

Transforming Place through Neighborhood Leadership

SUMMER INSTITUTE

JULY 10-12, 2024



Speaker Biographies

(in order of appearance)



Rob Watson

Executive Director, EdRedesign; Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Rob Watson is the inaugural Executive Director of EdRedesign and Lecturer on Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education, having previously served as Deputy Director. At EdRedesign, Watson leads an interdisciplinary team of staff, fellows, consultants, research affiliates, and students supporting communities across the U.S. to

develop cradle-to-career systems of opportunity.

Prior to joining EdRedesign, Rob served as a consultant and advisor to organizations that include the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, Harvard College, Tufts University, The Social Impact Studio, FUSE Corps, The Foundation for Louisiana, The Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School, The Obama Foundation, and Harlem Children's Zone. Rob partnered with the mayor, superintendent of schools and community stakeholders from his hometown of Poughkeepsie, New York to launch the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet, a collective impact organization that convenes leaders across sectors to develop a citywide cradle-to-career agenda for children, youth, and families. Rob is also a co-founder of the Poughkeepsie Service Accelerator (PSA), a place-based service year collaborative that aims to attract and retain local talent to pursue social impact careers in the Mid-Hudson Valley region of New York State.

In January 2024, Rob was selected as a Presidential Leadership Scholar. Rob is a member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Funding Project, former World Economic Forum Global Shaper, and former Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Millennium Scholar. He holds a B.A. from Harvard College, an Ed.M in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a Mid-career Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard Kennedy School.



Wendy Viola
Managing Director of Knowledge and Awareness Building, William Julius Wilson Institute

As Managing Director, Knowledge and Awareness Building for the William Julius Wilson Institute, **Dr. Wendy Viola** oversees learning and knowledge management for the Institute. A community psychologist by training, Wendy has 16 years of experience in the field of research and evaluation in academic and applied settings, including the New York City Mayor's Office of ThriveNYC and the Harlem Children's Zone's Research and Evaluation team. Wendy earned her bachelor's from Cornell University and Masters and PhD in Applied Psychology from Portland State University.



Brittany McDaniel, LSW
Director of Technical Assistance, William Julius Wilson Institute

Brittany McDaniel is a trained school social worker and applied researcher who has provided technical assistance for school districts, education nonprofits, and human services agencies across the country. She formerly led statewide efforts to streamline data sharing across private and public stakeholders, evaluate the results of education programs, and embed equity principles in data collection and sharing. Her areas of expertise include research and evaluation, technical assistance, school discipline, restorative justice, and student mental health. Brittany believes in elevating the voices of practitioners and resident leaders and has a demonstrated track record of making sure research and data are accessible to various stakeholders. As Director of Technical Assistance, Brittany advances cradle-to-career, place-based efforts by streamlining processes for assessing community needs and ensuring technical assistance needs are met with practical and engaging offerings.



Nonie K. Lesaux
Interim Dean; Larsen Professor of Education and Human Development, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Nonie K. Lesaux is the Roy E. Larsen Professor of Education and Human Development at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). She leads a research program on strategies and innovations to improve learning opportunities and literacy outcomes for children and youth. Her teaching focuses on literacy development and reform, early learning, and leading system-level change.

Lesaux's research-practice partnerships with large urban school districts, to improve literacy rates, include seven years with San Diego Unified and ten years with the New York City Department of Education.

With Stephanie Jones, Lesaux leads the Saul Zaentz Early Education Initiative at HGSE, which addresses the pervasive global challenge of simultaneously scaling and improving the quality of early education.

Lesaux's research appears in numerous scholarly publications, and its practical applications are featured in several books for school leaders and educators. She is co-editor of the Handbook of Reading Research (2022) and wrote a widely circulated state literacy report, Turning the Page: Refocusing Massachusetts for Reading Success, that inspired a third-grade reading proficiency bill passed in Massachusetts.

Lesaux has earned the William T. Grant Scholars Award and the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor given by the U.S. government to young professionals beginning their independent research careers. Lesaux is a member of the National Academy of Education and the board of the Spencer Foundation.



Paul Reville

Francis Keppel Professor of Practice of Educational Policy and Administration & Founding Director of EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Professor Paul Reville returned to the Harvard Graduate School of Education as the Francis Keppel Professor of Practice of Educational Policy and Administration in 2013, having just completed nearly five years of service as the secretary of education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As Governor Deval Patrick's top education advisor, Reville established the Executive Office of Education and had oversight of higher education, K-12, and early education in the nation's leading student achievement state. He served in the Governor's Cabinet and played a leading education reform role on matters ranging from the Achievement Gap Act of 2010 and Common Core State Standards to the Commonwealth's highly successful Race to the Top proposal.

Prior to joining the Patrick Administration, Reville chaired the Massachusetts State Board of Education, founded the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy, co-founded the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE), chaired the Massachusetts Reform Review Commission and the Massachusetts Commission on Time and Learning, and served as Executive Director of the Pew Forum on Standards-Based Reform, a national think tank which convened the U.S.'s leading researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to set the national standards agenda.

Reville is a board member and adviser to a host of organizations, and a frequent writer and speaker on education reform and policy issues. He edited the book entitled, A Decade of Urban School Reform: Persistence and Progress in the Boston Public Schools. He holds five honorary doctorate degrees.



Benny Goldman

**Assistant Professor of Economics, Cornell University;
Research Affiliate, Opportunity Insights & EdRedesign**

Benny Goldman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and the Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy at Cornell University, as well as a research affiliate at Opportunity Insights. His research focuses primarily on labor and public economics, with a particular emphasis on race- and class-based economic disparities in the United States. He collaborates with the team at Opportunity Insights to leverage large-scale administrative data to study the sources of these disparities and evaluate policies aimed at alleviating them.



Jorrit de Jong

**Emma Bloomberg Senior Lecturer, Harvard Kennedy School;
Director, Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University**

Jorrit de Jong is the Emma Bloomberg Senior Lecturer in Public Policy and Management at Harvard Kennedy School. He is director of the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University. A specialist in experiential learning, Jorrit has taught strategic management and public problem-solving in degree and executive education programs at HKS and around the world.

Jorrit is Faculty Co-Chair of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, a joint program of Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School, funded by and executed in collaboration with Bloomberg Philanthropies. It is the world's most comprehensive effort to advance effective problem-solving and innovation through executive education, research, curriculum development, and fieldwork in cities.

During his time as Academic Director of the Innovations in Government Program at the Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, he launched the Innovation Field Lab, an experiential learning, executive education, and action-oriented research project working with 15 cities in Massachusetts and New York to help them leverage data, community engagement and innovation to revitalize distressed and underinvested neighborhoods. He also founded the Organized Crime Lab and Human Trafficking Field Lab, facilitating diverse, multidisciplinary crime-fighting teams in collaborative innovation work.

Before coming to Harvard, Jorrit co-founded the Kafka Brigade, a social enterprise in Europe that helps governments diagnose and remedy bureaucratic dysfunction. Before that he was director of the Center for Government Studies at Leiden University and founding co-director of a consulting firm for the public sector in Amsterdam.



