

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Jorge Aguilar: Superintendent, Sacramento City Unified School District**

Jorge A. Aguilar became the twenty-eighth superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District on July 1, 2017. He leads the thirteenth largest school district in California with 46,843 students, more than 4,200 employees, and a budget of more than \$566.99 million. Aguilar has over 20 years of K-12 and higher education experience and was selected superintendent by the SCUSD Board of Education because of his proven track record in using data to improve student outcomes.



### **Evelyn Aissa: Executive Director, Reaching Higher New Hampshire**

Evelyn Aissa is the Executive Director of Reaching Higher New Hampshire, NH's leading nonpartisan public education policy resource. Evelyn has more than a decade of experience in policy research and advocacy. She holds a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School, Tufts University. Prior to attending Fletcher, Evelyn graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Skidmore College.



### **Jake Allen, Jr: Deputy Chief of Staff, Shelby County Schools**

Jake Allen currently serves as Deputy Chief of Staff of Shelby County Schools. He has more than ten years of experience in education. As Deputy Chief of Staff, he provides guidance and policy recommendations to the Chief of Staff on a wide variety of programs, issues, and initiatives. He also develops strategic alliances with governmental agencies, community stakeholders, and elected officials to effectively align and support key District initiatives.

His career began as a city and regional planner with the Memphis/Shelby County Office of Planning and Development in Memphis, TN. Following his tenure at the Office of Planning and Development, he engaged in assisting the children of Memphis by accepting a role with Shelby County Schools as a Facilities Planning Advisor, a position he held for more than eight years. In 2016, he became the Deputy Chief of Staff of Shelby County Schools.

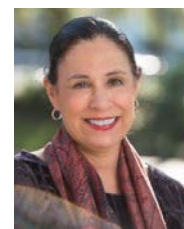
He currently serves as the President of the Cornelia Crenshaw Library Friends of the Library group as well as Board Member of the Memphis City Beautiful Commission.

Mr. Allen holds an undergraduate degree in finance and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning, both from the University of Memphis.



### **Rhonda Atkinson: Professor and Chair of Undergraduate and Alternative Teacher Education Programs, Valencia College**

Dr. Rhonda Atkinson currently serves as Professor and Chair of undergraduate and alternative teacher education programs for Valencia College's West Campus. She has more than 30 years of experience as a post-secondary faculty member and administrator. She is the co-author of several textbooks on student success, critical thinking and decision-making, reading, and learning strategies.



### **Robert Balfanz: Director, Everyone Graduates Center**

Robert Balfanz is a research professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Education, where he is also co-director of the Everyone Graduates Center. He is a leader and a co-founder of Diplomas Now, an evidence-based school transformation model for high-needs middle and high schools that combines whole school reform with enhanced student supports guided by an early warning system. Diplomas Now won an "Investing in Innovation" (I3) federal validation grant and is implemented in forty schools across twelve school districts.

Balfanz has published widely on secondary school reform, high school dropouts, early warning systems, school climate, and instructional interventions in high-poverty schools. He is also a frequent speaker on dropout prevention and early warning indicators, has consulted with numerous state education agencies through partnerships with the National Governors Association and Jobs for the Future, and has served on the U.S. Department of Education's review panel for No Child Left Behind flexibility waivers.

Dr. Balfanz holds a B.A. in history from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. in education from the University of Chicago.

**Kathleen Barfield: Senior Program Manager, Westat**

Kathleen Barfield is a Senior Program Manager at Westat, working from its San Antonio office. Kathleen has worked with educators at all levels to create meaningful indicators to inform decision-making about students and the services they receive. She is currently working with multi-agency efforts in sharing information that guides efforts to improve life outcomes for court-involved youth.



**Mike Barney: Executive Director of Instruction Services, Riverside County Office of Education**

Mike Barney is Executive Director of the Instruction Services (IS) unit at the Riverside County (CA) Office of Education. This unit is responsible for assisting districts and schools in the areas of curriculum, pedagogy, and leadership. The IS team most recently has supported the implementation of the new California Standards in language arts, mathematics, and science.



**Christine Brennan: Deputy Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Education**

Christine Brennan became Deputy Commissioner in 2017, serving through 2021. The Deputy Commissioner provides overall leadership and management of the department in implementing its services, particularly the internal operations of the organization.

Brennan began her career in education in the Manchester School District in 1987 as a first grade teacher at Wilson Elementary School. She held that role for 20 years before working as a literacy specialist from 2007 until 2010. Brennan served as assistant principal at Wilson and Jewett Street elementary schools before taking that position at Beech Street in 2012. She was principal of Beech Street Elementary from 2014 through 2017.

Brennan's time at Beech Street was marked by technology improvements, renovations that included putting up walls to close off the open concept classrooms of generations ago, and moving students and faculty into the "academy" model of instruction -- creating small schools within the larger school to enhance personalized learning and relationships. She is looking forward to the opportunity to make sure children across the state receive a quality education.

