

CAAASA 2018 Statewide Professional Development Summit Bios

Lupita Alcalá: Lupita Cortez Alcalá joined the California Student Aid Commission in January 2016 as the Executive Director. Lupita heads the organization and serves as the leader and spokesperson for issues impacting California's \$2 billion Cal Grant student financial aid program. She also oversees delivery of the agency's Cal Grant, Middle Class Scholarship, California Dream Act, and seven other grant or loan repayment programs, supporting schools and students. Lupita is also the Chair of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. Lupita came to the California Student Aid Commission with comprehensive experience in education policy; program development and evaluation; government and legislative affairs; and, advocacy and community relations. As a chief advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, Lupita spent more than 12 years with the California Department of Education (CDE) and worked closely with the state Board of Education.

Julia Agostinelli is an Education Programs Consultant with the California Department of Education. As a former teacher of at-risk middle school youth and English learning adults, Julia knows the importance of having access to rich educational curriculum and a rich professional learning community. In her current position in the Professional Learning Support Division, Julia supports educational organizations with the planning, training, and technical assistance in implementing Collaboration in Common. Julia has worked on various federal grant programs, such as Title III, Refugee Students Assistant, and most recently the School Improvement Grant. Julia holds a B.A. in History from U.C. Davis and an M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from CSU Sacramento.

Eduardo Aguilar supports Children Now's education efforts through the development of community engagement and empowerment strategies and partnerships to strengthen the connection between state level policy and local level implementation and practice. Prior to joining Children Now, he worked as a School Climate and Culture Specialist in the Youth Engagement Services Unit at Sacramento City Unified School District. In this role he helped to shape and strengthen the implementation of high quality expanded learning time programming within the district. He also brings experience in designing leadership programming, professional development and facilitating results-driven decision-making. He holds a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies from CSU Sacramento.

Jorge Aguilar, Superintendent, Sacramento City Unified School District: Superintendent Jorge A. Aguilar leads the Sacramento City Unified School District, a system of more than 43,000 students with 80 schools. He began his tenure on July 1, 2017. He brings over twenty years of K-12 and higher education experience with a strong focus and background on issues of equity and student achievement. Prior to arriving in Sacramento, Superintendent Aguilar served as Associate Superintendent for Equity & Access, Fresno Unified School District, California. While there, he established a unique partnership between the Fresno district and the Center for Education Partnerships, which he founded and directed at the University of California Merced campus.

Dale Allender, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of language and literacy in the Department of Teaching Credentials at California State University-Sacramento where he teaches courses in Academic Literacy and Educational Foundations of a Democratic Multicultural Society. He facilitates and provides professional Ethnic Studies and Social Justice professional development for teachers in the Sacramento City Unified School District, San Juan Unified School District, and Roseville Joint Secondary School District in Northern California. He is the co-editor of *An Introduction to Ethnic Studies*, and the second edition

entitled [*Our Stories in Our Voices*](#), the first high school Ethnic Studies textbook and accompanying activity guide.

Dustin Bainbridge is the Founder and CEO of Horizon Education. Over the past 15 years, he has devoted his career to closing the achievement gap in education. His company was founded in 2013 and focuses on training high school teachers to become master SAT/ACT preparation instructors via Professional Development. Horizon Education has been able to increase standardized test scores among students of color, provide additional income for teachers and gather meaningful data among subgroups to provide evidence of the impact their programs are making. Dustin holds an MBA from university of Redlands.

Xavier Becerra, California Attorney General: Prior to becoming Attorney General, he was a member of the [United States House of Representatives for California's 34th congressional district](#), who represented [Downtown Los Angeles](#) in Congress from 1993 to 2017. Becerra, a member of the [Democratic Party](#), was [Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus](#). Becerra was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, representing [California's 34th congressional district](#) from 1993 to 2003, and [California's 31st congressional district](#) from 2003 to 2013. During his tenure in the House, he served as Chairman of the [Congressional Hispanic Caucus](#) from 1997 to 1999, vice chairman of the [House Democratic Caucus](#) from 2009 to 2013, and as a member of the [Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction](#). Becerra is also a member of Washington, D. C., based think tank [The Inter-American Dialogue](#).

Stacey Ault, Ed.D., is an Adjunct Professor in the Social Work department at Sacramento State University. She also currently directs the Youth Development Support Services Department at Sacramento City Unified School District, where her leadership has resulted in statewide and national recognition in areas of equity, expanded learning, youth voice, and programming for students of color. Stacey is a mother, activist, scholar, practitioner with over 20 years of experience working with children, families and communities.