Marty Pollio
Superintendent, Jefferson County Public Schools

Dr. Marty Pollio was appointed Superintendent of the Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) District effective April 1, 2018. Dr. Pollio served as acting Superintendent since July 2, 2017. He has dedicated over 26 years of his career to serving the students of JCPS as an administrator and educator. His primary focus is improving the culture and climate across the district, increasing student achievement, and implementing deeper learning strategies to make lessons more engaging for students and teachers. During his tenure as Superintendent, Dr. Pollio has implemented the Academies of

Louisville, overseen record growth in the graduation rate, and altered the student assignment system, giving every JCPS student the option to attend a school closer to home. Dr. Pollio began his career with JCPS in 1997 as a social studies teacher at Shawnee High School. He went on to serve as a teacher and assistant principal at Waggener High School before taking the helm as principal of Jeffersontown High School from 2007 to 2015. Dr. Pollio was the principal of Doss High School until July 2017, when he was selected as the acting superintendent. In July 2021, Dr. Pollio was named the Kentucky 2022 Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA). KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,200 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Dr. Pollio earned his undergraduate degree from Indiana University, his master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University, and his doctorate from the University of Louisville in 2012.



Marland Cole
Executive Director, Evolve502

Marland Cole is the executive director of Evolve502, a public-private partnership working to ensure that every child in Louisville is prepared for college, career and a successful, productive life. Evolve502 convenes and organizes community partners to better link youth to resources to ensure academic success and by providing access and funding for a postsecondary education, beginning with the class of 2021. Focusing on systems, scholarships and supports, Evolve502 is committed to removing and mitigating the systemic barriers of poverty and racism, and to ensure an educated, growing and vibrant community where all

citizens can prosper.

Cole previously served as assistant vice president of governance and board support for Baptist Health where she was responsible for activities related to the function, recruitment, education and engagement of the Baptist Health Boards. Prior to her time at Baptist, Cole served as vice president of institutional advancement for Simmons College, Louisville's HBCU, as chief public affairs officer for Hosparus, the community's hospice provider, and as assistant vice president for Jewish Hospital and St. Mary's Healthcare. She has an MBA from Bellarmine University and a bachelor's degree in communications, from the University of Louisville. Active in the community, Cole has served on the Board of the Leadership Louisville Center, as board chair for the Lincoln Foundation, and on the executive committees for the boards of

the YMCA of Greater Louisville, Metro United Way and Maryhurst. Cole has presented at a number of national, regional and local conventions and conferences.



Carmel Martin
Special Secretary, Maryland Governor's Office

Carmel Martin is the Special Secretary leading the Governor's Office for Children and a Senior Advisor to the Governor for Economic Mobility. She chairs the Governor's Children's Cabinet, which works to improve services to support Maryland's children and families, and drives policy action to reduce child poverty, including leading implementation of the Governor's ENOUGH initiative focusing on neighborhoods with the highest concentration of poverty across the state.

Prior to this role, Martin held various appointments in the Biden-Harris Administration including Domestic Policy Advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris, Deputy Director at the White House Domestic Policy Council, and Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Mobility. Martin also served in the Obama Administration as the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Budget at the U.S. Department of Education.

Martin was one of the founding staff members at the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank in Washington, D.C., where she subsequently served as Executive Vice President leading teams spanning across domestic, economic, climate and national security policy. She also worked in the United States Senate focused on legislation tackling education, workforce, economic, and healthcare issues.

Martin began her career as a civil rights lawyer in private practice and at the United States Department of Justice.



Christian Rhodes
Deputy Executive Director, William Julius Wilson Institute

Christian Rhodes has been a trusted advisor to education leaders across the country for the past 15 years. Most recently, Christian served as Senior Advisor to the U.S Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona advising him on all matters of K-12, strategic partnership, and special initiatives. Appointed by President Biden, Rhodes also served as the Chief of Staff for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, leading the department's efforts to increase the access and availability of summer learning and enrichment programs and establishing a practitioner-focused repository of district and state responses to safely reopening America's schools. In addition, his office was responsible for all the significant discretionary grants in K-12, namely the 21st Century Learning Centers, Full-Service Community Schools, and Promise Neighborhoods. Lastly, his team led the distribution of over \$122 Billion through the historic American Rescue Plan, the most significant single investment in public education in our nation's history. Before his appointment to the Biden Administration, Christian served as Chief of Staff for a large urban

school district and policy advisor to multiple superintendents, mayors, governors, and state and municipal leaders on education. He began his career as a political organizer and advocated for educators and equity in educational opportunities for students and families. Rhodes is a graduate of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the American University in Washington D.C.



Jazmine Lewis
Chief Strategy Officer, Harlem Children’s Zone

Jazmine Lewis has over twenty years of non-profit professional experience. She joined the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families in 1996 as a Harlem Peacemaker with the AmeriCorps program under the leadership of Rasuli Lewis. While committed to broadening her reach, she also served for several years simultaneously as an Ella Baker Trainer for the Children's Defense Fund. During her tenure at HCZ, Mrs. Lewis has managed K-12 and community programs, administrative departments and core operations. She has been in a senior leadership role for over ten years and serves as a key stakeholder for the HCZ community. Mrs. Lewis earned a bachelors in psychology from MEC,

masters in public administration and certifications in conflict resolution, executive leadership and project management.



Michelle Matthews
Chief Strategy and Operations Officer, Purpose Built Communities

Michelle Matthews is Chief Strategy and Operations Officer of Purpose Built Communities Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving racial equity, economic mobility, and health outcomes in communities across the country. Purpose Built Communities combines the best of practice, policy, and research in housing, education, community wellness, and economic vitality to help neighbors and local leaders deliver transformation to ensure each neighborhood will be a pathway to opportunity for the people who call it home. As a strategic

senior leader, Michelle brings passion, experience, and integrity to her work. In her role, she provides leadership and strategic direction to team members and local leaders implementing the Purpose Built model for holistic neighborhood transformation.

Prior to Purpose Built, Michelle founded and led Matthews Consulting Group (MCG) for over two decades. She was a trusted advisor with experience in organizational development, change management, and consulting. Before founding MCG, Michelle was a senior manager for IBM, KPMG Consulting, and Accenture. In these positions, Michelle effectively led teams through engagements requiring strategic planning, group facilitation, organizational change management, executive coaching, and business process redesign.



Fritz Bondoa
Director of Public Policy, William Julius Wilson Institute

Fritz Bondoa serves as the Director of Public Policy for the William Julius Wilson Institute at the Harlem Children's Zone. In this role, Fritz oversees Harlem Children's Zone policy and advocacy work, leading engagement with the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, municipal governments and collaboration with other place-based education organizations. Prior to joining the Harlem Children's Zone, he served as a Special Assistant to Governor Wes Moore- then the CEO at the Robin Hood Foundation, the largest philanthropic poverty fighting organization in New York. Furthermore, he formerly served as Policy Advisor on the Children's Cabinet in Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration and Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the

Mayor's Coronavirus-Response Racial Inclusion and Equity Task Force. Fritz began his career as a Political Aide to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. He holds a master's degree in Public Affairs from Brown University and a bachelor's degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, where he was a Distinguished Majors recipient and graduated with High Distinction.



