

## NPEA 2019 Conference Speaker Bios

### Keynotes:

**Donnell Butler**, *Senior Associate Dean for Planning and Analysis of Student Outcomes*, Franklin & Marshall College

Dr. Donnell Butler is the Senior Associate Dean for Planning and Analysis of Student Outcomes at Franklin & Marshall College (F&M). His work focuses on identifying and enhancing individual characteristics and institutional actions that improve college student access and success. In over 15 years of education research and practice, his clients and employers have included the U.S. Department of Education and Educational Testing Service (ETS). He earned a B.A. in both business administration and sociology from F&M and a Ph.D. in sociology from Princeton University. He is a Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow and a Fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

**Eve L. Ewing**, *Assistant Professor in the School of Social Service Administration*, University of Chicago; and *Author*, *Electric Arches* (2017) and *Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closings on Chicago's South Side* (2018)

Dr. Eve L. Ewing is a poet, visual artist, essayist, sociologist, and educator based in Chicago. Her recent book, *Electric Arches* (Haymarket Books, 2017), a collection of poetry, essays, and visual art, was named one of the top ten books of 2017 by the Chicago Tribune and the Best Poetry Book of 2017 by the Chicago Review of Books. In addition to her poetry and essays, Dr. Ewing's scholarship focuses on the effects of systemic racism, social inequality, and urban policy on American public schools. A dynamic and powerful voice, Dr. Ewing is a leader in the discussions on the role of black women in academia and writing. She uses Twitter as a platform for engagement on these subjects and more with her more than 115,000 followers. Her work has been published by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, and *Poetry Magazine*, among other outlets. Dr. Ewing completed her doctorate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Prior to that, she received an undergraduate degree with honors in English language and literature from the University of Chicago, with a focus on African-American literature of the twentieth century. She also holds an M.A.T. in elementary education from Dominican University and an M.Ed. in education policy and management from Harvard.

**Na'ilah Suad Nasir**, *President*, Spencer Foundation; and *Author*, *Racialized Identities: Race and Achievement for African-American Youth* (2011)

Na'ilah Suad Nasir is the sixth President of the Spencer Foundation, which supports research about education. She was a faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley from 2008-2017 where she served as vice-chancellor of equity and inclusion at UC Berkeley from November 2015. Dr. Nasir earned her Ph.D. in educational psychology at UCLA in 2000, and was a member of the faculty in the School of Education at Stanford University from 2000-2008. Her work focuses on issues of race, culture, learning, and identity. She is the author of *Racialized Identities: Race and Achievement for African-American Youth* and has published numerous scholarly articles. Dr. Nasir is a member of the National Academy of Education and a fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). In 2016 she was the recipient of the AERA Division G Mentoring Award.

## **Workshop and Breakfast Roundtable Presenters:**

**Aidé Acosta**, *Director of Alumni Supports*, Noble Network of Charter Schools

Aidé Acosta is the Director of Alumni Supports for the Noble Network of Charter Schools in Chicago, Illinois. Aidé was previously a visiting assistant professor at Indiana University at Bloomington, Indiana. Aidé has a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and earned a B.A. in history and anthropology from the University of California-Riverside.

**Angelica Alfaro**, *Chief of Staff - Commissioner Marcelino Garcia*, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; *Alumna*, Noble Network of Charter Schools

Angelica Alfaro is a proud Latina, daughter of Mexican immigrants, and a first generation college graduate. She has made it her life's mission to improve access to quality education, summer college opportunities, and health equity, while leading policy, fundraising and community organizing and advocacy efforts. Drawing on her work in education and government affairs, she decided to run for the Illinois State Senate garnering 47% of her district's votes. She also worked for the 2016 Presidential campaign followed by a legislative affairs role at the Chicago Department of Public Health.

**Anthony Allen**, *Founding Director*, The Student Diplomacy Corps

Student Diplomacy Corps Founding Director Anthony Allen brings decades of experience running cross-cultural education programs in 40 countries, collaborating with hundreds of individuals and foundation donors, training thousands of professional staff to work with teenagers, and helping students build the skills and confidence needed to become agents of positive change.

**Lacey Allen**, *Associate Director, Scholarships Strategy*, The College Board

Lacey Allen, the Associate Director for Scholarships Strategy at The College Board, is based in New York City and previously worked at Search Institute, a youth development research organization, as a qualitative researcher and facilitator. Lacey also served in both the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps. While in Morocco with the Peace Corps, Lacey volunteered with NGOs and US-based nonprofits to develop literacy tools, resources, and a library for youth in community centers, and while with AmeriCorps, Lacey worked to improve college access opportunities for first generation high school students. Lacey has an M.Ed. in youth development leadership and a B.A. in communication.

**Ayinde Alleyne**, *College Support Coordinator*, Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics (BEAM)

Ayinde Alleyne is the College Support Coordinator at Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics (BEAM). Ayinde has a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. After exploring engineering in college, Ayinde pivoted to focus on a career in education.

**Priscilla Andrade**, *Program Director*, Trinity Education for Excellence Program (TEEP)

Priscilla Andrade is the Director for the Trinity Education for Excellence Program (TEEP), a program of the Trinity Boston Foundation. Priscilla previously served as adjunct professor at Emerson College and seasonal faculty member at TEEP. Priscilla has a Master of Fine Arts from Emerson College.

**J.J. Andrews**, *Assessment and Teaching Specialist*, PEOPLE Program/University of Wisconsin-Madison  
J.J. Andrews has worked as an Assessment & Teaching Specialist/Data Steward for the P.E.O.P.L.E. college readiness and recruitment program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since September 2014. Previously, J.J. spent 12 years as a print newspaper journalist investigating education and government, eight years as a secondary teacher of English and Social Studies, and four years as an adjunct instructor of college writing and the history of mass media. J.J. has a B.A. in English from The Ohio State University, an M.A. in education from CUNY-Brooklyn College, and expects to complete an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction and educational leadership from American College of Education.

**Aileen Aragon**, *Director of Program Implementation and Training*, College Possible Chicago  
Aileen Aragon is the Director of Program Implementation and Training for College Possible's Chicago office. Aileen's career began as an AmeriCorps coach with College Possible in 2007, and Aileen has supported the growth and expansion of the organization for nearly 10 years. Aileen earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a master's degree in educational policy from Marquette University.

**Todd Barnett**, *Director of Partnerships, Family, and Community Engagement*, University of Chicago Charter School  
Todd Barnett oversees collaborations and programs between University of Chicago (UChicago) Charter School and its community partners to foster relationships and offer programs to support their mission to prepare 100 percent of students for college graduation. Prior to joining UChicago Charter School's central office, Todd was the director of family and community engagement at the UChicago Charter Donoghue Campus.

**Thomas Bear**, *Senior Director of Enrollment Management*, University of Notre Dame  
Tom Bear is the Senior Director for Enrollment Management at the University of Notre Dame. Tom earned his doctorate in higher education administration at Indiana University and has worked in higher education for 31 years. Prior to working at Notre Dame, Tom was vice president for enrollment services at the University of Evansville.

**Lauren Boros**, *Principal*, The Noble Academy  
Lauren Boros is the Founding Principal of The Noble Academy in Chicago. Lauren has a B.A. from Columbia University in the City of New York and advanced degrees from both Dominican University and National Louis University.