Brennan received her bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Bridgewater State College as well as a master's in reading and writing and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) in educational leadership, both from Plymouth State University.



**Barry Brensinger: AIA, CEO, Lavallee Brensinger Architects**

Barry Brensinger received a master's in architecture from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in Visual Studies (Design) from Dartmouth College, where he received the Marcus Heiman Award for Excellence in the Arts. A member of the American Institute of Architects, Barry holds national registration with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and five state registrations. He is an active member of the AIA's Healthcare Interest Group and the American Society of Healthcare Engineers.

Healthcare has been the focus of Barry's work throughout his career. Under his leadership, the firm's Healthcare Design Group has become the most experienced healthcare planning and design team in the region.



Barry has received numerous honors as a community leader through his dedicated work with various not-for-profit organizations. He has served as chair of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Manchester Regional Community Foundation. In 2007, he was the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. In 1999, he received Manchester's Good Samaritan Award and was the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

Barry's recent work includes a new corporate headquarters for IDEXX Laboratories, the new City of Manchester Municipal Complex, and St. Joseph Hospital Ambulatory Care Center.

**Brad Bryant: Vice President, REACH Georgia**

Brad serves as Vice President of REACH Georgia, the state's needs-based public-private scholarship program. He is an attorney with more than 30 years of experience in school governance. Brad has served as a local board member and seven-term chair of the DeKalb County Board of Education, a seven-year member and vice chair of the Georgia Board of Education, and interim Chief State School Officer for the state of Georgia. In his current role, Brad leads the effort to scale Georgia's needs-based scholarship program into all of its 180 local school systems.

**Leticia Bustillos: Director of Policy Research, Campaign for College Opportunity**

Leticia Tomas Bustillos, Ph.D. is Director of Policy Research for the Campaign for College Opportunity, a California-based nonprofit dedicated to ensuring the next generation of Californians has the opportunity to go to college and succeed. She is responsible for generating research and analysis that informs the public discourse on higher education and suggests strategies for advancing policy reforms. Previously, Leticia was the Associate Director of the Education Policy Project at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), where she led NCLR's education policy work at the federal and state levels on issues important for Latino students in K-12 and higher education policy. She is the author of multiple articles, blogs, and reports and is a co-author of *The State of Developmental Education: Higher Education Public Policy Priorities* (Palgrave Macmillan). Leticia is a graduate of Columbia University (A.B., 1994) and the University of Southern California (Ph.D., 2007).



**Pamela Carroll: Dean of the College of Education and Human Performance, University of Central Florida**

Pamela Sissi Carroll, Dean of the College of Education and Human Performance, grew up running through the woods and wading through the springs with her brothers in their northern Georgia hometown. There, she developed a sense of curiosity about almost everything: why moss didn't grow as tall as grass; how high her beagle could leap; what made a dead snake smell so bad. Her career led her first to teaching adolescents and to using literature and literacy to empower middle and high school students to communicate and understand words and the world. She then spent 20 years as a teacher educator and administrator at Florida State University, where she met her husband, marine geologist Joe Donoghue. They left Florida for Oklahoma State University in 2012, where she served as Dean of the College of Education, prior to returning to Florida, where she became Dean at UCF in 2015 and he joined the Physics department.



**Dan Challener: President, PEF Chattanooga**

Dan Challener has served as president of the Chattanooga Public Education Foundation since 1999. PEF's mission is to increase the achievement and opportunities of students who attend public schools in southeastern Tennessee, and especially Hamilton County.

PEF's current major projects include

- the Hamilton County Leadership Pipeline, a partnership with Hamilton County Schools that provides comprehensive, articulated training for future leaders
- Project Inspire, a teacher residency program that recruits, trains, and supports teachers in high needs schools
- the College and Career Success Network, which helps students determine their path after high school and includes Camp College and STEP-UP Chattanooga, providing economically disadvantaged high school students with paid summer internships at many of Chattanooga's most respected businesses

PEF's STEM Hub provides support for innovative teachers through a portfolio of professional development opportunities for teachers. In January 2017, Volkswagen in Chattanooga announced a \$1m gift and a partnership between VW, the state of Tennessee, Hamilton County Schools and PEF. This new partnership will enable 16 middle schools and high schools to create state of the art VW eLabs—classrooms where students will develop deep engineering and environmental knowledge through authentic problem solving.

Dan earned his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and Ph.D. from Brown University. His wife is an amazing public school teacher; they are the proud parents of three children, graduates of Hamilton County public schools who have now all graduated from college!



**Erica Cuevas: Policy Manager, Jobs for the Future**

Erica Cuevas is a policy manager for Jobs for the Future's (JFF) federal policy and advocacy team. Ms. Cuevas provides policy analysis, analytical research, project management support, and external engagement to advance JFF's education and workforce policy priorities. Prior to joining JFF, she was a policy advisor in the Office of the Under Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education, where she analyzed and advised on higher education programs and policies focused on improving postsecondary access and increasing affordability. Ms. Cuevas has a master's in public affairs from the University of Texas at Austin as well as a bachelor's in political science from Sonoma State University.



