
Aspen Institute-NewSchools Fellows
Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education

Mashea Ashton

Chief Executive Officer, Newark Charter School Fund (NCSF)



Mashea Ashton serves as the CEO of the Newark Charter School Fund (NCSF), a private foundation established in April of 2008, that makes grants to support the quality and sustainability of Newark's charter schools. NCSF is dedicated to improving Newark's charter schools and generally to creating a thriving public school sector in Newark that prepares all Newark public school students for college and work. Mashea previously served as the Executive Director for the New York Program and Senior Advisor for Charter School Policy for New Leaders for New Schools. At New Leaders, Mashea worked with over 100 New Leaders impacting approximately 40,000 students and families in New York City and Newark. Mashea also served as the Executive Director for Charter Schools for the New York City Department of Education. As head of the Charter Schools Office, Mashea set the vision and policy direction of nearly 50 charter schools throughout the Big Apple and supported the city's unprecedented \$130 million effort to open 200 new small schools, including 50 new charter schools. Mashea formerly served as the National Director of Recruitment and Selection and Midwest Director of Business Development for the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP). She worked to establish and maintain relationships with key decision makers in Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Detroit to support the development of KIPP schools. Mashea served several years as a special education teacher in Williamsburg, Virginia and Washington, D.C. She serves on the boards of the Black Alliance for Educational Options, the National Alliance for Public Charters Schools and the William and Mary Alumni Association. Mashea has a M.Ed in Special Education with emphasis on learning disabilities and emotional disturbance and a B.A in Sociology and Elementary Education from the College of William and Mary.

Aaron Brenner

Head of Primary Schools, KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) Houston and Founder, KIPP SHINE Prep



Aaron Brenner served as a 1995 Teach For America corps member in the Rio Grande Valley after graduating from Rhodes College that same spring. He spent three years at his placement school where he taught second-grade ESL. During that time, Mr. Brenner was named Teacher of the year at the school, district and regional levels. After his third year teaching, Mr. Brenner received an Echoing Green Fellowship, which allowed him to open the Donna Cultural Arts Center, Proyecto del Corazon. After teaching literacy through the arts and running the arts center with the Donna Independent School District for three years, Mr. Brenner transitioned into school leadership. He graduated summa cum laude from Stanford University in 2002 with a master of art in education, and completed the KIPP Fisher Fellowship for School Leaders in the spring of 2004. Since that time, Mr. Brenner founded and served as the school leader of KIPP SHINE Prep, the nation's first KIPP early Childhood and Elementary School. In 2007, after three years of building out SHINE, he was named a finalist for the Peter Jennings award for Civic Leadership. For the last 21 months, Mr. Brenner has served in the role of Head of Primary Schools with KIPP Houston Early Childhood and Elementary as well as the KIPP Houston Executive Team with the Superintendent Mike Feinberg and other regional leaders. He also works with the national KIPP Foundation to help other school leaders and teachers in the Early Childhood and Elementary community build strong and positive classrooms and schools for the communities they serve. Outside of his day to day work, Aaron supports and consults the efforts of leadership in Boston, Detroit, South Bend and Houston in their efforts to revitalize Catholic and Christian academies working within their most underserved communities. Finally, Aaron is married to a wonderful teacher, Diana Ruiz Brenner, and they are the happy parents of Isabella, 2, and Maria Fernanda, 4, who is a PreK student at KIPP SHINE Prep.

Jean-Claude Brizard
Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Public Schools



Jean-Claude Brizard comes to CPS with a distinguished career spanning 25 years in education and public service. In 2008, Brizard was appointed Superintendent of Schools for the Rochester City School District. Prior to his time in Rochester, Brizard worked for 21 years as a teacher, principal and administrator in the New York City school system. As a New York City Regional Superintendent, Brizard supervised more than 100 K-12 schools serving over 100,000 students. Prior to holding that position, Brizard served as Executive Director for Secondary Schools, Region 8 Instructional Superintendent. He began his career in education as a high school physics teacher and junior high school science teacher.