Teresa Wilke
Owner and Principal, Silver Arrow Strategies

Teresa Wilke is a federal grant consultant for cross-sector coalitions and community-led movements, specializing in “big bet” investments that drive education equity, economic mobility, wealth-building, neighborhood reinvestment, social and structural determinants of health, and racial justice. She has helped clients secure over \$150 million in competitive grant awards and now designs scaled technical assistance and coaching programs to promote equitable access to

public funds. A Grant Professionals Association-approved trainer, Teresa leverages over 20 years of grant writing experience and 10+ years as a federal grant reviewer, as well as first-hand insights from her federal appointments in the White House, HUD, EPA and EEOC. Teresa earned her MBA from Washington University in St. Louis, where she teaches government grant writing to graduate students of social work, public health, and social policy.



Kwame Owusu-Kesse
CEO, Harlem Children's Zone

Kwame Owusu-Kesse is the CEO of Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), a world-renowned education and poverty-fighting organization based in New York. Appointed to the role in 2020, after his tenure as COO, Mr. Owusu-Kesse launched HCZ's transformation into a truly national organization — spearheading efforts to scale its place-based model to under-resourced communities across the country. As part of this effort, he catalyzed HCZ's national COVID-19 Relief and Recovery to

support Black and brown communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Locally, Mr. Owusu-Kesse oversees the administration of HCZ's comprehensive,

cradle-to-career services to over 34,000 children and families in Central Harlem. Mr. Owusu-Kesse sees himself in the youth of HCZ. Growing up against a backdrop of poverty and family struggles, he was fortunate to have opportunities as a young boy to receive a high-quality education and reach his academic potential. After graduating high school, Mr. Owusu-Kesse earned his bachelor's degree in Economics from Harvard University and launched his career at Morgan Stanley as an analyst. During his third year with the bank, Mr. Owusu-Kesse was chosen for an externship at HCZ — an experience that paved the way for his career at HCZ. After finishing the externship, Mr. Owusu-Kesse returned to Harvard, where he earned a Master's in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School and a Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. With his time at Harvard complete, Mr. Owusu-Kesse re-joined HCZ as senior manager and special assistant to the CEO. Two years later, he was promoted to COO and finally, CEO.



Anthony Smith
Executive Director, Cities United

Anthony D. Smith is an organizer, a bridge builder, a believer in community, and a thought leader. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Cities United — under his leadership, the organization has partnered with 100s of cities who are working to create safe, healthy, and hopeful communities for young Black men and boys and their families. Before joining Cities United, Anthony led the Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods for Mayor Greg Fischer and the City of Louisville. Throughout his professional career he has made it a priority to create positive outcomes for youth and cultivate up and coming Black leaders. Anthony was born, raised, and still lives in Louisville, Kentucky with his wife and family. Anthony earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Legal Studies from Northern Kentucky University.



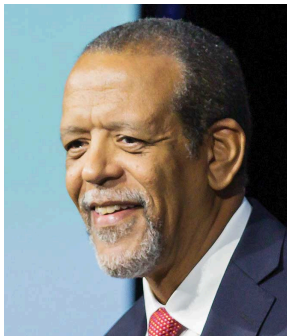
Elson Nash
Director of Division of School Choice and Improvement Programs, US Department of Education

Elson Nash serves as the Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Division of School Choice and Improvement Programs. His role encompasses the oversight of initiatives aimed at fostering diversity and community engagement in schools. With a focus on policy and budget management, Elson steers programs with a combined annual budget nearing \$450M, ensuring they align with the mission of educational equity and improvement. His expertise in community development and workshop facilitation is grounded in the practical supervision of six program officers and multiple technical assistance contracts. These competencies have been pivotal in cultivating partnerships and advancing the Promise Neighborhoods and Full-Service Community Schools Programs, securing the foundation for thriving educational communities.



Brian McClendon
Managing Director of Place, William Julius Wilson Institute

Brian McClendon, Managing Director of Place for the William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone, is a native of Harlem, New York. Brian has served at Harlem Children's Zone for over 27 years. His dedication to our mission of reversing generational poverty in Harlem is evident through his commitment to developing youth from early childhood to college to career. Once a participant in 1996, he started attending programs at the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families. After graduating from High School, he served two years as an AmeriCorps intern at the Harlem Peacemakers program. In 1999 he received the David Chen Joseph Peacemaker Award for his outstanding efforts and commitment to the Peacemaker Way. Experienced in program development, community engagement, and field-building, Brian has held various leadership roles within the organization. He also completed the Imani Nia Freedom Summer of Service training hosted by the Children's Defense Fund and the Black Community Crusade for Children at the former Alex Haley Farm in Tennessee. He was recognized for his outstanding leadership, service, and dedication in 2003 when he received the HCZ Leadership Award. In 2010 he completed the Columbia University Graduate School of Business Middle Management Executive Education Program. Brian holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Master's in Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.



Ron Ferguson
Founder and Executive Director, The Basics, Inc.

Ron Ferguson is an MIT-trained economist whose teaching, research, and social entrepreneurship over 40+ years at Harvard Kennedy School span topics ranging from state, local, and community and economic development, to school reform, to early childhood development. Ron's current priority is an initiative that he launched while Faculty Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University, to mobilize communities for infant, toddler, and preschool learning and brain development. It operates through The Basics Inc., a nonprofit organization that he leads and a community of practice—the Basics Learning Network—with affiliated coalitions in dozens of communities in the US and abroad. Ron's most recent book, coauthored with Tatsha Robertson and published in 2019, is *The Formula: Unlocking the Secrets to Raising Highly Successful Children*. He is a father and grandfather and grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, before earning an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a PhD from MIT, both in economics.



Michelle Paige
Chief Program Officer, Harlem Children's Zone

For more than 25 years, **Michelle Paige** has dedicated her career to the education of children and families in New York City. She began her career as an early childhood and elementary school teacher for New York City Public Schools. Her leadership continued in community-based programs, including the Children's Aid Society, where she served as Deputy Director of Childhood Education. She was also the Director of Early Childhood Education at Union Settlement.

Michelle went on to become Associate Executive Director, and then Chief Program and Equity Officer, at University Settlement. Directly before joining us here at Harlem Children's Zone, Michelle served as Executive Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.

She joined Harlem Children's Zone in the Fall of 2023 as the Chief Program Officer. Her portfolio spans the HCZ pipeline and includes: community and family engagement, early childhood programs, school-age K-12 offerings, robust athletics programs, health, wellness and social services supports, and the College Success Office. Her goals in this role are to keep the mission of children first, servant leadership, and place matters implemented every step of the way throughout HCZ's pipeline



Shayna Terrell
Managing Director of Place, William Julius Wilson Institute

Shayna Terrell is the Managing Director of Place at the William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone. Prior to this role, she co-launched The Center for Black Educator Development, an organization dedicated to re-building The Black Teacher Pipeline. Her leadership has been instrumental in leading national programming designed to recruit, train, and retain aspiring educators. Terrell's role as the host of Building the Black Educator Pipeline Podcast further amplifies The Center's efforts, engaging with current educators in the field and showcasing the organization's work on a virtual stage.

