

## Aspen Institute-NewSchools Fellows

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### *Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education*

#### **Cami Anderson**

##### **Senior Superintendent for District 79, New York City Department of Education**



Cami Anderson is the Superintendent of Alternative High Schools and Programs for the New York City Department of Education (District 79) – a unique citywide agency serving 20,000 young people and 60,000 adults. All of the students in District 79 are facing significant obstacles to completing their high school diploma – parenthood, financial constraints, incarceration, immigration, drug addiction, and/or previous school failure. In less than 2 years, Cami has already launched wide-scale and bold changes that one newspaper called “revolutionary.”

Cami began her education career as a theatre, Montessori, and public school teacher. She received a national teacher of the year award, founded a district-wide committee on parent and community involvement, received grants to create conflict resolution, literacy, diversity, and theater programs, and facilitated professional development workshops for parents and teachers.

Cami went on to serve as Executive Director of Teach For America New York at a critical time in its growth. She founded a board of business and education leaders, represented the organization at policy forums, increased funding by over 300%, and launched Teach For America Week (an event which brings influential people from all walks of life to teach for a day). She managed the professional development and evaluation of more than 500 teachers in over 90 schools. She also sat on the national policy team and helped the organization more than double in size.

As Chief Program Officer for New Leaders for New Schools (a national aspiring principal initiative), Cami managed the design and implementation of recruiting, admissions, curriculum, coaching, new principal support, and evaluation – in addition to sitting on the three-person executive team. As a business, the organization was recognized as one of the most innovative and effective non-profits in the country by *Fast Company* magazine and Harvard Business School. And, as a training program, it was recognized by *Education Week*, WestEd, the US Department of Education, numerous school districts, and The Teaching Commission as one of the most effective principal preparation programs in the country.

She has also served as a management consultant to national and international non-profits and political organizations on strategy, evaluation, diversity, and organizational development. She was the Director of Policy and Strategy on Cory Booker's mayoral campaign.

Cami graduated with a bachelor's degree in Education and Anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley and a master's degree in Public Policy and Education from Harvard.

#### **Jemina Bernard**

##### **Executive Director – New York, Teach For America**



Born and raised in NYC, Jemina R. Bernard worked as an Associate Program Officer at the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation (UMEZDC) after graduating from Yale University with a B.A. in Political Science. While at UMEZDC, Jemina assisted in the creation of a \$25MM investment strategy for uptown cultural organizations, developed and managed a \$1.5MM Technical Assistance Program to help clients write business plans and managed a \$2.6MM portfolio of capital improvement and technology

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grants. After two years at UMEZDC, Jemina received an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School where she was President of the Black Business Students Association and a member of Columbia Women in Business, the Hispanic Business Association and the Management Consulting Association. Upon graduating, Jemina joined Deloitte Consulting where, as a Senior Consultant, she led the training development and communications planning activities as part of a year-long international assignment with the UK's Child Support Agency and managed several activities for the global leadership of the firm's Organization Performance Practice. In 2003, Jemina returned to NYC's public sector and for the last four years served as a member of the central leadership team at the New York City Department of Education and as a close advisor to Chancellor Joel Klein and Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott. In her roles as Executive Director of the Office of Parent Engagement and then as the Chief Operating Officer of the Office of New Schools, she managed the launch of 34 Community & Citywide Education Councils; oversaw 1,300+ parent support staff; and managed a cross-functional team that closed six poor-performing high schools and replaced them with new schools.