A native of Haiti, Brizard holds a Master's Degree in School Administration & Supervision from The City College of New York, a Master's Degree in Science Education from Queens College and a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Queens College. Brizard is also a graduate of the Superintendents' Academy of the Broad Center for the Management of School Systems, a former Executive Committee member of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and Fellow of the Aspen Institute NewSchools Venture Fund's prestigious Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Fellowship Program. He is one of 24 accomplished leaders who have joined the Aspen Institute's Global Network. He is also a member of the Aspen Institute Urban Superintendents' network. This group is led by the Annenberg Institute at Brown University and the Harvard University School of Education.

Brizard credits his parents—both of whom were educators—with inspiring him to pursue a career in education. An avid pilot, he is married to K. Brooke Brizard and is the proud father of two children.

Marcus Castain
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Infrastructure Academy



Marcus Castain is the Founder and CEO of the Infrastructure Academy, a social entrepreneurial organization focused on building a pipeline of diverse, well-qualified young people for the career opportunities of the green economy. The Infrastructure Academy seeks to combine workforce readiness with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education in a new model that combines rigorous academics, soft skills training, and paid work experience. Marcus has experience as a creator, manager, and participant of leadership, education, and youth development programs. His most recent experience was serving as Associate Director of Education, Youth and Families for Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa where he worked to raise expectations and support for meaningful education reform in Los Angeles. He also served as the Mayor's liaison to the city's Department of Cultural Affairs.

Previously, Marcus was an Associate Director at the Broad Foundation, a national venture philanthropic organization that concentrates on dramatically improving K-12 urban public education. At Broad he managed a \$30 million investment portfolio focused on improving the management systems of large urban school districts including New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Long Beach, Oakland, and other cities. He also started The Broad Residency program, a highly competitive, two-year management development program that trains emerging leaders for senior management positions in urban school districts. Marcus has worked in product management for a Cisco Learning Partner and as a management consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. He started his career in Washington, D.C., as a research analyst at an international-affairs think tank.

Marcus has an MBA from the Anderson School at UCLA and a BA in International Political Economy from University of California, Berkeley. He teaches a graduate course in Social Entrepreneurship at the UCLA School of Public Affairs. Marcus is a Marshall Memorial Fellow and an Aspen New Schools Fellow.

Darryl Cobb

Partner and Vice President, Charter School Growth Fund



Darryl Cobb is a partner at the Charter School Growth Fund. Previously, Darryl was a Chief Executive Officer of ACT Charter School in Chicago where he led the organizational transformation from a single school to a high-performing network of schools. Prior to joining ACT Mr. Cobb was the Chief Learning Officer at the KIPP Foundation, where he led the Foundation's portfolio of learning programs including principal and teacher leader development. Before KIPP, Mr. Cobb worked as a consultant for several years at Accenture and Diamond Cluster. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and has an MBA from Kellogg/Northwestern.

Kelly Garrett

Executive Director, KIPP St. Louis



Kelly Garrett was named Executive Director of KIPP St. Louis in August of 2011. He came to KIPP St. Louis from The Rainwater Charitable Foundation where he served as Executive Director from 2009-2011. During Garrett's six-year tenure at Rainwater, the Foundation's annual giving grew by a factor of ten, and Garrett helped lead a strategic initiative focusing on school leadership and early childhood education, and guided the Foundation's work based on priorities of Richard Rainwater, Texas investor and Foundation benefactor.

Garrett's professional career began as a 1992 Teach For America corps member in Houston. After gaining Texas teaching certification, Garrett co-founded Project Chrysalis Charter Middle School, which quickly became one of the highest performing middle schools serving low income students in Texas. Garrett has also founded and managed a high quality early childhood development program and a virtual charter high school that now serves students in seven states around the country. Garrett earned a BA in Religious Studies with a minor in International Studies from Rhodes College and a MBA from Harvard Business School and is an Aspen Institute-New Schools Fellow. He lives in St. Louis with his wife and two sons.