**Andee Bowden**, *Associate Director, Community Partnerships, Access to Opportunity*, The College Board  
Andee Bowden is the Associate Director for Community Partnerships at The College Board. Previously, Andee taught writing and communications in higher education, and is currently pursuing an Ed.D. in higher education administration at The George Washington University.

**Jessica Brady**, *Senior Program Manager, OppNet Partnerships*, The Opportunity Network  
Jessica Brady is the Senior Program Manager of Partnerships at The Opportunity Network (OppNet) in New York City, working alongside the Partnerships team to manage Career Fluency® best practices for OppNet's various partner organizations. Jessica previously served as the Career Fluency® Programs Manager and the Communications Coordinator at OppNet, and has a B.A. in journalism from Northwestern University.

**Lynn Cartwright-Punnett**, *Senior Director of Programs*, Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics (BEAM)

Lynn Cartwright-Punnett is the Senior Director of Programs at Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics (BEAM). Lynn previously worked as a middle school math teacher in Washington Heights and a museum educator, including at the National Museum of Mathematics. Lynn holds a B.A. in history and Spanish from Wesleyan University, an M.S.T. in bilingual math education from Pace University, and a certificate from the NYU Senior Leaders Fellowship Program.

**Amanda S. Case**, *Assistant Professor, Counseling Psychology*, Purdue University

Amanda S. Case, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Counseling Psychology program at Purdue University. Amanda's research uses social justice and systems theory lenses to investigate the nonacademic, ecological, and sociopolitical factors that affect youth development, especially educational preparation. In particular, Amanda studies how families, schools, and community-based organizations can work together to prepare lower-income students and students of color for higher education and how colleges and universities can support these same students after they have matriculated.

**Yully Cha**, *Principal*, Yully Cha Consulting

Yully Cha delights in the process of mobilizing high-performing teams to make big ideas practicable. Over 15 years, Yully has designed and led strategic projects to enable organizational change, scale programs, develop managers, and build capacity in areas including human resources and fundraising. Currently, Yully supports various clients as an organizational consultant, with prior roles including executive director of Bridge Boston Charter School, chief operating officer for The Steppingstone Foundation, and admission officer of Hamilton College.

**Jonathan Chaparro**, *Founding Chicago Site Director*, Braven

Jonathan Chaparro is the Founding Site Director for Braven in Chicago. Jonathan's background is in recruitment and talent development, having previously worked for both corporate and nonprofit organizations like Teach for America, ArcelorMittal, and Noble Network of Charter Schools. Jonathan has a B.A. from the University of Iowa and an M.A. in teaching from Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois.

**Blenda Chiu**, *Managing Director of Programs*, Bottom Line

Blenda Chiu has served as the Managing Director of Programs for Bottom Line's Chicago office since Summer 2016. Prior to this role, Blenda led college persistence efforts for Genesys Works-Twin Cities. Blenda earned her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and she began her career supporting college access work as an AmeriCorps coach.

**Candice Clawson**, *Director of Undergraduate Affairs*, Prep for Prep

Candice Clawson has served as the Director of Undergraduate Affairs at Prep for Prep for the past four years. In this capacity Candice oversees over 800 students at more than 100 of the nation's top colleges and universities. Candice holds a B.A. from Seton Hall University and an M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University.

**Christopher Cofer**, *Executive Director*, Summer at Syracuse

Christopher Cofer is the Executive Director of Summer at Syracuse, where he works with the University's schools and colleges to support credit and non-credit course programming in summer and online courses in winter. He oversees various summer and pipeline programs, including Summer College for High School Students and SummerStart. He has a bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University and master's degree from SUNY Cortland.

**Jackson A. Collins**, *Associate Executive Director*, Prep for Prep

Jackson A. Collins is the Associate Executive Director of Prep for Prep, a leadership development and educational access organization in New York. Prior to this role, Jackson served as the associate head of upper school and history department chair at the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Jackson graduated from Amherst College and earned a M.Ed. in leadership from the Klingenstein Center at Teachers College, Columbia University and an Ed.D. in education leadership from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Elyse Danckers**, *Executive Director*, Waukegan to College

Elyse Danckers, has been involved with Waukegan to College (W2C) since planning began with Lake County United in 2008. As W2C's founding director, she manages the organization's operations, and works with the broad community to develop resources for the organization including volunteers, advisors, presenters, and funders. Prior to joining W2C, she was a business development director with an international publisher and a management consultant. She earned an M.B.A. at the University of Chicago and a B.A. in mathematics from Northwestern University.

**Erica DeBiase**, *Director of Academic and Career Development*, The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants

Erica DeBiase is the Director of Academic and Career Development at The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA), a role that focuses on developing, implementing, and managing a program to sustain the CPA brand. Erica oversees a statewide career development program to assist students in accomplishing their career goals and to enhance relations among educators, practitioners, and the society. Erica also assists in the MSCPA's strategic initiative to increase diversity in the profession as it relates to students.

**Nicole Desgrosellier**, *Founding Dean of College Counseling*, Noble Network of Charter Schools

Nikki Desgrosellier is the founding Dean of College Counseling at Mansueto High School, the newest campus of the Noble Schools in Chicago. Prior to this, Nikki taught Spanish and AP Psychology, in addition to serving as a college counselor at various schools across the city. Nikki has a bachelor's degree in psychology and Spanish language and literature from Western Washington University and a Master of Arts in teaching from Dominican University.

**Marcus Deveso**, *Assistant Director, Director of High School Prep and College Prep*, Buffalo Prep

Marcus Deveso is Assistant Director of High School Prep and College Prep at Buffalo Prep in Buffalo, New York. Before assuming an administrative role, Marcus taught Spanish and English for 21 years. Marcus has a bachelor's degree in English and Spanish from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and a master's degree in education from Western Governors University.

**Joanna Dimas**, *College Access Fellow*, 10,000 Degrees

Joanna Dimas is a College Access Fellow at 10,000 Degrees for the 9th Grade Transition Program. Joanna previously served as the volunteer coordinator at The Welcome Project in Somerville, Massachusetts. Joanna has a bachelor's degree in psychology and American studies from Tufts University.

**Charles Donalson**, *Participant*, *America to Me*; and *Spoken Word Poet*

Charles Donalson is one of the students featured in the *the America to Me* documentary series. Charles is a rapper and spoken word poet and releases music under the moniker Dahzi. Charles released his EP *For Whatever You Do* in December 2018 and is currently working on his album, as well as teaching and mentoring students in the Oak Park area.

**Christina Dotchin**, *Director of Business Development*, The Enrollment Management Association  
Christina Dotchin is the Director of Business Development for The Enrollment Management Association (EMA). Before joining EMA in 2016, Christina served as the director of admission at Proctor Academy in New Hampshire. Christina holds a B.A. in English with a minor in education from Colby College, as well as an M.P.A. from the University of New Hampshire.

**Rebecca Drossman**, *Assistant Director of College Access*, Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Rebecca Drossman, Assistant Director of College Access at Wentworth Institute of Technology's Center for Community and Learning Partnerships, is responsible for maintaining, managing, and developing college access programming for Boston youth, including BEACON Pathways, Dual Credit, RAMP, and Summer Bridge. Prior to her role at Wentworth, Rebecca worked directly with low-income, first generation college students as a success counselor with Bottom Line for four years, following her two years of service with the Americorps program, City Year Boston.