Jemina was recently appointed as the new Executive Director of Teach For America in New York City which supports 1,000 corps members serving over 60,000 students in more than 300 public schools in the Bronx, Washington Heights, Harlem, the Lower East Side, and Brooklyn. The NYC region is Teach For America's largest, accounting for about 20 percent of all corps members nationwide and playing a key strategic, programmatic and financial role in the broader organization's effort to ensure educational opportunity for all students. In addition to her full-time responsibilities at Teach For America, Jemina chairs the board for GEMS ("Girls Educational & Mentoring Services") where she volunteers for the only organization in New York State whose sole mission is to provide prevention, education, job training and transitional living services to young girls and women between the ages of 12-21 who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

### **Becca Bracy Knight**

#### **Managing Director, The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems**



Becca Bracy Knight currently serves as Managing Director of The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising student achievement by recruiting, training and supporting executive leadership talent from across America to become the next generation of urban school system leaders. Previously, Ms. Bracy Knight served as a Director at The Broad Foundation, and was responsible for managing numerous grants and two of the Foundation's flagship initiatives: The Broad Prize for Urban Education and The Broad Superintendents Academy. Earlier in her career, she served as Regional Director of K-12 Programs for Kaplan Learning Services, Family Services Director for the Salvation Army's South Central Los Angeles Youth Project, and as a Healthy Start Coordinator in San Francisco. Ms. Bracy Knight also worked in Oakland on major school reform initiatives through Partners in

School Innovation. She has held leadership positions in the AmeriCorps National Service Program and its precursor, the Summer of Service. Ms. Bracy Knight received her B.A. from Stanford University.

### **Tim Daly**

#### **President, The New Teacher Project**



As President, Timothy Daly manages TNTP's efforts to engage the wider educational community in the organization's work to close the achievement gap by increasing teacher quality. Prior to his appointment as President in 2007, Tim served as Vice President for Policy and Research, launching partnerships with large urban districts to align district policies and processes to support student achievement. The policy team has produced a number of influential analyses focused on districts such as Portland, Chicago, and Milwaukee. Tim has been with TNTP since 2001 and previously served as TNTP's managing partner for multiple contracts including the NYC Teaching Fellows program (NYCTF), the largest of The New Teacher Project's alternate route to certification programs, with approximately 8,000 active teachers in over 1,000 schools across New York City.

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Tim began his career in education as a Teach For America corps member at Northeast Middle School in Baltimore. He holds a BA in American Studies from Northwestern University and a MA in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University.

**Jean Desravines**  
**Chief Cities Officer, New Leaders for New Schools**



Jean Desravines serves as the Chief Officer for Cities and Policy for New Leaders for New Schools. New Leaders for New Schools is a national non-profit that ensures high academic achievement for every student by attracting and preparing outstanding leaders and supporting the performance of the urban public schools they lead. Before joining New Leaders for New Schools, he served as Senior Counselor to the Chancellor of New York City. In that capacity, he developed and executed a community relations strategy to engage and communicate with various stakeholders. Jean has had over 15 years of experience working with parents and communities on education issues and community development with a primary focus on service delivery to the disadvantaged in underserved communities. At the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE), Jean also served as the Executive Director for the Office of Parent and Community Engagement (OPCE), Chief of Staff to the Senior Counselor for Education Policy, and the Director for Community Relations. As the Executive Director of OPCE, he was responsible for conceiving, developing, and implementing the plan to oversee the hiring and training of over 1,200 Parent Coordinators, a key element of Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Joel Klein's Children First reforms. In his capacity as Chief of Staff to the Senior Counselor for Education Policy, he assisted in developing a secondary reform plan and worked with the Office of Youth Development to identify intervention strategies and best practices to re-engage under-credited high school students. As the Director for Community Relations, he oversaw the delivery of over \$2 million in grants to community-based organizations that provided after-school programming to disadvantaged youth in underserved communities.

Prior to his positions at the Department of Education, Jean served as the Director of Organizational Development and Community Programming for the Faith Center for Community Development, Inc. The Faith Center for Community Development, Inc., is a non-profit that provides technical assistance, grants and loans to faith-based non-profits involved in real estate and community development.

Jean has a degree in History from St. Francis College and an M.P.A in Management from New York University (NYU). At NYU, he was the recipient of the Dean's Scholar—the school's most prestigious scholarship.