Leah Hamilton

Program Officer, Urban Education, Carnegie Foundation of New York



Leah Hamilton, Program Officer, Urban Education, leads the *New Designs for Schools, Colleges and Systems* portfolio at Carnegie Corporation of New York. Leah joined the Corporation after five years in education reform with the New York City Department of Education. As Executive Director of The Office of Multiple Pathways to Graduation, Ms. Hamilton worked to drive system innovation and reform by targeting graduation rate improvement for New York City's most at-risk youth, overseeing its rigorous model of data-driven strategic planning, partnership capacity building and model portfolio development. Previously, she served as the Department of Education's Director of Community-Based Organization Networks as well as Interim Director of Student Support Services. Ms. Hamilton's experience includes 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.

Jason Kamras

Chief of Human Capital, District of Columbia Public Schools



Jason Kamras currently serves as the Chief of Human Capital for the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). In this role, he leads the district's efforts to ensure that its teachers, school leaders, and central office staff members are the most effective in the nation.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Kamras served as the Director of Teacher Human Capital for DCPS. In this position, he led the development of the IMPACT performance management system as well as the IMPACTplus performance-based compensation system. He also helped negotiate the district's groundbreaking contract with the Washington Teachers' Union. Before joining the central office, Mr. Kamras taught mathematics for eight years at John Philip Sousa Middle School in DCPS. Mr. Kamras began teaching in 1996 as a member of Teach For America and was named National Teacher of the Year by President Bush in 2005. Mr. Kamras holds a bachelor's degree in public policy from Princeton University and a master's degree in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Leslie Kerner

Vice President, Professional Services, Wireless Generation



Leslie Kerner is the Vice President of Professional Services for Wireless Generation, an education company that creates tools, systems, and services that help educators teach smarter. Wireless Generation currently serves more than 200,000 educators and 3 million students with mobile assessment software, adaptive curriculum solutions, and large-scale longitudinal data systems. Leslie built the company's professional services division, which is dedicated to improving teacher and school leader effectiveness, providing training, professional development, and consulting services that help educators utilize data to personalize instruction.

Prior to starting the company's professional services division, Leslie spent close to three years growing Wireless Generation's account management department. She began this role as the sole account manager, and within a year and a half, was leading a team that served over one million students in 49 states. She expanded the department to a staff of over 20 people focused on both complex problem solving and implementation, as well as anticipating districts' and teachers' needs for future offerings.

Before she joined Wireless Generation, Leslie was a manager at Deloitte Consulting, where she ran large projects in the public sector, consumer goods, and financial services industries. She sought out engagements in the firm's emerging e-learning and learning management systems implementations, helping build a practice around tools that helped professionals manage and track their continuing education and build skills to increase effectiveness.

While in graduate school, Leslie worked with the dean to build a business plan that launched a for-profit executive education spin-off from the university. She also worked in her capacity as class Curriculum Representative to bring the schools' first-ever "social entrepreneurship" class to the business school. Leslie is committed to education outside of work, serving on the New York City Board of Peer Health Exchange, a non-profit organization focused on helping teens make healthy decisions by training college students to teach a comprehensive health curriculum in public high schools that lack health education.

Leslie holds a B.A. from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. from Duke University. She lives in Brooklyn, NY with her husband and young son.

Gloria Lee

Chief Operating Officer, NewSchools Venture Fund



Gloria Lee is the Chief Operating Officer at NewSchools Venture Fund, and works in NewSchools' San Francisco office. Previously, she was Bay Area Superintendent for Aspire Public Schools. As Area Superintendent, Gloria was responsible for the "double bottom line:" both academic achievement and fiscal stability. Under her leadership, Aspire's Bay Area schools grew by an average of 66 points on the state's Academic Performance Index (4.5x the state targets for growth) over a three year period, and received average parent satisfaction ratings of 90%. Aspire's Bay Area

schools also increased enrollment by nearly 40% to over 2700 students – making Aspire’s Bay Area region larger than 60% of the districts in California.