Greg Bell is a former eight-year veteran of the National Football League, playing for the Buffalo Bills, Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Raiders. As a 1984 first-round draft pick for the Bills (#26 pick), he went on to rush for 1,100 yards and receive his first visit to the NFL Pro Bowl. His 1,000+ season marked the 11 time in NFL history that a rookie had rushed for more than 1,000 yards in his first season. He was co-rookie of the year as he told home the Seagram and UPI honors. During his career, he rushed for more than 1,000+ yards in three season and led the NFL in touchdowns twice (88-89) will helping to led the Rams and Raiders to a total of 3 conference championship games over a 4 year span. In 1988, he was comeback player of the year. During his career he rushed for over 200+ yards three times, which places him behind 8 others who have 4 or more games.

Misty Blackmon's professional education journey began over 16 years ago and has allowed her to participate in learning opportunities – as a teacher, mentor, college professor, and professional development consultant – for public, charter, alternative, private, and Christian schools nationwide. She believes that effectively-equipped teachers effectively facilitate learning opportunities that promote educational achievement and growth.

Angela Hewlett-Bloch is the Administrator for the Access, Equity and Acceleration Unit in the Division of Instruction in Los Angeles Unified School District. She is a native of Los Angeles and a career educator of 35 years LAUSD. She attended California State University Long Beach to obtain her BA in English and her California Teaching Credential. She later attended CSUN to complete her Master's Degree in Educational

Leadership. Angela taught special education in middle school, with the majority of her experience teaching English in middle and high school for twenty years before expanding her professional growth experiences to work beyond the classroom to local and central District offices. Additionally, Angela has served the Los Angeles Unified School District as an Assistant Principal, High School Principal, Local District Administrator of Instruction, Secondary Instructional Director, and Director of Instruction Operations.

Dr. Veronica Bloomfield has worked in the field of education for over 15 years in capacities including elementary school teacher, literacy coach, countywide literacy specialist and adjunct university instructor. Dr. Bloomfield earned her Doctorate in Education with an emphasis on cultural and curricular studies from Chapman University in 2013. Dr. Bloomfield also holds a Master's degree in education and a Master degree in cultural studies with an emphasis on race and racism for Claremont Graduate University. She currently works in the Lynwood unified school district as the Coordinator of After School and Enrichment Programs in the Equity Department. Dr. Bloomfield is a requested presenter and published author. Her most recent works have been featured in: "A Homegrown Methodology: Cultural Intuition, Self Trust and Connected Knowing at Work," *Culturally Responsive Methodologies*, edited by SooHoo, S., Nevin, A., & Berreman, M. and "Equity for All Means Classrooms Too," in *Book One of Trilogy: The Hope for Audacity: From Cynicism to Hope in Educational Leadership and Policy*, edited by Monzo, L. and SooHoo, S., Hampton Press.

Travis Bristol, Ph.D., a former high school English teacher and clinical teacher educator with the Boston Teacher Residency program, is a Peter Paul Assistant Professor at Boston University. His research is situated at the intersection of policy and practice. In particular, Dr. Bristol explores national, state, and local education policies that enable and constrain the workplace experiences and retention for teachers of color. His research has appeared in several journals, which include *Gender and Education*, *Urban Education*, *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, *Journal for Multicultural Education*, and *Phi Delta Kappan*. The National Academy/ Spencer Foundation, Ford Foundation, and American Educational Research Association awarded Dr. Bristol fellowships for his dissertation that explored U.S. Black male teachers' school-based experiences and decisions to stay/leave teaching. In 2016, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education selected Dr. Bristol for its inaugural teacher diversity research award.

Karen Bridges is the In-School Suspension Teacher and Coordinator for Joseph Kerr Middle School in Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD). Prior to joining EGUSD in 2017, she was a math/science instructional coach for the Aspire Central Valley Region. Her work focused on the instructional practices of teachers. She implemented professional development for Aspire's CV. Before joining Aspire in 2015 she was an aspiring principal earning her Administrative Credential and M.A. in Educational Administration through the Los Angeles Principal Network Residency in affiliation with CSU LA. Her teaching experience also includes serving as a science/ GATE teacher for LAUSD. Karen earned a M.Ed. from Columbia College in Divergent Learning and is currently working on her Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy from CSUS.

Lisa C. Broomfield has been an educator for twenty-five years and currently serves as the Director of Categorical Programs in Moreno Valley Unified School District. She obtained her teaching credential from the University of Colorado, a Master's Degree in Teaching from Colorado College and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Troy State University. She has worked as an elementary teacher, Title I

teacher, School Based Resource Teacher (SBRT), literacy support coach, high school assistant principal, and a continuation school principal. Parent involvement is an integral part of Categorical Programs and she strives to offer relevant opportunities for parents to become empowered and involved. She is an active participant in the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation process for high schools. She serves on the African American Advisory Committee (AAAC) and is passionate about eliminating the achievement gap. Lisa is a proud veteran of the United States Army.