**Maria Goodloe-Johnson**  
**Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools**



Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson joined Seattle Public Schools as Superintendent in July of 2007. She directs all learning, teaching and operational activities for more than 45,000 students and 7,900 staff members. She manages an operating budget of \$500 million and a capital budget of \$180 million. Since joining Seattle, Dr. Goodloe-Johnson has led development of a strategic plan for Seattle Public Schools. The plan, "Excellence for All," sets bold but achievable goals for improvement in student academic achievement. The framework of the plan will be considered by the School Board in June 2008, and more detailed strategies for implementation will be developed over the summer.

Dr. Goodloe-Johnson is the former Superintendent of Charleston County School District in South Carolina, where she led a school system with 43,000 students, 5,500 employees and a \$308 million budget. She served the students of Corpus Christi Independent School District in Texas as assistant superintendent, and she was the director of secondary instruction, a high school principal, and an assistant principal at St. Vrain Valley School District in Colorado. She began her career as a high school special education teacher and coach.

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Dr. Goodloe-Johnson's professional and community affiliations include service on a variety of non-profit boards advancing public education and supporting families and children. She currently serves on the Broad Advisory Board. Prior service includes the National Staff Development Board of Trustees, National High School Alliance, National Board for Middle Grades Reform, National Conference for Community and Justice, and American Heart Association.

Dr. Goodloe-Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln; a Master of Arts in Educationally Handicapped K-12 from the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley, and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration, Supervision, Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Colorado at Denver. Dr. Goodloe-Johnson is a 2003 graduate of the prestigious Broad Superintendent's Academy.

### **Kristin Groos Richmond**

#### **Chief Executive Officer, Revolution Foods**



Kristin Groos Richmond is the co-founder and CEO of Revolution Foods, a company focused on transforming school lunch by providing healthy, fresh, delicious meals and nutrition education to all students. Revolution Foods is improving the health profiles of school communities who serve students with the least amount of access to healthy choices, where oftentimes school breakfast, lunch and snack are the only reliable meals of the day. The communities served by Revolution Foods are also often battling the highest rates of obesity and related disease. Through serving students the highest quality balanced meals and teaching them to engage in healthier decisions, school partners have reported higher attention levels in class, less disciplinary problems, an increased interest in healthy food, and weight loss amongst their students. Revolution Foods has established key strategic partnerships with healthy food suppliers including Whole Foods Market, Organic Valley, Niman Ranch, and local farmers in order to deliver on its promise of all natural, fresh meals for students. Revolution Foods has served over 2 million meals since inception and today works with over 100 education programs in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles serving close to 25,000 students. These programs include K-12 charter schools, school districts, preschool Head Start programs and after school programs. The company has raised over \$11 million to improve health in schools and has plans to expand nationally.

Prior to founding Revolution Foods, Kristin's career spanned from education reform to corporate finance. She began her career on Wall Street as an investment banker at Citigroup. After spending four years in corporate finance, Kristin moved to Nairobi to co-found the Kenya Community Center for Learning (KCCL), one of the first special education schools in East Africa. Kristin led fundraising and development, operations and finance for KCCL and also taught physical education, geography and life skills. She remains an active board member of KCCL. Kristin also served as a Vice President at RISE, a nonprofit dedicated to recruiting and retaining quality teachers in public schools. While at RISE, Kristin helped schools serving low income students implement strategies to locate, attract and retain the best and brightest teachers. She also played a large role in expanding the organization from the San Francisco Bay Area to Chicago and Los Angeles. Kristin is an Education Pioneers Fellow and has a BS from Boston College and an MBA from UC Berkeley where she serves on the Board of the Global Social Venture Competition.

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**Marqueece Harris-Dawson**  
**Executive Director, Community Coalition**



Marqueece has been a dedicated activist for more than twenty years. He completed his Bachelor's degree at Morehouse College and while there, cut his activist teeth on several important community issues including South African Apartheid, police brutality and youth and family services.

Currently, he is the Executive Director of Community Coalition, a community-based organization in South Los Angeles. Marqueece is the organization's second Executive Director, following its founder, current California State Assembly Member Karen Bass. The organization is best known for leading grassroots campaigns to close over 200 liquor stores and other nuisance businesses in South Los Angeles and winning the struggle to obtain College Prep courses for all LAUSD high school students.