Prior to becoming Area Superintendent, Gloria served as the Founding Chief Operating Officer of Aspire for the organization’s first eight years. As COO, Gloria crafted key elements of Aspire’s growth and business strategy, and developed the systems and processes necessary to bring the Aspire network successfully from 1 school to 17 schools.

Prior to joining Aspire, Gloria was a consultant for McKinsey and Company, helping Fortune 500 companies address major strategic challenges. Gloria also founded a Bay Area office for UCLA School Management Program, a university-based school reform support organization that provided training and coaching to school principals and teachers in leadership and change management. She received her BS in Agricultural Economics at Cornell University, and both a Masters of Business Administration and Masters in Education at Stanford University.

Aaron Lieberman

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Acelero Learning



Aaron has a strong track record of entrepreneurial successes in the social sector. After graduating from Yale University, Aaron served for one year as a Head Start teacher while founding Jumpstart, an organization which pairs college students with preschoolers to develop literacy, language and social skills. What began as an idea in Aaron’s dorm room went on to become a national organization and leader in early childhood education; today Jumpstart engages 4,000 college students in service to nearly 15,000 children in 20 states, and the District of Columbia and more than 75 communities across the country. While at Jumpstart, Aaron also founded and served as Chair of Schoolsuccess.net, a venture-backed for-profit spin off of Jumpstart that created the first on-line versions of the High/Scope COR and Creative Curriculum’s Developmental Continuum. The company was acquired by Pearson in 2000. Aaron founded Acelero Learning in 2001 and helped develop its programmatic approach, working side by side with Head Start leadership teams from Acelero’s first management contact partners. Today, Acelero Learning is headquartered in Harlem, NY and serves over 3,000 children and families in Head Start and Early Head Start programs in New Jersey, Nevada, and Pennsylvania.

Tia Elena Martinez

Chief Equity Officer, Stupski Foundation



Tia comes to the foundation from the Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity and Diversity at UC Berkeley Law School where she was acting director of education, leading a policy unit that produced research, policy prescriptions and curricular innovation on issues related to education reform and racial justice in California and the nation.

Prior to joining the Warren Institute, she served as strategic consultant to the Office for Civil Rights, US Department of Education, the federal agency charged with ensuring equal access to education through enforcement of civil rights laws. In this capacity, she led a strategic planning process and supported nationwide roll out and implementation of the new strategy across 12 regional offices.

Tia was also a manager at the Bridgespan Group where she worked with a range of clients including the nation’s largest constituency-based Hispanic civil rights organization, an urban school district reform intermediary and the Mayor’s Office of Community Development. As a senior fellow at the Hewlett Foundation, Tia worked on issues related to disadvantaged adolescents and immigrant families. She has also

worked as a policy analyst for the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the San Francisco Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council.

Tia has an AB in History from Harvard University, a Master in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy, and a JD from Stanford Law School.

Ms. Martinez has an AB in History from Harvard University, an MPP from UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, and a JD from Stanford Law School.

Scott Morgan

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Education Pioneers



Scott Morgan is the founder and CEO of Education Pioneers, an organization that trains, connects, and inspires a new generation of leaders dedicated to transforming our nation's educational system so that all students receive a quality education. Scott began his career teaching social studies and leadership at St. Jude High School in Montgomery, Alabama, where he won an Excellence in Teaching award. He later served as the legal counsel for Aspire Public Schools, a California nonprofit that builds and operates high quality public charter schools to prepare urban students for college. After seeing the power of professionals with diverse skills, experiences, and perspectives working together to improve urban education, Scott founded Education Pioneers in 2003 to develop a national network of leaders and entrepreneurs focused on devising and implementing creative solutions to our nation's most pressing educational problems. He

graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in government from the University of Notre Dame, received his MA in teaching from the University of Portland, and earned his law degree from Stanford Law School.