**Sarah-Bess Dworin**, *Director*, Restoring Community

Sarah-Bess Dworin is Director of Restoring Community, a holistic culture and climate partner for schools and community-based organizations. As the former director of curriculum and instruction at Umoja Student Development Corporation, Sarah-Bess led Umoja's professional development team and the design and production of Umoja's extensive curriculum, including a text supporting in school disciplinary interventions and Umoja's four-year long daily social and emotional learning course for high schools. Sarah-Bess received her M.A.T. from the Teacher's College at Columbia University.

**Jared Epler**, *Director of College Counseling*, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

Jared Epler is the founding college counselor and current Director of College Counseling at Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School. Jared previously worked as program director at Summer Search Philadelphia and has worked in higher education as well. Jared has a bachelor's degree from Albright College and a master's in education from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Adrian Esquivel**, *Deputy Director*, Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance

Adrian Esquivel is the Deputy Director for the Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance. Adrian previously served as the director of economic development at Enlace Chicago, a community-based organization located in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago. Adrian has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in urban planning and policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Madelaine Eulich**, *Associate Director*, The Student Diplomacy Corps

Madelaine Eulich, The Student Diplomacy Corp's (SDC) Associate Director, has been working in the field of international education and non-profit management for 10 years. Having lived and studied in Africa, the Americas and Europe, Madelaine brings enormous experience and energy to the SDC, focusing on development, training, enrollment management, and leadership.

**Kaela Farrise**, *Assistant Director of Admissions and Programs*, Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs

Kaela Farrise is interested in the empowerment of communities of color through access to and acquisition of opportunity, the experiences of people of color in predominantly white spaces, and in perceptions and treatment of mental illness in underrepresented communities. Kaela is the Assistant Director of Admissions and Programs at the Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs - an organization dedicated to recruiting for and supporting students of color through independent school education in Los Angeles, California. Kaela holds an M.A. in clinical psychology with specializations in community psychology and trauma psychology and a B.A. from Stanford University in both urban studies with a focus on urban education and African and African American studies.

**June Folliard**, *Manager, Scholarship Programs*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

June Folliard serves as Manager of Scholarship Programs at the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and oversees the Young Scholars Program. June previously taught in high schools and worked in education policy as well. June has degrees in English, history, and teaching from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Lisa Fornwald**, *Site Director*, North Cook Young Adult Academy

Lisa Fornwald is the Site Director for North Cook Young Adult Academy. The Academy is a Regional Safe Schools Program that serves students from Grades 6 – 12 who have had multiple suspensions or are pending expulsion from their home schools.

**Alisa France**, *Program Manager of College Success*, The Opportunity Network

As Program Manager of College Success, Alisa France oversees programming to ensure Fellows successfully transition to and navigate college. Prior to joining OppNet full-time, Alisa served as a dual-department intern at the National Education Association and the Government Affairs Assistant at Destination DC (Washington, DC's convention and visitors' bureau). Alisa holds an M.A. in education policy from Teachers College, Columbia University, and B.A. in political science from Howard University.

**Chelsea Frosini**, *Senior Program Manager, Curriculum and Student Events*, The Opportunity Network

Chelsea Frosini is the Senior Program Manager for Curriculum and Student Events at The Opportunity Network (OppNet) in New York City, overseeing the overall content development and delivery of all of OppNet's Fellows program. Prior to joining OppNet, Chelsea was manager of teen Programs at the New-York Historical Society. Chelsea received her B.A. in philosophy with a minor in peace and justice studies from Fordham University.

**Kevin Fudge**, *Director of Advocacy*, American Student Assistance

Kevin Fudge is the Director of Advocacy at American Student Assistance (ASA). As part of ASA's advocacy team, Kevin works to change government systems and structures to empower students to explore a full range of education and career opportunities, pursue education after high school and attain credentials they will need for career success, raise public awareness about all pathways in post-secondary education, build strategic alliances and coalition support, and provide innovative research and insightful analysis of education and workforce development trends. Kevin holds degrees from the University of Virginia and Harvard University.

**Hilda Garcia**, *Parent Leader and Parent Educator*, Waukegan to College

Hilda Garcia has been with Waukegan to College (W2C) for two and a half years. She serves on the Parent Leader Team and is a Parent Educator with the Parents Educating Parents Program. Hilda earned her Administrative Professional A.A.S in 2017 from the College of Lake County, and currently works with Lake County 19th Judicial Circuit Court in the Adult Probation Department. Her son, Justin will be in 11th grade next year. Ms. Garcia is currently helping W2C with their work on mental health services for students.

**Reina Garcia**, *DREAMer Supports Manager*, Noble Network of Charter Schools

Reina Garcia is the DREAMer Supports Manager for the Noble Network of Charter Schools, previously serving as a college counselor at Golder College Prep. Reina has a master's degree in education from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in theology and Spanish from Georgetown University.

**Jenara Gardner**, *Manager of Philanthropy*, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

Jenara Gardner is the Manager of Philanthropy at Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School. Prior to her return to Philadelphia, Jenara spent 10 years in Boston, Massachusetts, graduating from Northeastern University with a B.A. in journalism and experience in fundraising. Jenara has a passion for education and a wide range of development experience including events, data management, and relationship development, including roles as manager of individual giving at Arden Theatre Company and Manager of Donor Relations at Boston Children's Chorus.

**Liliana Gaytan-Conhartowski**, *Board of Directors and Parent Educator*, Waukegan to College

Liliana Gaytan-Conhartowski is a Waukegan to College (W2C) Parent Educator with the Parents Educating Parents Program and is on the W2C Board of Directors. Liliana has been a member of W2C for six years. Her son is a sophomore at Knox College and her daughter is a senior at Waukegan High School. Liliana's sister, also in W2C, is a senior at Georgetown University. Outside of W2C activities, she is a member of the Waukegan High School PTO and the Knox Parents Council. She runs her own cleaning services company and attends the College of Lake County, pursuing a career in education.

**Cassandra Geiger**, *Program Director*, *Northwestern Academy for Chicago Public Schools*, Northwestern University

Cassandra Geiger is the Program Director for Northwestern Academy for Chicago Public Schools. Cassandra previously worked for the Schuler Scholar Program, and holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from DePaul University.



**Imani Gilliam**, *Dean of Programs*, New Jersey SEEDS

Imani Gilliam is the Dean of Programs for NJ SEEDS in Newark, New Jersey. Imani previously served as an educator and co-coordinator at People for People, Inc., and has a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University.

**Kelly Glew**, *President*, The Steppingstone Foundation

Kelly Glew is the President of The Steppingstone Foundation, a nonprofit that prepares underserved students for college success. During her tenure as President and executive vice president of development and operations, Steppingstone has raised record funds, replicated its flagship program in Philadelphia and Hartford, created the National Partnership for Educational Access, and helped hundreds of young people succeed through high school and college. Prior to joining Steppingstone in 1990, Kelly worked in the development office at Dana Hall School. She holds a bachelor's degree from Colby College and a master's from University College London.