For five years, Marqueece ran the Community Coalition youth project, South Central Youth Empowered thru Action, as Program Director. During that time, he led a campaign to expose the poor learning conditions at South Los Angeles High Schools. As a result of Marqueece's focused leadership and the students' tenacity, they won \$153 million in repairs for their schools.

In addition to his work at Community Coalition, Marqueece has extensive experience in electoral politics and is a key participant in the Progressive Movement in Los Angeles. Marqueece was a delegate to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism (2001, Durban, South Africa) and the World Festival of Students and Youth (1997, Havana, Cuba) and serves on a myriad of boards, committees and organization affiliations. Recently, Marqueece received a certificate in nonprofit management from Stanford's Graduate School of Business. Marqueece resides in Los Angeles with his wife Karrie.

**Paul Herdman**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer, Rodel Foundation of Delaware**



Since becoming the President and CEO of the Rodel Foundation of Delaware in 2004, Paul has been a leader in creating *Vision 2015*, a nationally-recognized plan to create a world-class education system in Delaware. The Foundation also serves to catalyze parent and teacher leaders as well as incubate innovative, new schools.

Prior to joining the foundation in 2004, Paul was a senior manager at New American Schools, a national nonprofit, where he provided support to states, districts, and charter schools. He also conducted research for organizations such as the Brookings Institution, RAND, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and The World Bank.

Paul began his career in the 1980s as an educator working in various U.S. cities, South Africa, and Australia, serving students from kindergarten through high school. He co-founded a highly successful school-within-a-school based on an Outward Bound model in one of the largest high schools in New York City. His work served as a beta site for Expeditionary Learning, a comprehensive school reform model that is now in 140 schools across the United States. In the 1990s, Paul served in the Secretary of Education's office for two governors in Massachusetts, a state that is now the nation's top performer, during the wholesale redesign of the state's policies on standards, choice and finance.

Paul received his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Delaware and his master's degree and doctorate in education administration and planning from Harvard University. He lives in Wilmington, Delaware with his wife Dana and their three children.

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## John King

### Senior Deputy Commissioner for P-12 Education, New York State Department Of Education



Dr. John B. King, Jr. was recently appointed the Senior Deputy Commissioner for P-12 Education at the New York State Education Department. He brings to this role extensive experience leading urban public schools that are closing the achievement gap and preparing students to enter, succeed in, and graduate from college.

Most recently, Dr. King served as a Managing Director with Uncommon Schools, a non-profit charter management organization that operates some of the highest performing urban public schools in New York and New Jersey. Prior to joining Uncommon Schools, Dr. King was a Co-Founder and Co-Director for Curriculum & Instruction of Roxbury Preparatory Charter School. Under his leadership, Roxbury Prep's students attained the highest state exam scores of any urban middle school in Massachusetts, closed the racial achievement gap, and outperformed students from not only the Boston district schools but also the city's affluent suburbs. Before co-founding Roxbury Prep, Dr. King taught high school history at City on a Hill Charter School in Boston and Saint John's School in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Dr. King earned a B.A. in Government from Harvard University, an M.A. in the Teaching of Social Studies from Teachers College, Columbia University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, and an Ed.D. in Educational Administrative Practice from Teachers College, Columbia University. In addition, Dr. King has served on the board of New Leaders for New Schools and is a 2008 Aspen Institute-New Schools Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Fellow.

## Shivam Mallick Shah

### Director of Special Initiatives, Department of Education, Office of Innovation & Improvement



Shivam Mallick Shah works at the Department of Education's Office of Innovation as the Director of Special Initiatives. Previously she served as a Senior Program Officer in the Education division of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For nearly five years, she focused on managing the Foundation's education investments and grantmaking activities in the northeastern United States with the goal of helping every child graduate from high school ready for college, work and citizenship. Her efforts leading the \$150+ million New York City schools investment portfolio – where graduation rates in foundation funded

schools have more than doubled in five years to more than 70 percent in schools that serve largely low income and minority students – have become a national example that success is possible. Shivam also led the education team's work in knowledge management and internal efforts to better align the foundation's investments in high school education with its newly launched efforts to expand access to post-secondary education credentials for low-income, minority young adults. She has served on the team's leadership and investment committees.