Jennifer Niles

Founder and Head of School, E.L. Haynes Public Charter School



Jennie Niles is the Founder of the acclaimed and award-winning E.L. Haynes Public Charter School. E.L. Haynes' mission is for every one of its students to reach high levels of academic achievement and be prepared to succeed at the college of his or her choice. Like a teaching hospital, the school impacts education nationally by modeling effective practices, training future educators, and shaping education policy.

E.L. Haynes is the highest-performing charter elementary school in Washington, DC, based on 2009 DC-CAS scores. For the second year in a row, E. L. Haynes was named the recipient of a Silver-Gain Award from New Leaders for New Schools' Effective Practice Incentive Community grant program. The award, given in recognition of outstanding student achievement gains, ranked E.L. Haynes in the top 10 in a consortium of 150 charter schools nationwide. In April 2008, E.L. Haynes was chosen from DC's 56 charter schools as the recipient of Fight for Children's first-ever Quality Schools Initiative award, also given in recognition of outstanding student achievement gains.

In June 2003, Ms. Niles finished her fellowship with New Leaders for New Schools, an intensive, year-long program to prepare urban principals. New American Schools sponsored Ms. Niles through her fellowship, supported the development of the charter application, and housed the start-up of the school. Prior to New Leaders, Ms. Niles was the Director of Education Initiatives at The Ball Foundation of Glen Ellyn, IL, an operating foundation that partners with school districts to increase student achievement through systemic reform. Before that, Ms. Niles headed the Charter School Office for the Connecticut State Department of Education where she oversaw all aspects of the charter school program and led a multi-disciplinary team to

create the accountability system. Ms. Niles also taught middle school and high school science and directed service learning programs at schools in California and Massachusetts. Ms. Niles holds a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University, a Masters in Public and Private Management from the Yale School of Management, and a Masters of Science in Public Administration with a focus on Educational Administration from Trinity University (DC).

Karla Oakley

Vice President, Teacher Quality Innovations, The New Teacher Project



As Vice President for The New Teacher Project's Teacher Quality Innovations line, Karla Oakley oversees the generation and execution of innovative pilot projects that further the organization's commitment to sourcing, training, certifying and retaining highly effective teachers. Karla's tenure with TNTP began in June of 2000 when she was hired as New York State Partner and charged with launching the NYC Teaching Fellows program, a contract with the New York City Department of Education that recruited and placed more than 1,500 teachers in hard-to-staff schools in its first two years. From 2003-2008, Karla served as TNTP's Vice President of Training & Certification, overseeing the development and expansion of the Practitioner Teacher Program and all of TNTP's instructional curriculum development. Prior to TNTP, Karla spent two years with Andersen Consulting in their Human Performance practice, working primarily in the financial services industry. Her career in education started with Teach For America, first as a corps member in the Mississippi Delta then on the national staff with roles in new teacher support and portfolio assessment. Karla holds a BS in Psychology from Duke University.

Kira Orange Jones

Executive Director, Teach for America, Greater New Orleans



Kira currently serves as Executive Director of Teach For America, Greater New Orleans. In her capacity as the Executive Director of Teach For America-Greater New Orleans, Kira has overseen an unprecedented expansion, managing the program through one of Teach For America's most ambitious growth plans, scaling the region from 100 teachers to 500 teachers in a 2 year time period. At this scale, the Teach For America-Greater New Orleans region is currently the 2nd largest corps in the nation with its alumni base more than tripling in the next two years, making the size of this group of talented and dedicated leaders the largest per capita concentration of Teach For America alumni in any community in the country. With over 500 teachers and 300 alumni working across 6 districts and in over 70 independently run district and charter schools, corps members and alumni in Greater New Orleans currently impact 1 in every 3 students in the region.. In addition, she has worked tirelessly to further the understanding of the achievement gap throughout the local community, and has been recognized for these efforts with several awards, including being named a Young Leadership Council Role Model, as well as being a City Business Woman of the Year nominee. Her efforts have also been highlighted in such noted publications as the New York Times Magazine, Harvard's University's Ed. Magazine and TIME Magazine.

