western Reserve University.





***Michael Wong***

Michael Wong is a Legislative Assistant to Louisiana Sen. David Vitter. Mr. Wong's expertise includes health care, education, labor, and small business issues . Prior to his policy experience with Sen. Vitter, Mr. Wong was an intern with Bobby Jindal in the US House of Representatives. He attended Louisiana State University and received a BA in Political Communication.