Prior to joining the foundation, Shivam was an Associate Partner at NewSchools Venture Fund where she led efforts to establish the east coast presence for the fund. In this role, she led diligence and investment efforts in a variety of entrepreneurial education ventures that aim to help low income minority students achieve their potential. With NewSchools, Shivam also worked directly with Chancellor Joel Klein to shape and implement the comprehensive Children First reform effort in New York City public schools.

Shivam previously worked in the corporate sector as a management consultant in the New York office of McKinsey & Company. In that role, she led client engagements on strategy, management and operational problem-solving with fortune 500 companies in the financial services, retail, and media sectors. She also worked at the investment bank Bear Stearns, and for the for-profit school management company, Edison Schools.

Shivam has had a long-standing commitment to public service, and has worked at the White House office of Women's Initiatives, with the nonprofit real estate developer The Community Builders, and with Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell's

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policy office. In 1995, she co-founded and served as treasurer for Project IMPACT for South Asian Americans — a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the civic awareness and community leadership of South Asian Americans. In 2003 she became a founding board member and treasurer for the EL Haynes Public Charter School in Washington DC – one of only two charter schools in Washington DC to receive the highest rating in its annual review. She also served on the board of New Leaders for New Schools.

Shivam received a bachelor's degree in Economics and Government from Georgetown University, studied at the London School of Economics, and earned her MBA from Harvard Business School, where she was co-president of the Social Enterprise Club. She is a fellow at the Aspen Institute – NewSchools Education Entrepreneurs program. She lives in Seattle, WA with her husband, Dr. Raj Shah, and their two young children, Sajan and Amna.

### **Jordan Meranus, Partner, NewSchools Venture Fund**



Jordan Meranus is a Partner in the Newschools Venture Fund East Coast office where he focuses on investment strategy and management assistance for the firm's portfolio ventures. He serves on the board of directors of Acelero Learning, Chicago International Charter School, Civic Builders, DC Prep, Friendship Public Charter Schools and Mastery Charter Schools.

Jordan brings a wealth of experience in the education, nonprofit and private sectors. Prior to joining NewSchools, Jordan was a Managing Director at Imagitas, a company that partners with government agencies to launch revenue-generating businesses that demonstrate that entrepreneurial ventures can help the public sector better serve citizens. At Imagitas, Jordan helped launch and lead MoversGuide Online, a collaborative e-government business with the U.S. Postal Service.

Jordan is also a co-founder of Jumpstart, a nonprofit organization built on a simple idea: that providing intensive early literacy services to low-income children is a great investment in ensuring that children in underserved communities enter school prepared to succeed. As a co-founder, Jordan helped develop Jumpstart's core service model, put in place the education program and evaluation process, and developed many of the original educational partnerships that endure today. Jumpstart currently operates in over 50 cities nationwide, working with more than 13,000 children in Head Start.

Jordan serves on the Board of Trustees for the Excel Academy Charter School in East Boston, the Board of Directors for Mass2020, and the Board of Advisors for DukeEngage, an effort by Duke University to significantly increase the number of students engaged in public service. Jordan received his bachelor's degree in history from Duke University and earned a master's degree in both Education and Public Administration from Harvard. Jordan lives outside of Boston with his wife Evonne, two daughters, and a son.

### **Rebeca Nieves Huffman Vice President, The Fund for Authorizing Excellence, National Association of Charter Schools Authorizers (NACSA)**



Rebeca Nieves Huffman is NACSA's School Portfolio Network Project Manager, where she oversees the development and implementation of NACSA's national School Portfolio Network initiative.