Before joining Teach For America as Executive Director of the Greater New Orleans region in 2007, Kira served as Vice President of New Site Development. In this capacity she spearheaded the opening of regions in three new communities and raised 10 million dollars in start-up funding towards our efforts.

Prior to her tenure on staff with Teach For America, Kira founded and served as Executive Director of Right Quick Productions, a nonprofit media organization in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, dedicated to amplifying community voices through documentary filmmaking and media education. In this capacity, she oversaw the development, production, and distribution of feature films intended for classroom and general audiences. Kira also served for four summers as a school director at Teach For America's Houston and Philadelphia

institutes. She holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University with a concentration in filmmaking and an M.Ed. focused in school leadership from Harvard University.

A Bronx, New York native, Kira began her career in education as a South Louisiana corps member and taught fourth grade at Eden Park Elementary in Baton Rouge.

Lata Reddy
Managing Director, Robertson Foundation



Lata Reddy is the Managing Director of the Robertson Foundation. In this role, she helps direct the foundation's efforts nationally, in areas including education and the environment. She also manages the foundation's efforts in New Zealand.

Prior to joining Robertson, Ms. Reddy led The Prudential Foundation. The foundation operates locally in its headquarters city of Newark, NJ, as well as in a handful of cities across the country. The foundation also works nationally and internationally, in areas including education, community development and the arts. Ms. Reddy also served as Secretary of the Foundation. In addition, she oversaw education policy for Prudential Financial, Inc., advising senior management on education matters.

Ms. Reddy joined Prudential from the New York regional office of the U.S. Department of Education, where she was an attorney in the Office for Civil Rights. The Office is charged with enforcing Federal civil rights statutes as they pertain to education. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Education, she served as the Director of Finance and Legal Services at the Council for Educational Development and Research.

She currently serves on the boards of the Public Education Network, Cause Effective and Roads to Success.

Ms. Reddy holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan and a law degree from Emory University School of Law. She is a member of the New York State Bar.

Evan Rudall
Chief Executive Officer, Uncommon Schools



Prior to becoming CEO of Uncommon Schools in July 2008, Evan Rudall served as Uncommon's Chief Operating Officer for three years. Mr. Rudall is the Founder and former Co-Director of Roxbury Preparatory Charter School, a nationally recognized urban college preparatory public school that was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of eight of the highest-performing charter schools in the country. After founding Roxbury Prep, Mr. Rudall served as Special Assistant to the Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning of the New York City Department of Education. Prior to founding Roxbury Prep, Mr. Rudall directed Summerbridge Louisville, a non-profit academic enrichment program. He also taught, coached, and served as Assistant Middle School Director at Kentucky Country Day School. Mr. Rudall received his B.A. from Wesleyan University, his Ed.M. from Harvard University, and his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was a senior editor of the Columbia Law Review.

J.B. Schramm
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, College Summit



J.B. founded College Summit in 1993 while directing a teen center in the basement of a low-income housing project in Washington, D.C. This year, the organization will work with 160 high schools with 17,000 seniors and 80,000 total students, in 12 states. In recognition of the organization's impact, College

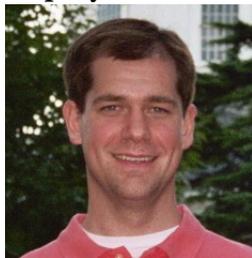
Summit was honored at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in 2008 as the United States Social Entrepreneur of the Year by the Schwab Foundation.

For its impact in helping communities raise college enrollment rates for low-income students, College Summit has twice been featured in an annual report on initiatives to diversify higher education by the U.S. Department of Education, received the National Association for College Admission Counseling's highest award for improving college access, and was profiled in David Bornstein's 2004 book "How to Change the World." The organization has also received awards from Ashoka, Fast Company Magazine, The Manhattan Institute, New Profit Inc. and The Skoll Foundation.