**Maria Gonzalez**, *Board of Directors, Parent Leader, and Parent Educator*, Waukegan to College

Maria Gonzalez has been with Waukegan to College (W2C) for six years. She serves on the W2C Board of Directors, the Parent Leader Team, and is a Parent Educator with the Parents Educating Parents Program. Maria recently earned her Child Development Associate (CDA) certification through the National CDA Credentialing Program. Her daughter, Marlenny, is a junior at Waukegan High School. As a member of the Parent Teachers Ambassador's Team at her grandson's elementary, Whittier Elementary School, Maria has taken a strong leadership role on issues around school safety and access to mental health services for students.

**Stephanie Gonzalez**, *Associate Director of Admission for Diversity Recruitment*, Williams College

Stephanie Gonzalez serves as Associate Director for Diversity Recruitment at Williams College. Steph previously worked in student affairs and admission at Boston University, earning a B.A., M.Ed., and MBA. Steph is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy through the University at Albany, SUNY and hopes to focus on financial aid policies that impact middle-income students of color.

**Rachel Graham**, *Director of Programs, Success Bound*, Lefkofsky Family Foundation

Rachel Graham is the Director of Programs at the Lefkofsky Family Foundation and Success Bound in Chicago, Illinois, and previously worked as a school psychologist at an elementary school. Rachel has a bachelor's degree in human development and family studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, as well as a master's in applied educational psychology and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in school psychology from Northeastern University in Boston.

**Janet Griffin**, *Sales Manager*, FactSet Research Systems

Janet Griffin is a Sales Manager at FactSet Research Systems, a financial technology company. Janet has been involved in FactSet's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) committee during her 10 years at the firm, and has led the CSR committee in Chicago for the past two years. On a more personal note, Janet's passion for volunteerism, particularly surrounding education, extends past her corporate life. She has been involved with a local Chicago literacy non-profit, WITS (Working in the Schools), for nine years as a weekly volunteer and a member of their Associates Board.

**Emelyn Guevara**, *Associate Director for High School Programs*, Trinity Education for Excellence Program (TEEP)

Emelyn Guevara is the Associate Director for the Trinity Education for Excellence Program (TEEP), a program of the Trinity Boston Foundation. Emelyn previously served as admissions assistant at Wheelock College and program assistant at Upward Bound. Emelyn has a B.S. in sociology from Worcester State University.

**Toinette Gunn**, *Executive Director*, Chicago Debates

Toinette Gunn joined Chicago Debates in August 2018 as Executive Director, previously serving as the vice president of programs for Chicago Scholars. Having been a first generation college student whose life today has been overwhelmingly influenced by her college education, Toinette firmly believes in the power that education holds in breaking negative intergenerational cycles. Toinette holds a B.A. from Western Michigan University in criminal justice and sociology, an M.A. in counseling from Oakland University, a Ph.D. in counseling education from Oakland University, and is a Limited Licensed Professional Counselor with a specialization in mental health.

**Jauwan Hall**, *Law Student*, John Marshall Law School; and *Alumnus*, Chicago Urban League  
Jauwan Hall, most recently, was the deputy political director at the National Democratic Training Committee. Jauwan is a prior service U.S. Marine and current member of the Illinois National Guard and has deployed three times in support of Operations Iraq Freedom and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Jauwan earned a B.A. in political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is a student at John Marshall law school in Chicago.

**Cameron Hardamon**, *Executive Director*, After-School All-Stars Chicago

As Executive Director of After-School All-Stars Chicago, Cameron Hardamon creates and leverages partnerships that close the opportunity gap for more than 30,000 Chicago youth. Her career began in professional sports where she worked in community relations and marketing for two NBA teams and the NCAA. As a consultant, she founded C2 Management, an event and nonprofit management consulting practice, and managed large-scale capital campaigns across the Midwest for international firm CCS. Cameron received a B.S. from the University of Tennessee and an M.P.A. from Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis.

**Jessica Hauser**, *Executive Director*, Downtown Boxing Gym

Jessica Hauser is the Executive Director of the Downtown Boxing Gym. Jessica has studied with Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Fred Mester and worked with Birmingham Public Schools, developing the school system's after school programs. Jessica's passion for children and education drives tireless work toward the growth of Downtown Boxing Gym's Youth Program. Jessica has her bachelor's degree in political science from Oakland University and is pursuing an advanced degree in international children's rights through the University of Michigan.

**William Carlos Herald**, *Director*, Chicago College Advising Corps, University of Chicago

William Herald is the Director of the University of Chicago College Advising Corps. Will began his career in college admissions at the University of Chicago where he led the No Barriers initiative, which eliminated loans from financial aid awards and created new support structures for students from first generation and low-income backgrounds. Before joining College Advising Corps, Will helped organize the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success, bringing together 150 colleges and universities to build a new college application.

**Suzanne Herko**, *Student Agency Coordinator*, Gateway Public Schools

Suzanne Herko has been teaching at Gateway Public Schools in San Francisco since 1999, and in 2011, helped design and found Gateway Middle School. Suzanne coordinates professional development in student agency across Gateway Public Schools and teaches the 7th Grade Humanities and Learning Seminar at Gateway Middle School.

**Katie Hill**, *Director of College Advising Corps*, Boston University

Katie Hill is the Director of College Advising Corps - Boston University (CAC-BU). In her role, Katie oversees local program strategy and implementation, manages key stakeholder relationships, and ensures long-term sustainability for CAC-BU. Katie has a strong history within the public service and non-profit landscapes in Boston, including various roles at Sociedad Latina and as an AmeriCorps member. She earned her M.A. at Northeastern University and her B.A. at Mount Holyoke College, where she also became a certified high school teacher.

**Chala Holland**, *Principal*, Lake Forest High School

Chala Holland is an educational leader with a passion for students, teaching, and learning. Chala has led multiple districts in efforts focused on improving and enhancing student achievement outcomes for all students and has led extensive efforts to address disparities in achievement. She worked at Evanston Township High School as a teacher and administrator for ten years, at Oak Park and River Forest High School as an assistant principal for instruction for four years, and is now in her fourth year as Principal at Lake Forest High School. Chala has a B.A. from Northwestern University, an M.A. from DePaul University, an Ed.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is currently completing a Ph.D. in educational policy studies.

**David Holmes**, *Executive Director*, Character Collaborative

David Holmes is co-founder and the first Executive Director of the Character Collaborative. David has headed two independent schools, served as a tenured professor of education, led nonprofits, and served on numerous boards. David has a B.A. from Middlebury College, an M.A. from Columbia University, and Ph.D. from the University of Denver.

**Jevon D. Hunter**, *Woods-Beals Endowed Chair for Urban Education, School of Education, and Chair of the Social and Psychological Foundations Department*, The State University New York, Buffalo State

Jevon Hunter is a critical literacy educator whose work is principally collaborative, having partnered and worked with teachers, teacher educators, administrators, and community educational advocates across the state of New York. His teaching and scholarly interests explore the sociocultural dimensions of literacy learning, literacy pedagogy, and literacy education as they dis/mis/empower youth, their teachers, and families in urban communities.

**Kate Hurlock**, *Senior Director of Expansion*, Horizons National

Kate Hurlock helps bring Horizons National to new communities, and previously supported Horizons National's CEO in the areas of communications, planning, and project management. Kate's professional experience includes news production for ABC World News Tonight and logistics/production with NBC Networks during coverage of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Most recently, Kate was a principal of a successful small business. Kate holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College and is a certified teacher.