She previously served as an administrator and Assistant Principal at a charter management organization and had a 12-year tenure across multiple roles. Mrs. Terrell has over 20 years of experience in nonprofit programs, including working as a 16-year-old youth leader at HCZ. She has over 20 years of experience working with at-risk youth and has been successful in non-profit leadership, positive youth development, community engagement, program development, and building a positive school culture. She is also a member of the board of various youth-serving organizations.

Mrs. Terrell's academic achievements are a testament to her dedication and passion. She holds a bachelor's degree from Temple University in Political Science with a minor in Sociology, a master's degree in Business and Organizational Strategic Leadership from Neumann University, and a Certification in School Leadership from Relay Graduate School of Education.



Kerry McKittrick
Co-Director, Harvard Project on Workforce

Kerry McKittrick is the Co-Director of the Harvard Project on Workforce, an interdisciplinary applied research project between the Harvard Kennedy School's Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, the Harvard Business School's Managing the Future of Work Project, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In this role, Kerry leads the Project's engagement, policy, and research agenda focused on building better pathways to economic mobility. Prior to joining the Project on Workforce, Kerry was a senior manager in the Executive Office at Jobs for the Future, where she worked closely with the CEO and Chief of Staff to develop and oversee cross-organizational initiatives and partnerships. Before that, she served as a Senior Policy Advisor on education, labor, workforce development, and child welfare policy to Congressman Jim Langevin, co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus. She began her career in politics, serving as the campaign manager for Massachusetts State Representative Ken Gordon. She holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Brown University and a master's degree in education policy and analysis from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she was distinguished as a Leadership in Education Fellow.



Chike Aguh
Executive Advisor, Accenture; Senior Advisor, Harvard's Project on Workforce

Chike Aguh is Executive Advisor on future of work and innovation at Accenture and Senior Advisor at Harvard's Project on Workforce.. A Fulbright Scholar and first in his family born in America, Chike was previously the Chief Innovation Officer at the US Department of Labor in the Biden administration; teacher and policy official in America's largest school system; corporate strategy director at higher education technology company EAB; non-profit CEO who helped connect 500,000 low-income Americans to affordable internet and digital skills; and Director of Strategy/Future of Work Lead at business advisory firm the McChrystal Group, founded by Gen. (ret.) Stanley McChrystal.

Chike holds degrees from Tufts University (B.A.), Harvard Graduate School of Education (Ed.M), Harvard Kennedy School (MPA), and University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School (MBA). He is a Council on Foreign Relations life member; Presidential Leadership Scholar; and Wharton and Washington Business Journal 40 under 40 honoree.

Chike, his wife and their two kids are proud Marylanders and Prince Georgians. He is Vice Chair of the Maryland Higher Education Commission appointed by Gov. Wes Moore, advisor to the Prince George's County focused philanthropy Pull-Up Fund and founder of the Aguh Workforce Scholarship at Prince George's Community College.



Bridget Rodriguez
Senior Advisor, EdRedesign

Bridget Rodriguez is Senior Advisor to EdRedesign, having joined the organization at its founding and previously served as the managing director. Prior to joining EdRedesign, Bridget served as the director of planning and collaboration in the Executive Office of Education (EOE), the Massachusetts Secretary of Education's office, where she led the Innovation Schools initiative and facilitated the establishment of 54 Innovation Schools across the Commonwealth. She also served as the

Secretary's designee to the Board of Early Education and Care and the Early Literacy Expert Panel.

Bridget was formerly the education liaison to two mayors of Cambridge. She has also been a school principal and a bilingual teacher. She has served as a consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education evaluating and providing support to underperforming schools. She received her undergraduate degree from Haverford College and a masters in education administration from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Bridget is the parent of two children who were Cambridge Public School students.



Amy Susman-Stillman
Vice President of Evaluation, Northside Achievement Zone

Dr. Amy Susman-Stillman, Vice President of Evaluation at the Northside Achievement Zone, oversees NAZ's evaluation strategy, the NAZ data system, and the NAZ Data Innovation team. She is passionate about building a data culture at NAZ and using data to improve the quality of programming, the systems we live in, and the success of our children and families. Prior to joining NAZ, she spent over 20 years as an applied researcher and evaluator at the University of Minnesota working on myriad projects focused on early education, human development, the education workforce, children's mental health, and community well-being. Amy holds a Ph.D. in child and

school psychology from the University of Minnesota and a B.S. in human development and family studies from Cornell University.



Briellen Griffin
Research Scientist, Saint Paul Promise/Wilder Research

Dr. Briellen Griffin (she/her) is a Research Scientist at Wilder Research, an independent research unit of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Briellen leads data and evaluation work for Saint Paul Promise, a cradle-to-career education partnership, and is an external evaluator for Northside Achievement Zone and Saint Louis Park Children First. Briellen works on a variety of research and evaluation studies that focus on education and community well-being. Her primary research interests are centered around race equity in education policy and practice, across the lifespan. Briellen has expertise in qualitative, collaborative research methods, including interviews, focus groups, and collaborative community data interpretation. Her other projects include statewide qualitative research on family and student experiences of inequality and inequity in the education and childcare ecosystem, support of full-service community schools, and workforce development. Briellen also has hands-on experience in higher education, where she worked as a researcher, instructor, and advisor for ten years. She holds a Ph.D. in cultural and educational policy studies from Loyola University Chicago School of Education. Briellen was also a school social worker in North Minneapolis and holds an MSW from the University of Minnesota, as well as a BA in English.



Rajni Banthia
Vice President of Evaluation, Mission Economic Development Agency

With over 20 years of experience, **Dr. Rajni Banthia's** role is to tell the story about the impact MEDA's programs are having on the community. She is a multidisciplinary social scientist and has dedicated her career to leading evaluation, research, and needs assessments on a range of issues facing lower income communities of color with the overarching aim of using data to foster meaningful change and promote social equity. This work is rooted in her passion for making data accessible, engaging, and relevant for practitioners, policymakers, as well as lay audiences. Being the daughter of immigrants has fueled her pursuit for social justice and commitment to working with diverse and underserved groups. Prior to MEDA, Dr. Banthia served as an evaluation consultant to government and nonprofit agencies across the country. She worked at Resource Development Associates, a mission driven social services consultancy; Samuels Center for Public Health Research and Evaluation, a public health research and evaluation firm; and PolicyLink, a non-profit research and advocacy organization promoting social justice and equity. Dr. Banthia earned a BA in Psychology from UC Berkeley, and a PhD in Behavioral Medicine from UC San Diego. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship in Public Health policy research at UC San Francisco with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Scholars in Health Disparities program.