Huffman recently served for 5 years as President and CEO of the Washington D.C. based Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options (Hispanic CREO). Prior to serving as Hispanic CREO's President and CEO, Huffman was the Associate Director of Recruitment and Selection for the KIPP Foundation. At KIPP, Rebecca worked to identify and select outstanding educators who would then participate in the KIPP School Leadership Program, a year-long fellowship which trains educators in starting and running their own KIPP-like schools. Huffman also served two years as a corps member and Project Leader at City Year, an AmeriCorps program.

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Huffman serves on several boards, including the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (Washington D.C.), City Year Inc. (Boston, MA), Alliance for School Choice (Phoenix, AZ), and Perspectives Charter Schools (Chicago, IL). She received her Bachelor's degree in marketing and public relations from Columbia College in Chicago, Illinois.

### **Mike Piscal**

#### **Chief Executive Officer, Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF)**



In 1994, Mike Piscal founded the Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF). To date, ICEF has opened nine public charter schools in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles, currently serving 2,000 students. His first three schools (View Park Prep Elementary, Middle and High Schools) are so successful that they have a waiting list of over 6,000 students and have attracted prominent attention in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and “Good Morning America.”

ICEF's View Park Prep schools have closed the achievement gap between African-American and white students in three short years. In 2005, View Park Prep HS had the highest test scores in California for African-American students. View Park Prep is 98 percent African-American. View Park Prep also won the City Championships for Boys & Girls Basketball. More importantly, View Park Prep graduated its first class in June with 100 percent of its graduates prepared to attend a four-year university.

Mike graduated in 1988 from Wake Forest University—where he played a year of Division I football and during his junior year played some rugby in London, England, for the Saracens. In 1989, he moved to Los Angeles to teach English at the Harvard School (later the Harvard-Westlake School). Shortly after the civil unrest in 1992, Mike left his position at Harvard-Westlake to found the Inner City Education Foundation.

In September of 1996, Mike opened the View Park Prep After School program, which quickly grew to 135 students. In September of 1999, Mike founded the View Park Prep where he served as Principal for its first three years. He then founded the View Park Prep Middle in 2001 and the View Park Prep High in 2003. In 2005, Wake Forest granted him an honorary doctorate in the humanities. Last summer, the *Wall Street Journal* featured Mike in an opinion piece, noting that he had used his credit cards to finance the start-up of his first school and that “Mr. Piscal, whose school has a waiting list of 5,000, compares View Park to a restaurant where ‘every night there's a line outside to get in.’ And little wonder. View Park High School's test scores rank eighth out of the 118 high schools in the L.A. Unified School District.”

### **Victor Reinoso**

#### **Deputy Mayor of Public Education, City of Washington, D.C.**



As Deputy Mayor for Education of the District of Columbia, Victor is responsible for overseeing Mayor Fenty's efforts to reform public education. Prior to joining the Mayor, Victor was Chief Operating Officer of the Federal City Council, a nonpartisan business organization dedicated to economic and community development in Washington.

An entrepreneur at heart, Victor has served as board member, founder, staff, and advisor to a number of start-ups in the nonprofit and private sectors, including an internet radio broadcaster, a theatre company, a strategic management consulting firm, two charter schools, and a civil rights organization. As a consultant, Victor has managed large-scale strategic planning projects, overseen change projects in bureaucratic organizations and helped launch new ventures.

Victor has a bachelor's from Georgetown University and an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. The son of Peruvian immigrants, Victor is bilingual in Spanish and English. The highest ranking Latino in DC government,

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Victor served previously as an elected School Board member. He is a film buff, avid reader and runner and lives in Washington with his wife, son, and daughter.