**Kalila Jackson-Spieker**, *Senior Policy Associate*, J-PAL North America

Kalila Jackson-Spieker is a Senior Policy Associate at J-PAL North America. Prior to joining J-PAL, Kalila worked for the public health initiative ReThink Health and a number of social sector consulting groups including Impact Catalysts, Root Cause, and Third Sector New England. In these roles, Kalila conducted research and analysis on trends in the nonprofit sector, guided strategic planning activities, and developed performance measurement systems. Currently, Kalila also serves as a Resident Tutor at Harvard University. Kalila holds a master's in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, and a B.A. in international affairs from the University of Washington.

**Kevin James**, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer*, Better Future Forward

Kevin James is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Better Future Forward, a non-profit social enterprise dedicated to using Income Share Agreements (ISAs) to make high-quality postsecondary education pathways more accessible and affordable. Kevin has spent more than a decade studying and strengthening the student loan system in Congress, at the American Enterprise Institute, and now as a social entrepreneur. Kevin has written about higher education in the *Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *National Affairs*, *The Hill*, *RealClearPolicy*, *National Review Online*, and other publications. Kevin earned both a B.S. in computer science and a B.A. in political science from Virginia Tech and an M.A. in economics from George Mason University.

**Dominique Jordan Turner**, *President and Chief Executive Officer*, Chicago Scholars

Dominique Jordan Turner is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Chicago Scholars. Dominique is passionate about creating equal education opportunities for under-resourced youth. She believes that education is not a merit of socioeconomic status, but a valuable resource to pull marginalized youth out of poverty and into leadership positions that positively influence their communities. Most recently, Dominique has been one of 20 leaders selected out of more than 20,000 applicants from 191 countries to be an inaugural Obama Foundation Fellow. This Fellowship will be a collaborative effort to elevate and continue to empower the next generation of Chicago leaders.

**Rebecca Kahn-Witman**, *Senior Admissions Counselor*, The University of Chicago

Becca Kahn-Witman is a Senior Admissions Counselor at the University of Chicago (UChicago). At UChicago, Becca works with access, outreach, programming and recruitment for underrepresented students and is the area admissions officer for UChicago's applicants from Texas. In addition to her time in college admissions, Becca has worked in D.C. looking at the scope and impact of global education and in the startup world. She combines these experiences to support students of all different experiences and backgrounds as they seek opportunities in higher education.

**Yoon-Chan Kim**, *Educational Adviser*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

Yoon-Chan Kim is an Educational Adviser for the Young Scholars Program at the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and worked previously in college admissions as well as education technology and government. Yoon-Chan graduated from Pomona College.

**Princess King**, *Assistant Director of College Success*, Elon Academy

Princess King, native to Fayetteville, North Carolina, currently serves as the Assistant Director of College Success with Elon Academy at Elon University. Princess earned a B.A. in psychology from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte and from the University of Maryland College Park in counseling and personnel services, and is currently working on a terminal degree at the University of North Carolina.

**Jill Kohlberg**, *Executive Director*, Noble Network's Summer of a Lifetime

Jill Kohlberg is the Executive Director of Noble Network's Summer of a Lifetime. Prior to this role, Jill was the Noble Network's Summer Program coordinator and served on the Summer of a Lifetime Board of Directors. She spent ten years in community development finance at IFF and served as the director of charter school services. Jill has an M.B.A. from Northwestern University's J. L. Kellogg School of Management and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Demisha Lee**, *Chief Program Officer*, Evanston Scholars

Demisha Lee is the Chief Program Officer for Evanston Scholars in Evanston, Illinois, and previously worked as chief education officer for Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund. Demisha holds a bachelor's degree from Williams College and an M.Ed. from the University of Massachusetts.

**Elly Leman**, *Success Bound Coach*, *Success Bound*, Lefkofsky Family Foundation

Elly Leman is the Success Bound Coach for Success Bound, and previously worked as the senior manager of partnerships and initiatives at the Academy for Urban School Leadership. Elly has a bachelor's degree from Bryn Mawr College and is currently pursuing a master's degree from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

**Aisha Lhabaik**, *Student*, Northwestern University; *and Alumna*, Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics (BEAM)

Aisha Lhabaik is a first-year student at Northwestern University planning to major in a STEM field. Aisha attended Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics' BEAM 7 program in 2013 and has been involved with BEAM ever since.

**Christine M. López**, *Principal*, Lopez Consulting, Inc.

Christine M. López is Principal of Lopez Consulting, Inc. and adjunct faculty at the College of Lake County, previously serving as the executive director of Community Relations and Stewardship at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. Christine has a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, a master's degree from DePaul University (Chicago, Illinois), and has completed a certificate in nonprofit management from Northwestern University – Kellogg School of Management, Executive Scholars Program.

**Lucia Lopez**, *Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admission*, DePaul University

Lucia Lopez is the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admission at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. In this role, Lucia has worked in both transfer and first-year student admissions. Lucia currently oversees target population recruitment including, but not limited to, students from Chicago Public Schools, students of color, and first generation students.

**Maggie Lopez**, *Social Emotional Learning Specialist*, Umoja Student Development Corporation

Maggie Lopez graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology with a focus on Latin American and Latina/o studies from Vassar College in New York. As a first generation student and a child of Central-American immigrants, Maggie's background has nurtured a passion for creating equitable spaces for students regardless of their circumstances. Maggie has worked in post-secondary support for the past five years. Prior to Umoja, Maggie worked for The Posse Foundation, a national college success and scholarship program.

**Lindsey Luczynski**, *Director of Strategic Partnerships*, Charles R. Drew Charter School

Lindsey Luczynski has served as the Director of Extended Services, then Strategic Partnerships, at Drew Charter School since 2005. Before coming to Drew, Lindsey worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA corps member in East Palo Alto, California, with the “I Have a Dream®” Foundation, a national nonprofit working to ensure that all children have the opportunity to pursue higher education. Lindsey received a bachelor’s degree in English from Emory University and a master’s degree in the sociology of education from Stanford University.

**Dalinda Martinez**, *Associate Director of Member Engagement*, Coalition for College

Dr. Dalinda Martinez is the Associate Director for Member Engagement for the Coalition for College. She is the proud daughter of migrant parents who decided that education was a priority and would make any sacrifice to help her realize her goal. Dalinda is a first generation college student with more than 15 years of higher education experience. She holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree from The University of New Mexico and a Ph.D. in higher, adult, and lifelong education from Michigan State University.

**Sofia Martinez**, *College Access Fellow*, 10,000 Degrees

Sofia Martinez is a College Access Fellow at 10,000 Degrees in the Metas Program, previously working as the director for the Underrepresented Researchers of Color Program at the University of California Berkeley. Sofia has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

**David McClelland**, *Industrial Sales Engineer*, ExxonMobil Fuels & Lubricants Company; and *Alumnus*, MITES and Schuler Scholar Program

David McClelland oversees the initial call, progression, and final sale of finished lubricants to Industrial manufacturers in his Chicagoland market. The youngest of seventeen grandchildren to his immigrant, Spanish-speaking, maternal grandparents and the second-youngest of eighteen grandchildren to his paternal grandparents living under Jim Crow laws in rural Arkansas, David thanks his older siblings, many cousins, and mentors for always being giants that allowed him to stand on their shoulders. David received his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from MIT in 2015 and is a Schuler Scholar alumnus.