Lynne Sacks
**Research Director, EdRedesign; Lecturer on Education,
Harvard Graduate School of Education**

Lynne Sacks is the research director at EdRedesign and leads the organization's research activities. Lynne has over 20 years of research, non-profit, and policy experience. She heads the ongoing By All Means documentation and evaluation study as well as EdRedesign's other research. Before joining EdRedesign, Lynne worked for the Center for Equity and Excellence in Education at the George Washington University and the National Center on Education and the Economy. She has conducted research for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the American Institutes for Research; she has also served as a consultant to New Profit, the Annenberg Center for School Reform, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education, and the Commonwealth Corporation.

Lynne is a former high school and adult English and English as a Second Language teacher. Lynne received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University, and her M.Ed. and Ed.D. degrees from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Tauheedah Jackson
**Deputy Director and Director of the Institute for
Success Planning, EdRedesign**

Tauheedah Jackson serves as the Deputy Director of EdRedesign and the inaugural director of EdRedesign's Institute for Success Planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She partners with local communities, nationwide, to design personalized, relationship-based systems of support for children and youth through cross-sector collaboration. Prior to joining EdRedesign, she was the director of Place Based Strategy & Community School Initiatives at the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL). In this role, she was responsible for engaging networks of leaders in local communities and supervising the programs, logistics, and daily operations of the national Coalition for Community Schools. In June 2023, Tauheedah joined IEL's board of directors.

As the previous director of the Hartford Partnership for Student Success, Tauheedah led a cross-sector collaborative partnership that founded and funded the local Community Schools initiative in Hartford, Connecticut. Under Tauheedah's leadership, Hartford Community Schools became locally and nationally recognized as an exemplar for its systems-building work. She also served as the Vice President for Strategic Partnerships for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford, after fulfilling several operations and program capacities within the organization.



Rachel Ward
Director of Operations, Omega CDC

Rachel Ward is a servant leader, child advocate, and public service professional with a commitment to improving the health and well-being of communities, families, and children. Over the course of her career, she has worked across sectors and systems, including developing youth programs, managing a 13-county regional council for child abuse and neglect prevention, and serving in collaborative efforts to address early childhood education, food equity, and domestic violence. Currently, Rachel serves as the Director of

Operations and Strategic Initiatives at the Omega Community Development Corporation in Dayton, Ohio. In her role, she serves as Project Director for the Hope Zone Promise Neighborhood and drives the implementation of strategic plans for the organization's place-based efforts through development and evaluation against strategic objectives and key performance indicators. Rachel provides leadership for all Omega CDC programs and initiatives, including the Hope Center for Families with partner organizations Dayton Children's Hospital, Mini University, and Sinclair College.



Stacy Schweikhart
CEO, Learn to Earn Dayton

Stacy Wall Schweikhart serves as CEO for Learn to Earn Dayton. Stacy leads an immensely talented and passionate team, and works in coordination with committed community partners and collaboration with a dedicated Board of Directors to implement a strategic vision to address disparities, improve student achievement and advance family economic mobility. A Dayton native, Stacy brings more than 23 years of public sector leadership and a deep network of relationships and

resources to her role. She also works to build capacity within the nonprofit ecosystem in the Dayton region as an instructor on Organizational Culture, Board Management and Business Structure in the Course for Nonprofit Leaders hosted at Aileron by the Mathile Family Foundation. She joined Learn to Earn Dayton in 2022, having previously served as Director of Strategy & Engagement for MVRPC where she led regional Economic Development, Livability, Mobility, Disaster Recovery, Active Transportation, Water Quality and Air Quality planning initiatives for a 5 county area in partnership with local, state and federal partners. Prior to that, Stacy served in a variety of leadership roles for the City of Kettering, Ohio, an inner-ring suburb of Dayton, where she specialized in community engagement, youth development, public information, crisis communication and government transparency. She is a published author, frequent conference presenter and trainer on topics related to leadership, culture and "building the bench" of future leaders in our field. Stacy earned her BA and MPA degrees from the University of Dayton (GO FLYERS!) and is an AICP certified professional planner.



Libby Schaaf
50th Mayor of Oakland, California (2015-2023);
EdRedesign By All Means Senior Fellow

Libby Schaaf served as Mayor of her hometown Oakland, California from 2015 to 2023. Prior to being mayor, she ran Oakland's school volunteer program, worked as an attorney, a mayoral and legislative aide, public affairs director at the Port of Oakland, and Council member. As Mayor, Schaaf led bold initiatives to make the city more equitable and resilient and broke records in violence prevention, housing production, and road repair. In 2016, she founded Oakland Promise, recognized by experts as "the most comprehensive cradle-to-career initiative of its kind." By the end of her mayoral term, Oakland Promise had become its own 501c3 with a \$15M annual budget and a \$50M endowment raised by Schaaf, allowing it to make a commitment to the next generation of Oakland's children: that every baby born to low-income parents will receive a \$500 college savings account at birth and every low-income public-school graduate will receive \$1000 a year while pursuing a 2- or 4-year college degree or trade certificate. She also led The Children's Initiative ballot measure approved by Oakland voters in 2018, which will provide 30 years of funding for universal preschool access and college access and affordability for Oakland's children. She now serves as Interim Executive Director of Emerge California that recruits and trains Democratic women to run for office. She also teaches at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley and she also holds a fellowship with Mayors for a Guaranteed Income. Schaaf holds a B.A. from Rollins College and J.D. from Loyola Law School.



Eric Jay Rosser
Superintendent, Poughkeepsie City School District

Dr. Eric Jay Rosser joined the Poughkeepsie City Schools in August 2019 as superintendent of schools. With the support of the School Board, Dr. Rosser developed the district's five-year strategic plan, which has produced demonstrable improvements across the district in a short period of time. What was once considered a low performing school district is now recognized as a school district of great promise.

Serving as an associate superintendent in the Buffalo Public Schools, he co-developed the district's Student Success Plan, the district's strategic plan for increasing student achievement. As deputy assistant superintendent for elementary and secondary education at the Office of State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Rosser oversaw the implementation of the District of Columbia's K-12 State Accountability System and school turnaround supports. He also led the establishment of the accountability system for early learning facilities throughout the District of Columbia and was responsible for parent engagement. In Atlanta, Dr. Rosser served as a program administrator, assistant superintendent and interim deputy superintendent of curriculum and instruction. He was responsible for the district's signature reform initiative designed to increase the academic outcomes of over 13,000 K-12 students in the system's lowest performing schools, school accreditation, and parent engagement. Dr. Rosser earned a Bachelor's degree (American Studies), three master's degrees (American Studies, School Counseling, and Educational Leadership), an advanced certificate (School District Administration), and a doctorate in philosophy (Sociology of Education) from the

State University of New York at Buffalo. He has also participated in the AASA/Howard University Urban Superintendents Academy.