J.B. is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from Regis University, serves as an Aspen Institute-NewSchools Fellow, and as a member of the Kennedy School of Government's Executive Session on Transforming Cities Through Civic Entrepreneurship. He is a graduate of Denver Public Schools, Yale University and Harvard Divinity School; and lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Lauren, and three children.

Andrew Smarick

Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Education



Andy Smarick is the Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of New Jersey. Previously he was a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and an Adjunct Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

From 2008 – 2009 he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary (Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development) at the U.S. Department of Education where he helped manage the Department's research, budget, and policy functions. From 2007 – 2008, Andy served at the White House in the Domestic Policy Council, working primarily on K-12 and higher education issues. Prior positions include: Chief Operating Officer for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, legislative assistant to a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and aide to members of the Maryland state legislature.

Andy helped found a college-preparatory charter school for disadvantaged students in Annapolis, and he was a member of Maryland Governor's Commission on Quality Education. His articles have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Boston Globe*, *National Review Online*, *Education Next*, and other outlets.

He is a former White House Fellow and a current member of the 2010-11 class of Aspen Institute-NewSchools Fellows. He earned a bachelor's degree, *summa cum laude* and *with honors*, and a master's degree in public management from the University of Maryland.

He has recently written about the federal stimulus, the Race to the Top, school turnarounds, charter schools, and the decline of inner-city faith-based schools. He is completing work on a book about replacing the traditional urban public school district.

Preston Smith

Co-Founder and Chief Achievement Officer, Rocketship Education



Before starting Rocketship, Preston was the Principal of L.U.C.H.A. Elementary School, a small school within the Alum Rock Unified School District in San Jose, CA. He founded L.U.C.H.A. in collaboration with neighborhood families in 2004 to provide parents with an excellent school focused on high academic achievement and parental involvement. In 2007, after three years of operation, L.U.C.H.A. received an API score of 881 and was the highest ranked elementary school in the district and county of Santa Clara. Before founding L.U.C.H.A., Preston taught first grade for three years at Clyde Arbuckle

Elementary School, the first two as a member of Teach for America (TFA). In 2003, Preston was named “Teacher of the Year” at Arbuckle and was also nominated as one of six finalists for TFA’s Sue Lehmann award, given to TFA corps members with the highest classroom academic gains in the nation. Preston graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Corri Tate Ravare

Executive Director, California Charter Schools Association



Corri is the Executive Director of Families That Can, the charter school parent organizing and outreach group for the California charter schools community. In this role, Corri manages efforts across the state to organize parent and stakeholder constituency efforts aligned with the charter school community's advocacy priorities. This work includes the development of a grassroots network of parents and other family members throughout California who engage on both local and statewide matters

Carmita Vaughan

Chief Executive Officer, CURE



Carmita Vaughan joined CURE: Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy as Chief Executive Officer in 2010. She has described her position with CURE as “an amazing calling as well as a critically important opportunity.” Vaughan, whose mother passed away in 2001 after suffering seizures, has been charged with leading CURE in an exciting new phase of growth and development.

Prior to joining CURE, Vaughan served as Chief Strategy Officer for America’s Promise Alliance, a youth development organization founded by Gen. Colin Powell and currently led by Alma J. Powell. Previously, she served as the Chief of Staff of the Chicago Public Schools Office of High Schools and High School Programs. In this position she managed all high school operations and administrative services supporting 120 schools in areas including budget, human resources, data systems, and communications.

Before deciding to transition into the non-profit sector, Vaughan served in global marketing, strategic planning, and engineering/operations management roles in several Fortune 500 companies, including Procter and Gamble and Danaher Corporation.

Vaughan holds a Masters in Business Administration from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management, and received her undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan. She has been recognized as a 2009 Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow and a 2010 Aspen/NewSchools Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Fellow.

Vaughan resides in Chicago with her husband, Damon. They have a mutual love of sports, international travel, and films. Vaughan has tremendous passion for urban education and the art, and dedicates significant time to those efforts. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Marwen (Chicago-based arts education organization) and America’s Promise Alliance.