**Diane Robinson**  
**President, Urban Teacher Residency United**



Diane, UTRU's President, has 15 years of experience in the education and non-profit sectors. Diane comes to UTRU after most recently working as the National Director of Recruitment & Selection for the KIPP Foundation, where she led her team over a two-year period to recruit and select the largest and most diverse classes of school leaders in the history of the KIPP School Leadership Program. Prior to joining the KIPP Foundation, Diane worked for almost a decade in regional and national leadership roles on the Teach For America staff to help build and expand the organization across the country. During her tenure with Teach For America, Diane fundraised close to \$10 million from public and private sectors, started the Connecticut, Hawaii and Memphis regions and worked as Vice President of Regional Operations to manage all aspects of twenty-two regional offices of the organization. Diane began her career in education as a teacher through the Teach For America program. She taught first grade classes for four years and has a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Vassar College and a Master of Arts in Education from California State University at Dominguez Hills. Diane is currently an advisory board member for Partners for Developing Futures and is an Aspen Institute-New Schools Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Fellow.

**Andy Rotherham**  
**Co-Founder and Publisher, Education Sector**



Andrew J. Rotherham is co-founder and publisher of Education Sector, a national education policy think tank. He also writes the award-winning blog Eduwonk.com, which an *Education Week* study cited as among the most influential information sources in education today. In addition, Rotherham serves on the nine-member Virginia Board of Education, a position he was appointed to by Governor Mark Warner in 2005. Previously, he served at The White House as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy during the Clinton Administration. Rotherham is the author of more than 100 articles, book chapters, papers, and op-eds about education policy and politics and is the co-editor of three influential books on educational policy, most recently *Collective Bargaining in Education: Negotiating Change in Today's Schools* with Jane Hannaway (Harvard Education Press, 2006). He serves on advisory boards and committees for a variety of organizations including The Broad Foundation, Harvard University, the National Governors Association, and the National Charter School Research Project. Rotherham is also a trustee of the Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy and a member of the board of directors for the Indianapolis Mind Trust, and the National Council on Teacher Quality.

**Marguerite Roza**  
**Research Associate Professor, University of Washington College of Education**



Marguerite Roza, PhD, is a Research Associate Professor at the University of Washington's College of Education. Dr. Roza's research focuses on quantitative policy analysis, particularly in the area of education finance. Her recent research has investigated spending patterns among schools within urban districts and the relationship to state and federal education spending. This research has documented inequities and inefficiencies in district spending practices identified budgeting mechanisms for enabling strategic budgeting decisions for districts.

Ongoing studies involve investigations of spending patterns in ten cities including the impact of new allocation systems, such as student-based allocation. This work has appeared in Phi Delta Kappan, the 2004 Brookings Book on Education Policy, the Peabody Journal of Education, and NCES's Developments in Education Finance.

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Dr. Roza earned a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Washington. Prior to that, she served as a Lieutenant in the US Navy teaching thermodynamics at the Naval Nuclear Power School. She has a B.S. from Duke University and has studied at the London School of Economics and the University of Amsterdam. Dr. Roza and her husband Scott have four daughters.

### **Terry Ryan**

#### **Vice President for Ohio Programs and Policy, The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation**



Terry Ryan is Vice President for Ohio Programs & Policy at the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. In this position, Ryan leads all Ohio operations for the Foundation, and its sister organization the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, which include charter school sponsorship, grantmaking, and Fordham's state research and policy efforts.

Ryan has published numerous editorials in newspapers around Ohio and in the *Ohio Gadfly*, and has been widely quoted in state and national publications. From late 1995 to November 2001, Ryan served as senior researcher for the UK-based 21st Century Learning Initiative. Ryan has co-authored two books on politics and learning--*The Unfinished Revolution* with John Abbott and *The Shadows of the Past* with the former Polish secretary of state for education Wiktor Kulerski.

Upon receiving his Master's degree in political economy in 1994, Ryan was awarded the Paterson International Fellowship from the University of Denver to work with educational policy makers in Warsaw, Poland. Ryan also taught primary and secondary school pupils English in Poland from 1990-1991 and again from 1994-1995. As a teacher he helped to start one of Poland's first student-run newspapers. Ryan is happily married and the proud father of two young daughters.

### **Hae-Sin Thomas**

#### **Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, UrbanEd Solutions**



Hae-Sin Kim Thomas is currently the co-founder and CEO of urbanED solutions, a new non-profit education consulting organization committed to improving academic outcomes for children in historically underserved urban centers across the country. The focus of urbanED solutions is to partner with leaders of schools and school districts to re-vision, re-align, and/or re-invent schools that are either chronically failing or struggling to maintain gains.