**Dena Dossett: Chief of Data Management, Planning, and Program Evaluation, Jefferson County Public Schools**

Dena Dossett, Ph.D. is the Chief of Data Management, Planning, and Program Evaluation for Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville KY. She coordinates and supports district-wide and school level improvement planning efforts. She has more than fifteen years of experience in program evaluation for numerous federal, state and private foundation grants. For the last several years, she has managed the district's student assignment office, demographics, attendance/data control, and student services units. She has spent her entire professional career serving the students and families of Jefferson County.





**Frances Dumas-Hines: Director of Performance Management; Office for Performance, Assessment & Research, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation**

Frances Dumas-Hines, Ph.D. serves as Director of Performance Management in the Office for Performance, Assessment & Research in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. Since 2009, she has organized, compiled data, and created presentations for bi-annual performance management sessions at which the superintendent and corporation administrators review school improvement plans. For the past five years, her work has also included analyses and evaluation of various programs, projects and grants within the corporation. Her work with the early warning system within the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation includes developing predictive models and creating the EVSC EWS At-Risk Report.



**Mil Duncan: Senior Carsey School Fellow, University of New Hampshire**

Mil Duncan is Senior Carsey School Fellow and Professor Emerita at the University of New Hampshire. She was Professor of Sociology and founding director of the Carsey Institute for many years, and Director of Community and Resource Development at the Ford Foundation in the early 2000s. Duncan wrote *Worlds Apart: Poverty and Politics in Rural America*. She serves on the board of City Year New Hampshire.

**Austin Estes: Senior Policy Associate, Advance CTE**

In his role as senior policy associate, Austin supports Advance CTE's state policy and implementation strategy by developing resources, briefs, case studies and fact sheets that elevate promising practices and promote high-quality CTE. During his time at Advance CTE, Austin has led efforts related to industry-recognized credentials, implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act, rural CTE, measuring work-based learning, state CTE policy trends and more. He also serves on the New Skills for Youth national project team, supporting state efforts to expand and strengthen high-quality career pathways.



**Lew Feldstein: City Year New Hampshire**

Lew Feldstein served as the president of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation from 1986 to 2011. He is the co-author with Robert Putnam of *Better Together* (2003). He also served as the co-chair with Putnam of the Harvard University Saguaro Seminar from 1998 to 2001. Feldstein was the Executive Assistant to New York City Mayor John Lindsay from 1966 to 1972.



**Nathan Flint: Manager of Undergraduate Analytics, National Louis University**

Nate Flint is an education data professional focused on providing practical, useful analysis and tools to support the everyday practice of all kinds of educators: instructors, counselors, coaches, and administrators. He is currently Manager of Undergraduate Analytics at National Louis University supporting the Harrison Professional Pathways Program and the Undergraduate College. In previous roles, Nate has been an implementation specialist at LiveText, Inc., and Director of Operations at The Princeton Review, Inc. He is also a certified social studies teacher with a Master of Arts in teaching from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



**Joanna Fox: Deputy Director, Everyone Graduates Center**

Joanna Hornig Fox is deputy director and senior policy analyst at the Everyone Graduates Center in the School of Education at Johns Hopkins University. Her interests focus on policies and practices that states, districts, schools, and communities can implement to improve secondary promotion, graduation, and outcomes. Fox is field director for a U. S. Department of Education-funded initiative seeking to improve ninth-grade promotion rates in twenty low-performing Alabama high schools. She previously served as southern regional director for Talent Development High Schools at the Center for Social Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins, and before that, as director of the High Schools That Work Urban Network, Southern Regional Education Board, in Atlanta. Prior work in Georgia included community development, building a science museum, and leading an extensive statewide summer internship program for secondary math and science teachers with placements in business and research labs. Fox co-authors the annual series *Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge*, along with other publications, and presents at national conferences. She graduated from Harvard-Radcliffe Colleges of Harvard University in cell and molecular biology.

**Sarah Frazelle: Senior Advisor, Research & Evaluation, Education Northwest**

Sarah Frazelle is a senior advisor of research and evaluation at Education Northwest. Frazelle works closely with a variety of education stakeholders and has more than eight years of experience facilitating collaboration across departments within state and local education agencies. As the current lead of the Montana Education Research Alliance for REL Northwest, she provides analytical technical assistance focused on data quality and early warning systems (EWS) for dropout prevention. In addition to writing EWS implementation publications and building a set of EWS implementation modules for professional development, Frazelle has also designed a set of evaluation tools to examine the key implementation levers. Her EWS implementation work is used in districts in Alaska, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, and she has been an invited speaker and collaborator at regional and national EWS events. Prior to joining Education Northwest, Frazelle served as the assistant director of the Kansas City Area Education Research Consortium, where her work involved implementing the data repository, negotiating data-sharing agreements and procedures, conducting statistical analysis in pilot projects, writing reports, creating surveys, and analyzing research needs with community education agencies. She holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Kansas.