**Kendale McCoy**, *Participant*, America to Me

Kendale McCoy was born and raised in Oak Park, Illinois. Kendale has been musical throughout his life and has used music to cope with many struggles. Kendale graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School in 2016 and is a junior at Cornell College with a plan to graduate in 2020 with a degree in English and secondary education. Kendale is an avid wrestler.

**Peter McKnight**, *Principal, Senior Academy*, Charles R. Drew Charter School

Peter McKnight is currently the Principal of the Senior Academy at Charles R. Drew Charter School. Prior to assuming this position, Peter was the founding principal for the South Atlanta School of Law and Social Justice. Peter received an undergraduate degree in math and religious studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.Ed. from Georgia State University.

**Caro Mercado**, *Associate Dean of Admissions and Director of Partnerships*, Bucknell University  
Caro Mercado is an Associate Dean of Admissions and Director of Partnerships at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Caro oversees the partnership programs at Bucknell including the national Posse Foundation program and the Bucknell Community College Scholars Program. In addition, Caro serves on the leadership team for the Office of Admissions. Caro received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling at the University at Albany, State University of New York and is an ABD doctoral student in counselor education at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Eric Mezin**, *Executive Director*, Council of Educators of Toronto  
Eric Mezin is the Executive Director of the Council of Educators of Toronto in Ontario, Canada. Previous to this, Eric served over 20 years in the Ontario Public Service in various senior management positions. Eric is a graduate from the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris, and holds a Maitrise de Droit from the Sorbonne University, a Mastère en Audit International from the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris and an M.A. in international political economy from York University.

**Erik Miller**, *Director, Center for Community and Learning Partnerships*, Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Erik Miller, Director of the Center for Community and Learning Partnerships at Wentworth Institute of Technology, has extensive experience in community development, college access, and urban affairs, all with the goal of positively impacting Boston neighborhoods. For over a decade, Erik has collaborated with a diverse group of nonprofits, and municipal and industry partners to leverage resources in order to address critical needs of neighborhoods. While at Wentworth, Erik has grown initiatives that previously only impacted a handful of Boston youth every year to hundreds of youth annually, working to provide sustainable funding to support these students and their future.

**Taaha Mohamedali**, *Director of College Thrive*, The Academy Group  
Taaha Mohamedali serves as the Director of College Thrive at The Academy Group. Taaha previously worked in admissions at Lafayette College, earning a B.A. in English via the Posse Scholarship. Taaha earned an M.Ed. at Harvard Graduate School of Education with a focus on transitional support for marginalized young people.

**Gladys Cortez Montiel**, *College Access Fellow*, 10,000 Degrees  
Gladys Cortez Montiel is a College Access Fellow at 10,000 Degrees in the Metas Program, working with English Language Learners in 9-12th grade. Previously, Gladys worked as an assistant at the University of California Berkeley Financial Aid and Scholarship Department. Gladys earned her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley in cognitive science with an emphasis on education.

**Sonjanita Moore**, *Social Emotional Learning Manager*, Umoja Student Development Corporation  
Sonjanita Moore joined the Umoja team in January 2015. Sonjanita is a Fulbright Specialist, a certified Education Specialist and a National Board-Certified teacher. Over the past 22 years, Sonjanita has taught over 30 different secondary/postsecondary courses, has served as a master teacher to over 40 student teachers from area universities, has more than three years of experience in museum education, and has led programs and professional development sessions throughout the city in the profit and non-profit sectors.

**Nicole O’Connell**, *Program Director*, Schuler Scholar Program

Nicole O’Connell joined the Schuler Scholar Program in 2013, having previously worked with Schuler as the director of education at Writers’ Theatre. Nicole brings an arts education background and more than 10 years of teaching experience to her current role. Prior to Schuler, Nicole was a teaching artist for About Face Theatre and Metropolis Performing Arts Center, among other cultural organizations. Nicole has also worked as a classroom teacher, tutor, camp director, coach, and mentor. She received a B.A. in English literature education and a B.A. in theatre performance from Western Michigan University. Nicole received an M.A. in interdisciplinary studies from DePaul University focusing on arts and creative education in public schools.

**Sharon Olken**, *Executive Director*, Gateway Public Schools

Sharon Olken is the Executive Director of Gateway Public Schools, joining Gateway High School in 2000 as a humanities teacher and then becoming principal in 2004. In 2011, Sharon helped launch Gateway’s second school, Gateway Middle School. Under Sharon’s leadership, Gateway developed its framework for defining student agency and noncognitive skills as a central part of its strategy to support its culturally, linguistically and economically diverse student body, 96% of whom continue on to higher education.

**Jose Oromi**, *Executive Vice President*, Horizons National

Leading strategic initiatives and expansion efforts at Horizons National, Jose Oromi brings several years of experience in global and domestic operations and programming, having worked with Save the Children and AmeriCorps, in addition to extensive teaching and community support services. Prior to joining Horizons National, he was the executive director of a highly successful Horizons Affiliate for five years. Jose holds a B.A. from the University of Florida.

**Ashley Pallie**, *Associate Dean of Admissions*, Pomona College

Ashley Pallie has served as Associate Dean of Admissions at Pomona College for the last four years, previously working for the admission office at Scripps College, Ashley’s alma mater. Ashley also completed an M.B.A. at Claremont's School of Management.

**Amanda Parada-Villatoro**, *Director of College Access*, DePaul University

Amanda Parada-Villatoro is the Director of College Access at DePaul University in Chicago, IL. Amanda previously served as the associate director for community outreach and assistant director of undergraduate admission at DePaul University, overseeing strategic recruitment and outreach initiatives for Chicago Public Schools. Amanda has a bachelor’s degree in communication from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a master’s degree in multicultural and organizational communication from DePaul University, and a doctorate of education in higher education leadership and policy from Vanderbilt University.

**John Pickett**, *Assistant Director of Scholar Support*, Elon Academy

John Pickett, native to Silk Hope, North Carolina, has served as Assistant Director for the Elon Academy for the past eight years. John graduated from Elon University with a bachelor’s degree in special education and elementary education. John earned an M.Ed. in student affairs administration from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.



**Nate Pietrini**, *Executive Director*, High Jump

Nate Pietrini, Ed.D. serves as the Executive Director of High Jump, an academic enrichment and high school access non-profit located in Chicago. Prior to joining High Jump, Nate served as a principal, assistant principal, and teacher in Chicago Public Schools. He is a creator and co-host of The Ed Couple podcast, and an advocate for equity in education.

**Mandee Polonsky**, *Program Director*, *Community Affairs*, Northwestern Memorial HealthCare

Mandee Polonsky is the Program Director in Community Affairs at Northwestern Memorial HealthCare where she oversees youth pipeline programs as well as employee volunteerism efforts throughout the health system. Previously Mandee was the senior director of community impact at the United Way of Metro Chicago, after working for Chicago Public Schools for over nine years developing and implementing after school programming across the district. She holds a B.A. in political science and anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis and an M.P.P. from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Studies.