Peter Birke
Manager, The Bridgespan Group

Peter Birke is a Manager in Bridgespan's San Francisco office. Since joining Bridgespan, he has worked with both philanthropic and nonprofit organizations on a range of issue areas—including place-based change and economic mobility—to develop effective and equitable strategies and operating models.

Prior to joining Bridgespan, Peter worked in the social sector and in city government on economic and community development.

Peter has an AB in Economics from Washington University in St. Louis and an MPA from the School of Public & International Affairs at Princeton University.



Torian Robinson
Managing Director of Place, William Julius Wilson Institute

Torian Robinson is a seasoned leader and trusted advisor who has guided globally recognized organizations across diverse industries, scales, and scopes through critical moments. With extensive experience as a nonprofit executive in fundraising and program management, Torian previously served as Managing Director of K-8 Programs at the Harlem Children's Zone, where he oversaw 10 after-school programs serving more than 2,000 students and their families. In this role, he led strategic initiatives, operations management, budget planning, and leadership development.

Currently, as Managing Director of Place at the William Julius Wilson

Institute, Torian supports dynamic Place-Based Organizations by providing technical assistance to strengthen their cradle-to-career strategies. His efforts aim to propel one million young people towards social and economic mobility across various communities.

Torian is a proud alumnus of Morehouse College where he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia with his wife, three sons and daughter.



Nithin Iyengar
Partner, The Bridgespan Group

Nithin Iyengar is a partner and heads Bridgespan's San Francisco office. Since joining the organization in 2010, Nithin has been a leader in developing Bridgespan's work in the education field. His work has spanned the domains of early childhood, K-12 education, and place-based work with both nonprofits, foundations, and government agencies. His recent projects have focused on foundation strategy,

sourcing and due diligence, program strategy, program innovation, and leadership development. Nithin has co-authored a number of papers including, "School District Innovation Zones," "Should Donors Invest in School Districts," "Rethinking High School Turnarounds," and "Nonprofit Innovation for a Post-Crisis Future."

Nithin joined Bridgespan after seven years as an educator and district leader working in prior roles in Pittsburgh Unified School District, Oakland Unified School District, and the School District of Philadelphia. His career began in the classroom teaching high school math and later working as an instructional coach supporting new math and science teachers.

In addition to his work at Bridgespan, Nithin serves on the Board of Directors of The New Teacher Center and One World Network of Schools.

Nithin earned a BA in Computer Science from Harvard University; an MA in Educational Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University; and an Ed.M in Educational Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Rohit Menezes
Partner, The Bridgespan Group

Rohit Menezes is a Partner at Bridgespan's office in San Francisco. Through his work, he hopes to help build a vibrant civil society reinforced by dynamic leaders, community-led nonprofits, and justice-oriented philanthropists.

Over the last 16 years at Bridgespan, Rohit has served as an advisor to a wide range of nonprofits/NGOs and foundations in the United States and India on issues related to strategy and operations. Rohit has often led client and knowledge-generating work on topics related to community, including on place-based change, peer-driven change, and effective community-based multi-service organizations. Select clients include Harlem Children's Zone, UpTogether, St. Anthony's Foundation, The Bail Project, Skoll Foundation, and Tata Trusts. Rohit has a particular interest in and commitment to supporting Native American sovereignty and has led much of Bridgespan's work with Native-serving and Native-led organizations.

From 2015-2017, Rohit served as the Founding Partner of Bridgespan's Mumbai office. Rohit has co-authored a range of Bridgespan publications including "When Peers Work Together to Drive Social Change," "Why Indian Nonprofits Are Experts at Scaling Up," and "Next Generation Community Revitalization."

Prior to Bridgespan, Rohit had experience as a corporate management consultant (Boston Consulting Group), telecommunications consultant, and crisis communicator. He also co-founded a telecommunications start-up.

Rohit has a B.A. from Williams College and an M.B.A. from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.



Joseph Cordero
Managing Director of Place, William Julius Wilson Institute

Dr. Joseph Cordero currently serves as a Managing Director of Place at the William Julius Wilson Institute. William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children’s Zone is a national resource for place-based, people-focused solutions that open pathways to social and economic mobility. Through their work with communities, one million young people will be connected to opportunities that place them on a pathway to social and economic mobility and racial equity. These outcomes will drive and be driven by systems change and scalable solutions that are informed by research and practice. Dr. Cordero served as principal of the renowned Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy I Elementary School. During his tenure, his students saw substantial growth on the New York State math and English examinations. They regularly outperformed the district, city and state on state examinations.

Dr. Joseph Cordero received his bachelor's degree from Binghamton University, master's degrees from Binghamton University as well as the University at Albany and his doctorate from St. John Fisher University.



Reilly Kiernan
Partner, The Bridgespan Group

Reilly Kiernan is a Partner in Bridgespan’s Boston office. She is passionate about partnering with leaders and teams focused on economic mobility, community-driven change, and creating more equitable public systems. She co-leads Bridgespan’s Place-based Change Area of Expertise. She has worked with nonprofit and philanthropy clients – and often in partnership with both – to develop strategies for scaling impact, building cross-sector partnerships, accelerating outcomes in a community, and achieving systems change.

Reilly has co-authored several Bridgespan publications, including contributing to a body of knowledge on opportunities for philanthropists to invest to increase social mobility in the United States. Reilly joined the Bridgespan Group in 2011 as an Associate Consultant, following a fellowship at the Foundation Center, and she also brings experience working in city government, policy research, and impact investing.

Reilly holds an AB in Sociology with certificates in American Studies and Urban Studies from Princeton University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa/Summa Cum Laude. She also holds a joint MPP/MBA from Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School, where she was a George F. Baker Scholar (top 5% of graduating class). Reilly is an avid distance runner and two-time qualifier for the Olympic Trials in the marathon.



Richard Raya

Incoming CEO, Marin Promise Partnership (August 2024); Senior Advisor, Mission Economic Development Agency; EdRedesign By All Means Senior Fellow

Richard Raya is committed to a national racial justice strategy led by community backbone agencies working in partnership with schools and government. He will be joining Marin Promise Partnership as its new CEO in August 2024, and currently advises MEDA on using its Mission Promise Neighborhood (MPN) cradle-to-career approach to help drive systems change efforts across the city of San Francisco, moving from a Promise Neighborhood to a Promise City. The Promise City initiative aligns best practices from MPN with the Mayor's COVID Recovery Plan and the School District's Values, Goals, Guardrails Plan, creating holistic education solutions in the city's hardest hit neighborhoods. Richard helped MPN become one of the only Promise Neighborhoods in the country to replace its federal funding with a mix of philanthropic, city, county, and state funding.

Richard is a By All Means Senior Fellow at the Harvard EdRedesign Lab, an Ascend Fellow with the Aspen Institute and a board member for StriveTogether and Dream Youth Clinic. Richard's great-grandparents were Yaquis, the indigenous people of northern Mexico, who came to the Bay Area after fighting in the Mexican Revolution. His parents worked as farmworkers in Northern California and came of age during the Chicano Movement. They laid the foundation for him to earn a B.A. and Master's in Public Policy from UC Berkeley. He's accompanied on this journey by his geographer wife, five sons, and their rescue pit bull.