**Nyal Fuentes: College and Career Readiness Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Nyal Fuentes is a college and career readiness coordinator in the Office of College, Career, and Technical Education at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He participates in the coordination of a number of high school to postsecondary initiatives, including early college, dropout prevention, and an Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS), among other high school improvement measures to help close achievement and opportunity gaps for all Massachusetts young people.



**Carla Gay: Director of Early Warning Systems; Education Northwest**

Carla has nearly 20 years of experience working with students who have disengaged from school before completing their secondary education. She began her career as a teacher in Nevada, working as a reading specialist with elementary age students and struggling high school students. After spending some time living in Africa, she returned to do graduate work with an emphasis in social and economic development. She studied Spanish in Central America and then settled in Portland, Oregon to begin working in the education field with at-risk young people. She is passionate about building equitable education systems that offer a range of rigorous, engaging programming for ALL students. Carla spent nine years working on the outreach, reengagement, and alternative school options for disconnected youth in Portland Public Schools. She has also led local and statewide efforts to create



systems for alternative accountability, reengagement, and early indicators and interventions. She is now the Director of Early Response Systems and oversees implementation of a new targeted fund to support high school students through college and career readiness and student engagement.

Carla holds a Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis and an Administrator's License from Portland State University. In her spare time, Carla enjoys spending time with her family, playing in the outdoors, reading, and traveling. She lives with her wife and their two children in Portland.

**John Gomperts: President and CEO, America's Promise Alliance**

John Gomperts became President and CEO of America's Promise Alliance in May 2012. Gomperts has a track record of success in both government and the nonprofit sectors; his accomplishments include design and implementation of strategic initiatives, developing innovative policies and programs, and forging partnerships and coalitions. Most recently, he served as Director of AmeriCorps, starting in June 2010, with a responsibility for implementing the bipartisan Kennedy Serve America Act. His work at AmeriCorps focused on demonstrating and increasing community impact and strengthening the AmeriCorps member experience.



From 2006 to 2010, Gomperts served as President of Civic Ventures, an organization devoted to promoting the engagement of millions of experienced baby boomers in encore careers. Gomperts was CEO of Experience Corps for five years beginning in 2003, leading a national service program that engages people over 55 to be tutors and mentors in urban public schools. He led Experience Corps through dramatic growth and expansion, as well as a highly successful independent evaluation of the organization's impact. Prior to joining Civic Ventures and Experience Corps, Gomperts served in a variety of positions. He was COO at Public Education Network, Chief of Staff for the Corporation for National and Community Service, Legislative Director for Senator Harris Wofford (PA), and Deputy Director of the Senate Democratic Leadership Committee, working for Senators Tom Daschle (SD) and John Kerry (MA). Earlier in his career, Gomperts practiced law and clerked for a federal judge.

He has also served on numerous boards and advisory groups, including Points of Light Institute/ Hands On Network, VolunteerMatch, The News Literacy Project, and Politics & Prose Bookstore.

Gomperts earned his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and graduated magna cum laude from University of California Berkeley with an A.B. in History. Gomperts is married to Katherine J. Klein, a professor of management at The Wharton School; they have two daughters, Nora and Lily.

**Michael Grady: Interim Executive Director, The Annenberg Institute at Brown University**

Michael K. Grady is the interim executive director of the Annenberg Institute and assistant professor of practice in education at Brown University. Michael served as a member of Annenberg's College Readiness Indicator Systems (CRIS) team which supported college and career readiness efforts of five urban districts from 2010-2015. Since 2006, he has taught an introductory course in educational research in Brown's Urban Education Policy program.



**John Green: Director, Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative**

Dr. John Green has served for more than 35 years in the field of education as a teacher, coach, school administrator, high school principal and superintendent.

He is currently director of the Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative (CCEC), helping to design and implement P-20 educational partnerships in the west Georgia region served by the University of West Georgia, West Georgia Technical College, public and independent K-12 school districts, and community stakeholders.



**Jeremy Greenfield: Deputy Director for College Readiness, New Visions for Public Schools**

Jeremy is responsible for developing and leading New Visions' emerging work on college readiness. Before coming to New Visions, Jeremy worked at CARA (College Access: Research & Action) where he worked with public high schools in New York City to establish systems to support students' postsecondary success. Jeremy holds a Ph.D. in Urban Education with a concentration in education policy from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.



**Alison Guerriero: Partnerships Manager, Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University**

As the partnerships manager, Alison Guerriero supports internal organizational planning and works closely with the Strategic Data Project (SDP), managing SDP partner relationships and recruitment. Prior to CEPR, Alison worked at Strategy Matters, where she oversaw the business development pipeline and led strategic planning and resource development as a consultant to nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Additionally, she previously worked at Mass Insight Education, where she managed the State Development Network for School Turnaround, including coalition building and partner engagement, and supported communications. Alison has also worked as a preschool educator. She received an MPP from Brown University and a BA in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Connecticut.