**Ryan K. Priester**, *Director*, *Community Programs*, University of Chicago

Ryan leads the work of Community Programs through coordinating collaborations between University of Chicago faculty, students, and staff and local nonprofits. He manages the Community Programs Accelerator, which supports the success of nonprofits whose work benefits mid-South Side neighborhoods. A native of Chicago's South Side, Ryan began his career working with youth and families in the Woodlawn neighborhood. Previously, Ryan served in several leadership roles in community-based nonprofits, including as the associate director for the Woodlawn Public Safety Alliance. He holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago and attended the University of Chicago Divinity School for graduate studies.

**Annie Reznik**, *Executive Director*, Coalition for College

Annie Reznik is the Coalition for College's first Executive Director, and since taking the helm in May 2016, has demonstrated a passionate commitment to improving the college application process for all students. An ardent supporter of student success for over a decade, Annie has leadership experience in the fields of college admissions and college counseling. Annie held a supervisory role at the University of Maryland, helping to establish pathways to college for students from lower-resourced backgrounds. Annie has also served as a college counselor and English teacher in secondary schools, most recently at Moses Brown School in Providence, Rhode Island. Annie earned a bachelor's degree in English from Mercyhurst University.

**Laura Rios**, *Program Manager*, Waukegan to College

Laura Rios has worked with Waukegan to College for nine years. With a background in professional and case management Laura manages the organization, supervises, coached and trains staff, develops strategic plans and meets with families to build relationships and ensure academic goals are being met. Laura has trained over 400 community leaders to engage local citizenry in neighborhood improvement strategies, and developed a Waukegan to College Parent Leaders Team. Laura earned a Chicago College and Career Advising Credential (CCCAC) in 2016.

**Jessica Rivera**, *Program Director*, uAspire

Jessica serves as the Program Director for uAspire's Massachusetts site. In her role, she works to increase capacity to the Massachusetts high school advising efforts by providing support to her advising team and with a focus on strategy to programming. uAspire is a nonprofit organization whose singular focus is on college affordability and removing financial barriers so that every student has an equitable opportunity to graduate from college.

**Alan Royal**, *Senior Program Manager, Outreach and Partnerships*, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

Alan Royal is the Senior Program Manager of Outreach and Partnerships at the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, overseeing outreach initiatives and partnerships. Alan joined the foundation in 2011 as an educational adviser and later senior educational adviser for the Young Scholars Program. Alan holds a B.A. in English and an M.Ed. in curriculum studies from Texas Christian University.

**Emily Rusca**, *Director of State Policy and Strategy*, Education Systems Center, Northern Illinois University

Emily Rusca drives interagency and cross-stakeholder initiatives across Illinois as the Director of State Policy and Strategy at Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University. Emily's portfolio spans education, workforce, and data-related efforts in service of making systems-level transformations that enable young people to succeed in college, career, and life. Emily holds an M.P.P. from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and has a background in international development, city planning, and gender equity work.

**Karen Eley Sanders**, *Associate Vice Provost for College Access*, Virginia Tech

Karen Eley Sanders serves as Associate Vice Provost for College Access at Virginia Tech and as Chief Diversity Officer for Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. She has worked in higher education as a counselor, administrator, and faculty member for three decades. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in psychology from Virginia State University and a doctorate in adult and developmental education from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She also earned a certified developmental education specialist degree through the Kellogg Institute at Appalachian State University.

**Diane Scott**, *Co-Director of College Placement*, Academy of the Pacific Rim

Diane Scott is Co-Director (along with Doreen Kelly-Carney) of College Placement at Academy of the Pacific Rim, a 21-year-old, high-performing urban charter public school in Boston, Massachusetts. Diane has performed similar work for Greater Egleston Community High School and City Year, both of which are located in Boston. Diane has a bachelor's degree in developmental psychology from Stanford University and an Ed.M. from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**Marylyn Scott**, *Senior Associate Dean of Admissions, Office of Admissions*, Bucknell University

Marylyn Scott currently serves as Senior Associate Dean of Admissions at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. Marylyn served in other admission and student affairs positions at Mount Holyoke College, Bates College, and Chatham University, and earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Pennsylvania State University and a master's degree in foreign language education from University of Florida.

**Benjamin Serrano**, *Alumni Support Manager*, High Jump; and *Alumnus*, High Jump and Latin School of Chicago

Benjamin Serrano is an educator, youth worker, writer, and artist working with young people to help them (re)discover their agency and power. By using the frameworks of the Black radical tradition, anti-colonialism, and anti-capitalism, he believes young people can access tools to not only build themselves, but also their communities. Born and raised in Chicago's West Town and Humboldt Park neighborhoods, he loves teaching young people the deep history of resistance in this city and is consistently proud of the amount of opportunities that Chicago provides to become a more engaged and critical learner.

**Sophie Shank**, *Senior Policy Associate*, J-PAL North America

Sophie Shank is a Senior Policy Associate at J-PAL North America, writing publications, evaluation summaries, and website content in order to share key results from J-PAL's economic research. Prior to joining J-PAL, Sophie worked at East Palo Alto Stanford Academy as a teacher and coordinator for the 7th and 8th grade Saturday academic support program. Sophie holds a B.A. in economics from Stanford University and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

**Daniel Shoy, Jr.**, *President and Chief Executive Officer*, East Lake Foundation

Danny Shoy, Jr. serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the East Lake Foundation. Prior to joining the East Lake Foundation staff in 2010, Danny served as a senior program officer for the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation focused on its education grantmaking in seven states across the country for a decade. Danny received his B.A. in history from Emory University.

**Jon Siapno**, *Director of College and Career Counseling*, Making Waves Academy

Jon Siapno is the Director of College and Career Counseling at Making Waves Academy in Richmond, California. Jon previously served as the consulting operations manager at ThinkTank Learning, a private college access firm. Jon holds a bachelor's degree in music education from New York University.

**Leisha Sladden-Atkinson**, *Project Manager*, Council of Educators of Toronto

Leisha Sladden-Atkinson is the Project Manager of the Council of Educators of Toronto. Previous to this, Leisha worked in the community and the post-secondary education sectors in positions related to youth engagement and leadership. Leisha holds diplomas in human services administration and community outreach.

**David Smith**, *Executive Director*, Roaring Fork PreCollegiate

David Smith is the Executive Director of Roaring Fork PreCollegiate. Dave became involved with PreCollegiate as a volunteer mentor beginning in 2008, and the group of students he worked with graduated from Glenwood Springs High School in 2014. Watching these students go through the PreCollegiate program was so impactful and inspiring that Dave chose to change careers from the practice of law in order to join the PreCollegiate team as its Executive Director in 2015. Dave is a graduate of Middlebury College and received his law degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

**Jesse Solomon**, *Executive Director*, Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE)

Jesse Solomon is the Executive Director of The Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE), and founded the Boston Teacher Residency program in 2003. Previously, Jesse taught middle and high school math for 10 years, and founded and directed the Teachers' Institute at City On A Hill. Jesse has been an instructor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and is a National Board-certified teacher. The Barr Foundation named Jesse a Barr Foundation Fellow, and he is also a Pahara-Aspen Institute Education Fellow and a member of Deans for Impact.

**Colette Stanzler, *Principal, Root Cause***

Colette Stanzler is a Principal of Advisory Services at Root Cause, leading collective action initiatives, evidence-based research, and program assessment and evaluation projects with nonprofits, government agencies, and foundations. Prior to Root Cause, Colette spent several years in the financial services industry managing complex, multi-departmental projects to improve operational efficiency. Colette holds an M.B.A. from the MIT Sloan School of Management, an M.P.A. from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a B.A. from the University of Rochester.