Russell Booker

CEO, Spartanburg Academic Movement; EdRedesign By All Means Senior Fellow

Dr. Russell Booker is the Chief Executive Officer of the Spartanburg Academic Movement in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Dr. Booker retired as Superintendent of Spartanburg County School District Seven, where he directed many transformative initiatives. Most notably, he led a total restructuring of the district, a complete digital immersion, and a bold comprehensive capital plan. He began his tenure in District Seven in 2010 after serving as superintendent in York School District One.

Dr. Booker is a South Carolina Liberty Fellow (affiliated with the Aspen Global Leadership Network) and a graduate of the Diversity Leaders Initiative through the Riley Institute. He serves as the Chair of the StriveTogether Board of Directors, as a trustee on the Wingate University Board of Directors, as a board member of Purpose Built Communities and as a member of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee. Locally, he serves on the board of the Mary Black Foundation and the Spartanburg Regional Hospital Foundation.

In 2013, Dr. Booker received the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Humanitarian Award from the Urban League of the Upstate. He is a past president of SCASA's Superintendents' Division. In 2015, Russell was named the South Carolina Superintendent of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) and was also named Superintendent of the

Year by the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association. He is a 2015 South Atlantic Conference Hall of Fame Distinguished Alumni Inductee. During a surprise announcement in November 2020, Russell received the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor, during a ceremony honoring his 28 years of service in education.



Sonali Nijhawan
Director, AmeriCorps State and National; EdRedesign
By All Means Senior Fellow

Sonali Nijhawan has committed her life's work to developing service leaders and growing national service programs. Most recently, Sonali developed and led Stockton Service Corps (SSC) as Executive Director of a 6-year, \$12M first-of-its-kind place-based service initiative launched by Mayor Michael Tubbs to address Stockton's most critical needs by activating evidence-based national service programs. Sonali began her career in public service in her hometown of Chicago, where she served as an AmeriCorps Member with City Year Chicago. Inspired by the students, families, and the AmeriCorps community she met during her time in Chicago and Baltimore, Sonali joined the start-up and founding team of City Year Sacramento, launching the organization's 22nd site with 50 new AmeriCorps members. In 2016, Sonali served as the California Director at Education Pioneers where she recruited, placed, and supported managers in large urban school systems and education nonprofits, empowering her fellows to bring their unique vision and ideas to challenge the status quo of our public education system. In February 2021, Sonali joined the Biden-Harris administration as the Director of AmeriCorps State and National, the first South Asian woman and AmeriCorps Alum to serve in this position. Sonali was born and raised in the Chicagoland area, she is the proud daughter of Indian immigrants, a graduate of the K-12 public school system, and holds a Bachelor's in Education and Psychology from Marquette University and a Master's in Social Work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.



Geoffrey Canada
Founder & President, Harlem Children's Zone; Founder,
William Julius Wilson Institute

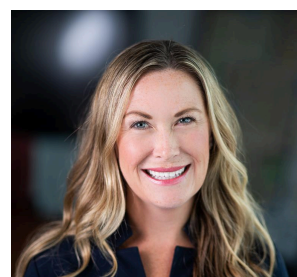
Geoffrey Canada is a leading advocate for children and innovator in the field of education. Canada grew up in one of the most devastated communities in the United States, the South Bronx, raised by a single mother. He earned his bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College and went on to earn a master's degree at Harvard University. He vowed to help children who grew up in disadvantaged circumstances to succeed through education. Canada created Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), a birth-through-college network of programs that today serves more than 13,000 low-income students and families in a 97-block area of Central Harlem in New York City. The unprecedented success of HCZ has attracted the attention of the media and leaders around the world. In 2011, Canada was named one of the world's most influential people by Time magazine and as one of the 50 greatest leaders by Fortune magazine in 2014. President Barack Obama created the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative to replicate the HCZ model across the country. Canada has been profiled extensively in the media, including The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, 60 Minutes, The Oprah Winfrey Show, and Forbes,

among others. He was featured in the documentary about the dire state of American education, *Waiting for Superman*, and has received more than 25 honorary degrees including ones from Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth, and the University of Pennsylvania. He has also influenced a new generation of education reformers through his writings, having published essays in *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, as well as two critically acclaimed books on poverty and violence: *Fist Stick Knife Gun* and *Reaching Up for Manhood*. After 30 years with the organization, Canada stepped down in 2014 as Chief Executive Officer of HCZ but continues to serve as President. In June 2020, Canada founded William Julius Wilson Institute, which serves as the national platform to help communities impacted by poverty design and implement their own place-based programs. Its first initiative was to combat the devastation of COVID-19 in Black communities.



Gregory Jackson Jr.
Deputy Director, Office of Gun Violence Prevention, The White House

Gregory Jackson is the deputy director of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and special assistant to the president. Jackson oversees efforts to implement federal law, identify new executive actions, expand partnerships, and improve services for those traumatized by gun violence. A gun violence survivor himself, Jackson is a leading voice on gun violence prevention for Black and Brown communities. Previously, he was executive director of the Community Justice Action Fund, which advances policies to address gun violence in these communities. There he led efforts that secured over \$12 billion in public funding for gun violence prevention and led to passage of the first gun violence law in 30 years, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. As Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee national field director, Jackson ran the largest midterm election voter registration program in U.S. history.



Jennifer Klein
Chief Development Officer, Harlem Children's Zone

Jennifer Klein is Chief Development Officer for Harlem Children's Zone. In this position she provides leadership, strategy and management for all fundraising at HCZ including private revenue in support of the general operating budget and campaign and special initiatives. She works in partnership with the CEO, President and Founder, and the Board of Trustees. Jennifer previously served as Director of Major Gifts at HCZ from 2007 to 2011 and returned to assume the Chief Development Officer role in 2019.

Prior to returning to HCZ, Jennifer served as Director of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs at Greens Farms Academy, a PreK-12 independent day school in Westport, CT. In this role she oversaw all fundraising, communications and marketing initiatives for the school, including the successful completion of the largest campaign in the school's history, expanding the campus and increasing the endowment.

Jennifer's early career included roles in major gifts at SeriousFun Children's Network, The Michael J. Fox Foundation, Fordham University and Weill Cornell Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital. She earned a BA in International Relations from Colgate University.

Jennifer also serves as a college guidance mentor for HCZ scholars, an Annual Fund Class Captain at Colgate University, and offers pro bono development support to local organizations in the Fairfield County area.



Cecilia Gutierrez
Managing Director and Portfolio Lead, Blue Meridian Partners

Cecilia Gutierrez provides strategic and executional leadership on critical business priorities and leads innovation efforts which will expand Blue Meridian's work. She explores new philanthropic investment opportunities, leads due diligence on potential Blue

Meridian investees, and manages relationships with current investees. Cecilia leads Blue Meridian's Place Matters portfolio.