**Selena Hardy: College and Career Readiness Manager, Mission: Graduate**

Selena Hardy has more than 14 years of nonprofit and education experience which equips her with a broad range of skills. Her current responsibilities include a pinch of graphic design, a handful of volunteer/partner recruitment and retention, and a full helping of project management. She has a fearless 15-month old daughter and an adventurous husband, and enjoys giving back to her community.



**Richard Harrison: Chief Academic Officer, Uplift Education**

Rich Harrison serves as the Chief Academic Officer for Uplift Education. Rich manages teams that provide support to 37 schools and 17,500 students with instructional coaching, curriculum and assessment, data analytics and performance management, instructional technology and platform development, and school evaluation. Rich also oversees teacher hiring and leadership pipeline development so that Uplift Education can continue to increase its impact in the Dallas Fort Worth region. He brings a wealth of experience around school start-up, leadership transformation, organizational culture, and instruction, assessment, and curriculum systems, and looks to continue his learning and leadership.



**Faron Hollinger: President and CEO, The Akribos Group**

Dr. Faron L. Hollinger worked in the field of public education for more than three decades, serving as a teacher, school psychologist, program director, division superintendent, and ultimately as Superintendent of Education. He has been the recipient of multiple awards for his professional contributions and accomplishments and has served as an invited presenter for state, regional, and national conferences. Dr. Hollinger is President/CEO of the Akribos Group ([www.akribosgroup.com](http://www.akribosgroup.com)), an educational research and strategic consulting firm. He also serves as Executive Director for the board of directors of the University of Alabama Capstone Education Society.





**Theresa Jones: Chief Achievement and Accountability Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools**

Theresa D. Jones is Chief Achievement and Accountability Officer for Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools), where she leads the district's efforts to provide teachers, principals, and district leaders with the tools and expertise they need to inform data-driven decision-making and to implement research-based student achievement practices. Her office is also responsible for the administration of state and locally mandated student assessments and the monitoring and compliance activities associated with strategic allocation and utilization of local, state and federal resources. Ms. Jones led brand and marketing organizations and teams for more than twelve years before transitioning into a career in education. Her experiences in education include leading employee evaluation redesign for Prince George's County Public Schools and employee /school effectiveness and accountability for City Schools, as well as teaching in the Center for Leadership Education at Johns Hopkins University. She is a contemporary jazz fan and enjoys spending time with her husband and 5-year-old daughter dancing, playing games, and traveling. Ms. Jones holds a B.S. from American University, an M.B.A. from Duke University and an M. Ed. from the Broad Center for the Management of School Systems.



**Penny Jordan: Chief Strategy and Finance Officer, Partners for Education at Berea College**

Penny Jordan serves as the chief strategy and finance officer at Partners for Education. Jordan has more than 12 years of experience working in leadership positions in grant development, finance, operations, compliance, auditing and strategic planning for nonprofit organizations.



**Matthew Klare: Project Coordinator, National Technical Assistance Center on Transition at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte**

Matthew Klare, Ph.D. is a project coordinator at the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. While there, he has developed several tools to help schools and districts make sense of their school-completion and other transition data. He also delivers technical assistance to states, districts, and schools on matters of graduation, dropout, and the use of data to identify strengths and needs in schools and their students. In the years before NTACT, he was with the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities; the South Carolina Department of Education; AIR; and ACT, Inc.



**Derek Kuit: Graduate Research Assistant, University of New Mexico Cradle to Career Policy Institute and Mission: Graduate**

Derek Kuit is a graduate research assistant for the University of New Mexico Cradle to Career Policy Institute and Mission: Graduate. He is a master's student in educational psychology at UNM and a UNM McNair Scholar.



**Caroline Marks: Data Analyst, Metro Nashville Public Schools**

Caroline H. Marks serves as a data analyst in Metro Nashville Public Schools' Research, Assessment, and Evaluation department. Prior to joining MNPS, she served as a senior associate in strategic analytics for the School District of Philadelphia. Caroline has a B.A. in sociology and the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality from Rice University and an M.A. in sociology from Princeton University.



**Mackenzie Martin: ABCToday Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri**

Mackenzie Martin, Director of ABCToday, joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri in July 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Human and Organizational Development from Vanderbilt University and previous experience as an enterprise solutions consultant for Blackbaud. In her current position, Mrs. Martin has played a key role in the expansion and success of ABCToday® by creating, coordinating and executing effective networks of 175+ community partners working in 19 ABCToday® Schools to ultimately improve students' attendance, behavior, and course performance in reading and math.



**Elizabeth Mays: Education Outreach Director, EdjAnalytics**

Elizabeth Mays received her BA from Miami University of Ohio and her MAT from the University of Louisville. She joined EdjAnalytics as its Education Outreach Director last fall, following three years with Teach Kentucky.