Hae-Sin has over fifteen years of K-12 public education experience. Over the last three years, she has led a team charged with designing and leading two key foundational tenets of Oakland Unified School District's nationally recognized reform effort Expect Success! – creating quality school options for families in every neighborhood and ensuring smaller, more personalized communities of learning for all children.

Most recently she served as the Network Executive Officer of the New School Network and as a member of the strategic leadership team, the Educational Leadership Organization. In those roles, Hae-Sin was responsible for ensuring principals of first year schools successfully implemented their approved and strategic school programs and helping Oakland think through and craft district-wide policies and procedures related to the new paradigm born of our Small School Movement. Hae-Sin also served as the Director of New School Development, a group charged with developing and implementing an incubation process for new schools. This process involved community outreach and engagement around closing failing schools; developing and implementing a selection process for new school leaders; coaching leaders of brand new and incubating schools around community, instructional, and visionary leadership; ensuring new schools developed strategic plans that incorporated research-based instructional strategies; and ensuring schools created and nurtured inclusive, student-centered learning environments.

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As a result of her work during this three-year period, 22 new schools were successfully incubated and opened, replacing 18 chronically-failing schools. A recent external evaluation of the new schools reform work in Oakland found that new schools more frequently accelerated Math and English Language Arts performance when compared to other district comparison schools and that new schools significantly outperformed the schools they replaced in academic achievement, suspension rates, attendance rates, and overall student, teacher, and parent satisfaction.

Prior to becoming a central leader, she was the founding principal of ASCEND, one of the five original new small and autonomous schools opened in Oakland, California, a school recognized for accelerating achievement and engaging community. Hae-Sin started teaching in Oakland through Teach for America in 1993 and continued teaching for six years before becoming a site administrator. During this time, she also worked as the Special Education school director for the Teach For America Summer Institute. Hae-Sin holds a B.A in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of San Francisco, and a Masters in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from Harvard University.

### **Sarah Usdin**

#### **Founder and President, New Schools for New Orleans**



Sarah Newell Usdin has spent the last fifteen years in education reform. In 1992, after teaching in Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship, she joined Teach For America, a national corps of recent college graduates who teach in our nation's lowest-income communities. Usdin spent the next three years teaching in Baton Rouge before becoming Teach for America's Executive Director in Louisiana. Believing that more needed to be done to systemically impact the quality of teachers in public schools, she became a Partner with The New Teacher Project, a national nonprofit teacher recruiting and training organization. In

the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Sarah formed New Schools for New Orleans to assist in the recovery and reformation of public education. Because of an early interest in social justice, Sarah majored in religion and German at Colgate University. Sarah also holds a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Louisiana State University. She has two children, Lyle (5) and Cecile (1), and is married to Tommy.

### **James Willcox,**

#### **Chief Executive Officer, Aspire Public Schools**



James Willcox follows Founder Don Shalvey as Aspire's second Chief Executive Officer. Prior to his appointment as CEO, Mr. Willcox was Aspire's Chief Operating Officer. As the COO, he managed human resources, operations, facilities, fund-raising and communications. During his tenure as COO, Aspire grew from 17 to 21 schools serving over 6,000 students. Prior to joining the management team of Aspire, Mr. Willcox was the founding Chief Operating Officer for Education for Change (EFC), a nonprofit charter management organization founded to restructure underperforming district schools as independent charter schools within the Oakland Unified School District.

Mr. Willcox has also served as a Principal at NewSchools Venture Fund, where his work focused on the evaluation of investment opportunities, the on-going support of management teams within the investment portfolio, and the design and implementation of NewSchools' charter school facility investment strategy. Prior to NewSchools Mr. Willcox was a nonprofit consultant with the Bridgespan Group, and served as a U.S. Army officer for over seven years. He holds a B.S. from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and a M. Ed. and M.B.A from Stanford University.

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