**Kristin Stayer, *Lead Content Developer, ASAS National Network, After-School All-Stars***

Kristin Stayer is the Lead Content Developer at After-School All-Stars, working with the National Program Team to provide engaging and comprehensive after-school programs that empower students to become '21st Century Ready'. Prior to serving at After-School All-Stars, Kristin was the executive director of Park Place Community Center. In addition to leading the start-up and development of the Community Center, Kristin has managed the BOOST (Best of Out of School Time) Collaborative blog and now serves as a BOOST Ambassador. Kristin holds a B.S.W. from Anderson University and a Masters of Urban Studies with a concentration in community development from Eastern University.

**Maurice Swinney, *Chief Equity Officer, Chicago Public Schools***

As the district's first Chief Equity Officer, Maurice Swinney is responsible for moving us closer to achieving educational equity, which is a moral imperative for Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Prior to this role, Maurice served as the principal of Chicago's Tilden Community Career Academy and was a teacher and school leader in Louisiana. Maurice holds a bachelor's degree in English education and master's degree in educational leadership and school principalship from Xavier University of Louisiana. He will earn his Ed.D. in public school administration with a superintendency endorsement from Oral Roberts University in Spring 2019.

**Najet Torres, *Parent Leader and Parent Educator, Waukegan to College***

Najet Torres emigrated to the United States from Belize in 2003. Najet studied business at the University of Belize and was just three credits short of graduating before having to leave her country. Najet has been with Waukegan to College (W2C) for four and a half years and her daughter Vania will be a freshman in college next year. Najet is passionate about empowering her community and herself and believes that positivity, strength, and growth come through education. She is committed to helping her community as a W2C Parent Leader and a Parent Educator with the Parents Educating Parents Program.

**Sara Urquidez, *Executive Director, ASP Dallas***

Sara Urquidez is the Executive Director of the Academic Success Program. Sara oversees the college counseling staff for 18 Dallas and Houston public and charter high schools, which serve more than 3,500 seniors and 16,000 high school students every year. Sara serves on the advisory boards for the Coalition for College, The Common Application, CalTech, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Texas at Austin.

**Sierra Walker**, *Business Administration Student*, National Louis University; *Fellow*, Braven; and *Alumna*, Braven

Sierra Walker is a senior at National Louis University majoring in business administration. She is currently the Communications and Recruitment intern for Braven, an education nonprofit. Past experience includes interning for the Chicago Sky. Sierra hopes to obtain a position within sales following graduation.

**Rachel Weaver**, *Director of College and Career Readiness*, Charles R. Drew Charter School

Rachel Kaney Weaver currently serves as the Director of College and Career Readiness at Charles R. Drew Charter School in Atlanta, Georgia. Previously, Rachel worked in Atlanta as a graduation coach, school counselor, and social worker. Rachel received an undergraduate degree from James Madison University and a master's and education specialist's degree from University of Georgia.

**Jessica Wenzel**, *College Counselor*, Cristo Rey San Jose Jesuit High School

Jessica Wenzel is the College Counselor for Cristo Rey San Jose Jesuit High School. Jessica has worked with first generation students in college access and success work for the past nine years with organizations like Breakthrough Silicon Valley and Students Rising Above. Jessica has a master's in School Counseling from San Jose State University and her bachelor's in Spanish and Education from University of California, Berkeley.

**Cecily White**, *Director of Graduate Support*, Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School

Cecily White joined Cristo Rey as a college advisor and alumni program coordinator after spending six years working in youth mentoring and development at Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region. As Director of Graduate Support, Cecily is excited to continue building and growing the alumni support program for the CRPHS community. After graduating from Goucher College with a B.A. in religion, Cecily moved to Philadelphia and began work in the non-profit sector. Cecily received a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania (M.S.Ed. school and mental health counseling).

**Eric Z. Williams**, *Office of School Counseling and Post-Secondary Advising Manager*, Chicago Public Schools

Eric Z. Williams is currently a Manager in the Office of College and Career Success for the Chicago Public Schools, where they have increased annual fall college enrollment from 43% to 65% during his tenure. Eric was the founding chief executive officer of the Trinity Higher Education Corporation (now Endeleo) in Chicago, Illinois. Eric has also worked as an associate dean of students and in the offices of Admissions and Financial Aid at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. Eric has a B.A. from Knox College and an M.A. from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

**Luthern Williams**, *Head of School*, New Roads School

Luthern Williams is the Head of School at New Roads School in Santa Monica, California. Of the more than 1500 independent schools in America, Luthern is one of only 30 African-American Heads of School. Previously, Luthern served as the director of college Preparation and college admissions at College Launch, an educational consulting company, the director of studies at the Oakwood School in North Hollywood, California, the upper school director at Beaver Country Day School in Boston, Massachusetts, and the director of diversity at the Winsor School in Boston, Massachusetts. Luthern holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and an Ed.M. in school leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**Keith Wright**, *Director of Psychometrics*, The Enrollment Management Association

Dr. Keith Wright is the Director of Psychometrics at The Enrollment Management Association (EMA). Keith holds a Ph.D. in research, measurement, and statistics from Georgia State University, having written a dissertation focused on differential item functioning. Keith also holds an M.B.A. in finance/marketing from Loyola University of Chicago and a master's in science in computer science from Illinois Institute of Technology.

**Kwasi Yeboah Jr.**, *Communications and Graphics Designer*, Chicago Teachers Pension Fund; and *Alumnus*, Chicago Scholars

Kwasi Yeboah Jr. is a beloved and innovative thought leader in the areas of graphic design, digital/print marketing and communications. He resides on Chicago's South-Side in the community of Woodlawn where he was born and raised. Kwasi has spent the last seven years working in the nonprofit sector as a designer and communications specialist. He previously worked as a marketing and communications manager at Chicago Scholars Foundation and has also spent the last 10 years freelancing for various clients within Chicago, New York, and Atlanta. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a B.F.A. in graphic design, and graduated with his master's degree in communication/digital media from Loyola University, Chicago.

**Shawna Young**, *Executive Director*, Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP)

Shawna Young is a passionate educator who joined the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) in July 2016 after serving as the executive director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Office of Engineering Outreach Programs for eight years. Shawna received a B.S. in chemistry from Howard University and an M.A.T. in science education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She also completed a certificate in nonprofit management and leadership from Boston University and holds an M.B.A. from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

**Shelly Zhou**, *Program and Development Associate*, Minds Matter National; and *Alumna*, Minds Matter NYC and Northwestern University College Prep Program

Shelly Zhou is currently the Program and Development Associate at Minds Matter National. Before joining the nonprofit sector, Shelly researched the hazardous effects of skin bleaching for Columbia University's Dermatology Department. Shelly holds a bachelor's in human biology from the University at Albany and plans to pursue an M.B.A.

**Sharon Zucker**, *Dean of Guidance*, New Jersey SEEDS

Sharon Zucker is the Dean of Guidance for NJ SEEDS in Newark, New Jersey. Sharon previously worked at the Rutgers University School of Social Work in the Center on Violence Against Women and Children. Sharon has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado at Denver, and a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.