**Eric Meredith: Research Data Analyst, Montana Office of Public Instruction**

Eric Meredith taught high school math and coached various sports for three years in three different states in both the public and private school settings. He then attended Montana State University and earned a master's degree in statistics. He has since been at the Montana Office of Public Instruction as a research data analyst for about eight years. In his spare time he enjoys the outdoors in various ways with his wife and three kids.



**Sahar Mohammadzadeh: Postsecondary Committee Chair, Prichard Committee Student Voice Team**

Sahar Mohammadzadeh is a senior at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lexington, Kentucky. She has been on the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team since eighth grade and now extensively researches inequities facing students transitioning to college. She has led the committee's nationally acclaimed partnership with the Council for Postsecondary Education, writing and directing a series of widely disseminated radio and television PSAs to encourage students to apply for financial aid. Sahar's op-ed about Kentucky's math standards, published in the Lexington Herald-Leader and the Louisville Courier-Journal, was cited by Education Commissioner Pruitt in his inaugural address. She actively serves on the Commissioner's College and Career Readiness Accountability Working Group. Sahar is the executive editor of the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team's book *Ready or Not: Stories from Students Behind the Statistics*. She has been accepted to Harvard College and been offered a prestigious public service scholarship from the Bryan Cameron Foundation.



**Christopher Morpew: Dean, Johns Hopkins University School of Education**

Christopher Morpew, dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Education, concentrates his research on issues of institutional diversity in higher education, including those related to state higher education policy and the ways in which colleges and universities communicate to constituent groups. His work has appeared in many journals, including the *Review of Higher Education*; *Research in Higher Education*; *The Journal of Higher Education*; *Educational Finance*; *Higher Education Policy*; and *Studies in Higher Education*. He has held leadership positions in the Association for the Study of Higher Education and American Educational Research Association, and has made invited and refereed presentations in more than two dozen countries. His work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Research Council of Norway and Ford Foundation. His most recent book, co-edited with John Braxton, *The Challenges of Independent Colleges*, was published by the Johns Hopkins University Press in November 2017. Prior to joining the Johns Hopkins School of Education, he was professor and executive associate dean in the College of Education at the University of Iowa. He has also held tenured positions at the University of Georgia and University of Kansas, and served as a visiting professor and Leiv Eiriksson Scholar the University of Oslo. He holds a Ph.D. in social sciences and education from Stanford University, as well as degrees from Harvard University and the University of Notre Dame.



**Jenny Nagaoka: Deputy Director, University of Chicago Consortium on School Research**

Jenny Nagaoka is the Deputy Director of the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research, where she has conducted research for nearly 20 years. Her research interests focus on policy and practice in urban education reform, particularly using data to connect research and practice and examining the school environments and instructional practices that promote college readiness and success.



**Pawn Nitichan: Executive Director and Vice President, City Year New Hampshire**

Pawn Nitichan is the Executive Director of City Year New Hampshire (CYNH) and a Vice President of City Year Inc. Under Nitichan's leadership, CYNH has more than tripled its service capacity and has developed a recognized culture of idealism, consistently providing high-quality services to kids and the community. This success is reflected in numerous awards, including ten Best of City Year Awards and the Corporate Fund's Dunfee Award—one of the most prestigious awards in New Hampshire. Nitichan also serves on a variety of state boards and councils. She was born and raised in Thailand; because of her interest in diverse cultures, she became a student ambassador in the international student exchange program at Assumption University. She was the first student invited to continue her education at Loyola College, the exchange program's partner in Baltimore, MD. Nitichan has since made a permanent life in the United States.



**Heather Nolan: Director of Knowledge Management, Office of Achievement and Accountability, Baltimore City Public Schools**

Heather Nolan has served as the Director of Knowledge Management in the Office of Achievement and Accountability for Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) since 2014. She leads a team responsible for ensuring consistency and accuracy of student data and the design and strategic use of data reports and dashboards by multiple stakeholders across the organization. Before joining City Schools in 2009, she managed the charter school performance reporting and renewal process for Chicago Public Schools. Heather earned her M.Ed. in Education Policy and Management from Harvard's Graduate School of Education and a B.A. in Human Development from Boston College.



**Charlene Pryseski: Senior Program Manager, Everyone Graduates Center**

Charlene Pryseski is a senior research facilitator and literacy specialist at the Center for Social Organization of Schools at the Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves as the project manager at the Everyone Graduates Center. In this capacity, she has worked with such organizations as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the George W. Bush Presidential Center, the New Mexico Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to assist with the organization and functionality of Early Warning Systems.

Prior to joining CSOS, Charlene was an Instructional Monitor for the Maryland State Department of Education Division of Leadership Development where she provided technical assistance to low performing schools and leadership teams. Her career includes 31 years with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools, where she was a principal, literacy specialist, and teacher.

**Timothy Renick: Senior Vice President for Student Success, Georgia State University**

Timothy Renick is Senior Vice President for Student Success and Professor of Religious Studies at Georgia State University. Since 2008, he has directed the student success and enrollment efforts of the university, overseeing one of the fastest improving graduation rates in the nation and the elimination of all achievement gaps based on students' race, ethnicity, or income level. Dr. Renick has testified on strategies for helping university students succeed before the U.S. Senate and twice been invited to speak at the White House. A summa cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College, Dr. Renick holds his M.A. and Ph.D. in religion from Princeton University.