In 2017, Cecilia was recruited as the Deputy Director of My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBKA), Obama Foundation. She co-led the development and launch of the MBK Framework to Affect Systems Change, a foundational standard of excellence outlining a set of principles, indicators, and processes to accelerate progress on complex social conditions for boys and young men of color. By 2018, she certified and onboarded 180 cities, towns, and tribal nations across the country as part of the MBK Network. She also orchestrated a 50-member team in planning and executing MBK Rising! Prior, Cecilia spent five years as President and CEO of the Miami Children's Initiative, a place-based cradle to career strategy in the community of Liberty City in Miami, FL.

She previously held roles with National Academic Educational Partners, a turnaround company, as Acting COO and Strategic Consultant, and served as Executive Director of Breakthrough Miami, an academic enrichment program that uses a student-teaching-students model to ensure that motivated, under-resourced middle-school students have access to excellent high-school opportunities, graduate from high school on time, and attend college.

Cecilia earned a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Boston College, and she was a National Urban Fellow.



Nina Carter
Managing Director of Place, William Julius Wilson Institute

Nina Carter is a sought-after and proven change agent with 17 years of experience developing and leading systems transformation efforts through place-based strategies in the nonprofit, higher education, and public sectors. She serves as a Managing Director of Place for the

William Julius Wilson Institute at the Harlem Children's Zone, where she serves as a senior relationship manager and coach for neighborhood and regional leaders of place-based organizations that promote social and economic mobility and racial equity. Prior to joining the Harlem Children's Zone, Nina served as Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives for Learn to Earn Dayton, an educational equity nonprofit focused on innovating and incubating county-wide cradle-to-career strategies. She also served as the lead administrator for an \$8M community-driven planning process that catalyzed racial equity and economic mobility initiatives for residents and involved more than 300 stakeholders who co-created an investable community plan for Northwest Dayton. Furthermore, she served as the inaugural Senior Manager and Strategy Officer for the Department of Social Services in Prince George's County, Maryland. In this role, she created the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Community Solutions and successfully supported 70+ school partnerships within Prince George's County Public Schools district to implement a place-based strategy that centered public schools as community hubs. Nina began her career as a community school coordinator and centers herself as a servant leader. She holds a bachelor's degree in mass communications with a minor in African and African American studies, a master's degree in public administration, and national certification in nonprofit management and leadership by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, all earned at Wright State University with high honors. She also has a master's degree in human resources from The University of Scranton.



David Blount
Director of Place, William Julius Wilson Institute

David Blount focuses on co-developing strategies with communities of color that fully equipping neighborhoods to break cycles of poverty for children and families. He brings nearly a decade of experience as a social policy researcher and community practitioner, developing solutions that support child health and development, safe and secure housing, and upward mobility for families of color. David previously worked at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC where his work focused on housing solutions to make neighborhoods more livable, equitable, and sustainable. David holds an MSW from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis and BAs from Loyola University Chicago.



Arti Doshi
Director of Place, William Julius Wilson Institute

Arti Doshi is the Director of Place for the William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone. Prior to HCZ, Arti served as an Education Pioneers fellow, Student Services Manager at Achievement First, East New York Middle School. Arti has over 10 years of experience as a program manager across various education institutions and EdTech companies. She earned her bachelor's from UC Berkeley and Masters in Education Policy from Columbia University, Teachers College.



Cameron French
Executive Vice President, SKDK

Cameron French brings a mix of corporate and public service media savvy to SKDK. He has held positions with political campaigns in Congress and across the federal government. Cameron served as a senior spokesperson for the Biden-Harris transition and was selected by PR Week as one of the nation's Top 40 Under 40 public relations strategists.

Cameron has guided a range of corporate, political, and advocacy clients on some of our nation's most impactful policy debates. From fighting for more affordable housing to shining a light on the impact of gun violence on Black and brown communities and expanding the narrative of environmental justice. He has provided media relations strategy and direction including paid media campaigns, leadership transitions, Congressional testimony, and national media tours.

Cameron was appointed by President Obama to serve in communications capacities at the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. At HUD, he served as deputy assistant secretary, Office of Public Affairs. Among the agency's leadership team, he directed the press office and provided counsel to Secretary Julián Castro as his chief spokesman.

Cameron is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his bachelor's degree from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Cameron is a graduate of Leadership Greater Washington's 2018 Signature Program and The President's Leadership Workshop. He lives in New York City, with his young family.



Stephanie Lilavois
Chief Communications Officer, Harlem Children's Zone

Stephanie Lilavois is Chief Communications Officer at Harlem Children's Zone. A leader in the social impact space, she is committed to leveraging multimedia storytelling to empower under-resourced communities, inspire audiences, and build community. Her career spans over 15 years of experience in communications and marketing strategy, executive communications, public relations, media production, print and digital media, and event management. She has previously held positions at the University of Pittsburgh and the City University of New York, among others, and she has published freelance pieces for Essence and Clutch Magazine. Her work in communications has been recognized by the Public Relations Society

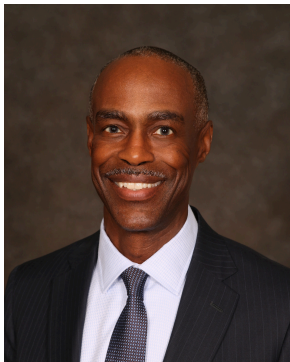
of America and the International Association of Business Communicators. She holds a BA in English Writing (Nonfiction) and Communications from the University of Pittsburgh.



Jesse Moore
CEO, Common Thread Strategies

Jesse Moore is an American writer and strategic leader at the intersection of social justice, storytelling and politics. Since launching Common Thread Strategies in 2016 he has worked with clients at the heights of national politics, philanthropy and corporate America to tell meaningful stories and achieve ambitious messaging goals. A former

White House Speechwriter and Associate Director of Public Engagement, Jesse specializes in crafting simple, emotionally resonant narratives that connect big ideas to shared human experiences. He has written for CEOs, philanthropists, major celebrities, as well as for Presidents, Vice Presidents, Governors and much more. He has facilitated discussions between America's largest police department and their most skeptical constituents, and managed relationships between entertainment industry titans and the President of the United States. Jesse is a frequent cable news analyst, and a board member at Equal Justice USA and Rock the Vote.



Robert Runcie
CEO, Chiefs for Change

Robert Runcie currently serves as the CEO of Chiefs for Change, where he plays a pivotal role in overseeing the organization's staff, day-to-day operations, and providing valuable coaching and thought partnership to its members and participants in the Future Chiefs leadership development program.

His tenure as the former superintendent of Broward County Public Schools is marked by transformative achievements. Under his leadership, the district, which is the sixth largest in the nation, saw a remarkable 18 percent increase in high school graduation rates, reaching a historic high of almost 90 percent. His efforts in mental health, teacher and staff remuneration, performance management, and financial optimization have left an indelible mark on the district, garnering him national recognition and several Superintendent of the Year awards.

Runcie also contributes his expertise to several national boards, including KnowledgeWorks, Code.org, and the National Education Equity Lab, further emphasizing his commitment to shaping the future of education in America.