**Angela Romans: Senior Vice President of Programming, Say Yes to Education & The Weiss Institute**

Angela Romans is Senior Vice President of Programming for Say Yes to Education & the Weiss Institute. She most recently served as co-director for District & Systems Transformation at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University. Her education career spans more than two decades in teaching, college admissions, school support, municipal government, research, and cross-sector collaboratives. Romans received an S.B. in biomedical engineering from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges and an Ed.M. in math teaching and curriculum, with an emphasis on urban education, from the Harvard Graduate School of Education



**Susan Sepanik: Research Associate, MDRC**

For the past 12 years, Susan Sepanik has been a research associate at MDRC, focused on improving educational outcomes for low-income students. Sepanik has been a lead researcher for several evaluations, ranging from smaller scale implementation and formative feedback studies on newly developed interventions, to large-scale evaluations of the impacts of high-profile educational reform models on students' academic success. Her research has focused on college and career readiness and transitioning into college; whole school reform models to turnaround struggling secondary schools; early warning indicator systems and supports for students falling off track to graduation; adolescent reading programs for struggling readers; and teacher professional development.





**Kristen Slaughter: Chief Operating Officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri**

Kristen Slaughter joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri in May 2001, bringing with her a Master of Arts Degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs. Mrs. Slaughter has held various positions within the organization during the past 17 years, all with a strong focus on performance management, specifically in the development of the organization's ABCToday® program. Mrs. Slaughter led the design and development of a web-based tool to collect, analyze, and report ABCToday® data. She also received the Margaret Slack Award from Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, recognizing her as the top employee nationwide due to her outstanding level of professionalism and quality of service. In addition to her job responsibilities, Kristen serves as a Big Sister and has been paired with her Little Sister Kiara for 14 years.



**Brian Stockton: Chief of Staff, Shelby County Schools**

Brian Stockton became Chief of Staff of Shelby County Schools in July 2016. Stockton provides vision and oversight for the District's most critical priorities. He chairs the Superintendent's senior leadership team and serves as liaison to the Shelby County Board of Education, in addition to directing special projects initiated by the Superintendent and enhancing internal operations and culture district-wide.

A native Memphian, Stockton served as an executive mentor, leadership development expert, and organizational culture coach prior to arriving at SCS. Over the course of his career, Stockton has been a change agent for leaders and organizations that include the American Bankers Association, Citigroup, Reuters America, and Dow Jones.

Stockton was instrumental in advancing the success of Fortune 500 companies as CEO of Sharpening Stone Solutions, LLC, through excellence in customer service and communication to create and sustain winning relationships.

As Culture and Organizational Development Analyst for Serco North America, Stockton was an advisor to the CEO and C-Suite leaders. He was instrumental in the development of leadership programs that received the organization's highest honor, National & Global Pulse Award, and now serve as models globally within the Serco network. Stockton stemmed attrition by 12% in one year while at Serco and took the company from nowhere to 39th on the Forbes list in 2015.

Stockton received his Bachelors of Arts from Howard University and a certificate in management from Georgetown University. He is a proud alum of Central High School in Memphis.



**Sylvia Symonds: Assistant Vice President for Educational Outreach and Student Services, Arizona State University**

Sylvia Symonds is the Assistant Vice President for Educational Outreach and Student Services at Arizona State University. In this role, she oversees outreach efforts for Access ASU, whose mission is to increase the number of Arizona students prepared to enroll and succeed in higher education. In 2017-2018, Access ASU will help over 100,000 students and families prepare for college through initiatives that include summer programs, parent engagement, academic conferences, campus visits, and other college readiness efforts.



**Amy Szymanski: Secondary Transition and Workforce Development Consultant, Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children**

Amy Szymanski, M.Ed. has more than 20 years of experience in education, primarily in special education and secondary transition for students with disabilities. She currently works as a statewide Secondary Transition and Workforce Development consultant at the State Support Team Region 1 in Toledo, Ohio. For information on her work, visit <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Secondary-Transition-and-Workforce-Development>. Ms. Szymanski previously served as a Technical Assistance Consultant at American Institutes for Research (AIR) with a focus on the Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System. The main project Amy supported at AIR is described here <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED573814.pdf>.



**Xan Tanner: Co-Founder and President, Panorama Education**

Xan Tanner is co-founder and president of Panorama Education, a Boston startup that helps educators use data from a variety of different sources, including social-emotional measures and surveys of students, parents, and teachers, to improve student learning. Xan was included among the 2014 Forbes 30 under 30 in education. Before founding Panorama, Xan worked on the coaching staff of the Yale men's basketball team as head of analytics.



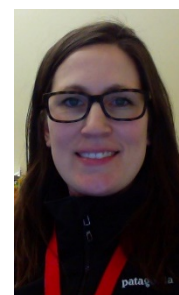
**Ericka Uskali: Executive Director, National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform**

Ericka Uskali is the Executive Director for the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. She began her career as a middle school teacher, and has since been the Assistant Director for the Association of Illinois Middle-Grades Schools. She served as a comprehensive school and district reform instructional coach, educational consultant and professional development specialist, and school district administrator overseeing a School Improvement Grant. As executive director, Ericka oversees a national network of middle-grades schools, as well as such programs as the Schools to Watch recognition and school reform process and annual national conference, an i3 Middle-Grades Leadership Grant, the Power of Two SEED grant, and the EWI school training process and online tool. Ericka has both masters and specialist degrees in Educational Leadership.



**Amy Vanasse: Student Information System Coordinator, Lower Kuskowim School District**

Amy Vanasse has served for the past three years as the Student Information System Coordinator for the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD), the largest rural school district in Alaska, with the primary responsibility of managing PowerSchool. In this capacity, she participated in the implementation of LKSD's early warning system structure and reports. This implementation included customization of PowerSchool to provide live student and school data to school-based intervention teams.



**Remy Washington: Managing Director, Uplift Education**

Remy L. Washington is a Managing Director for Uplift Education, a high quality public charter school network based in Dallas, Texas. Before assuming the role in 2015, Ms. Washington was the High School Director of Uplift Peak Preparatory for two years. Originally from Chicago, Illinois, she taught high school mathematics for seven years before moving into leadership at Morgan Park High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University, participated in the Golden Apple Teacher Education Program, and later earned an M.A. in teaching (secondary mathematics) and a Masters in Educational Leadership in Organizational Change. Ms. Washington is in her final year of the Johns Hopkins University School of Education E.D. Program, where she is working on her dissertation on teacher attrition in the charter school sector.



**Jeff Watson: Vice President for Education Research and Consulting, Hoonuit**

Watson leads Hoonuit's Education Research and Consulting group, which is responsible for ensuring that clients and internal development teams incorporate research and policy analysis into their projects. The group has developed early warning dashboards and predictive analytics based on peer-reviewed research, best-practice guides, and its own experience with K-12 analytics.



**Laura Weeldreyer: Chief Program Officer, Talent Development Secondary**

Laura Weeldreyer has had a twenty-five year career in public education. She spent eleven years in the central office of the Baltimore City Public School system in a variety of roles, including regional superintendent for 32 schools and Deputy Chief of Staff. She worked as a senior consultant for a public sector management consultant firm and worked to support large-scale reform initiatives with districts and states all over the country. She recently completed a term on the Maryland State Board of Education. Since coming to TDS two years ago, Laura has worked on strategic growth and planning, internal capacity building, and organizational development.



**Keith White: Director of Research and Evaluation, PEF Chattanooga**

PEF's Director of Research and Evaluation, Dr. Keith White, uses his experience with quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research and evaluation to support community leaders and public education professionals and students. Always striving to turn data into actionable information, Keith, an alumnus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, enjoys applying developmental psychology to testing and assessment when he is not analyzing National Student Clearinghouse data or wrestling with R.



**Anne Wicks: Director of Educational Reform, George W. Bush Institute**

Anne Wicks develops and oversees policy, research, and engagement work as the Director of Educational Reform at the Bush Institute. Before joining the Institute, Wicks served for five years as Associate Dean for External Relations at the University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education. She currently serves as the chair of PMC Support, a supporting organization for Ednovate Schools. Over her career, she has held management and resource development roles at organizations that include Teach for America, the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, and Stanford University.



**Chris Winton: Vice President of Human Resources, FedEx Services**

Chris L. Winton is the Vice President of Human Resources for FedEx Services, responsible for leading such functions as compensation, HR analysis, organizational effectiveness, recruiting, performance management, and workforce strategy and planning. Chris is also the enterprise business lead for Workday at FedEx.

Chris spent most of his career in IT before transitioning to the role of Director of Workforce Strategy. Over his 18 years with FedEx, he has successfully held various leadership positions, including the Director of IT Command Center, an organization of 400+ onshore and offshore resources overseeing the stability and performance of the global IT environment.

Chris earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Memphis in Information Systems Management and later an MBA from Dowling College. Chris first joined FedEx as an IT intern in 1997. He now serves on the Board of Directors for INROADS, Inc., Memphis Challenge, and the Local Workforce Investment Network. In 2014, The Memphis Business Journal recognized Chris as a "Top 40 Leader under 40" for his body of work, including programs such as Teach for America and TechHire.

Chris is married to Coleshia Winton, and they have two beautiful children, Jordyn and Jaden.



**Ken Zeff: Executive Director, Learn4Life**

Ken is the Executive Director of Learn4Life, the metro Atlanta education collaborative. Ken previously served in several roles, including Superintendent and Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, at Fulton County Schools, which serve 96,000 students and employ approximately 13,000 staff. Ken received his BA in Economics from the University of Michigan and his MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