Charles Brown is the Director of Equity and Targeted Student Achievement for San Bernardino City Unified School District. He began his career 18 years ago at Ingraham Elementary as a fifth grade teacher. His focus has been helping students to achieve at high levels, despite their barriers. He later became as Assistant Administrator for Instructional Improvement and Academic Coaching. He utilized his gift of empowering various stakeholders, providing quality professional development, strengthening the academic outcome for students, and building cultures of trust and transparency. His next promotion was as an elementary school principal, which he held for over seven years. Currently as a district director, he is working to support schools with their instructional programs, progress monitoring student achievement, providing culturally responsive professional development, and help to empower parents to become advocates for their students. In addition, Charles is currently in a doctoral program for Organizational Leadership with Brandman University.

Hardy Brown has over 20 years of experience in Leadership and University Career Development. He currently leads the Black Voice Foundation, where he manages programming, including the annual Footsteps to Freedom Underground Railroad tour for educators. He also represents over 410,000 students as a trustee for the San Bernardino County Board of Education. Working with thousands of students at Wilberforce University, he says, "My research shows many valuable skills our students need to become productive leaders in their society consist of critical thinking, communication, flexibility, Initiative, the ability to work on a team and a strong work ethic." Most recently, he assisted his daughter into the confusing academic college recruiting season. (She graduated high school and community college in the same week and was accepted to 24 universities including six academic full ride offers). Since then, he has assisted hundreds of other scholars to achieve their goal of going to college.

Ron Brown, NFL; A gifted athlete with world-record speed, Ron Brown was born in Los Angeles in 1961. As a youth at Baldwin Park high school, he lettered in both football and track. Ron also holds the school record for 100-yard dash in 9.4. He would continue this multi-sport combination in college and beyond, making him one of the nation's most accomplished athletes in two different sports. As a former world-class athlete, Ron Brown knows what type of dedication and will it takes to succeed at the highest level. His commitment to excellence and work in championing social causes are especially appropriate to the express dedication to addressing issues of social inequity. Now retired from professional sports, Ron lives in Walnut, California where he is Business Affairs Director for the NFL "Goals for Life" mentoring at-risk children.

Dr. Mildred Browne has spent 30 years as an educator and psychologist, assisting and advocating for students and families whose needs fall outside traditional school system offerings. Holding increasingly responsible positions as director, administrative director, and assistant superintendent at school districts in California and Georgia, she is recognized for her expertise in special education, pupil services, student discipline, and alternative education. Over the past five years, Dr. Browne has had an opportunity to focus on her passion of addressing disproportionality as it relates to the over-representation of specific ethnic groups in special education and in regards to suspension and expulsion.

As a SELPA Director, Assistant Superintendent in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District and as a consultant in San Francisco Unified School District, Dr. Browne has embraced an equity agenda in developing equity plans, facilitating stakeholders' equity advisory groups, and writing efficacious Significantly Disproportionate Coordinated Early Intervening Service Plans.

Amy Callahan brings 20 years of experience working as an educator, including seven years as a classroom teacher in California, Texas, and Hawaii. With extensive experience in curriculum and professional development consultation throughout the United States, including the Vice President of Common Core Services and Senior Faculty to the Center for College & Career Readiness, Ms. Callahan specializes in curriculum, technology, and professional development consultation. As a mother of two young children, she has a personal commitment to the P-20 movement as it relates to school readiness, community partnerships, and parent empowerment.

Dr. Daryl Camp has served as the superintendent for the Riverbank Unified School District since 2012. Under his leadership, Riverbank Unified student learning continues to improve and opportunities for students have expanded. Dr. Camp served as the president of Region 7 of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) during the 2015-16 school year. Dr. Camp earned his bachelor's degree at Morehouse College in 1991, his master's degree at California State University, Hayward in 2001, and his doctorate degree in educational leadership at California State University, Sacramento in May, 2011. While at Morehouse, Dr. Camp was inducted into the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa scholar society. In 2008 he received the Valuing Diversity Award from Region VII of ACSA. Camp's article entitled, *Talking about Racism in Our Schools*, was published in the April 2009 edition of ACSA's Leadership magazine.

Kino Carson is an Administrator at Skyline High School in Oakland, California and founder of the Urban Heat Academy enrichment program. After graduating with an MA in Education, Kino dedicated eight years to teaching underprivileged youth in low socio economic communities, where he helped students to overcome their academic and socio- emotional proficiencies. In 2004, he graduated from Sacramento State University, receiving his California Credentials in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. While in college, he researched "The Effects of Poverty in Education." Based on his research as a principal, he implemented effective strategies, which have helped to change several public schools from "Program Improvement" to "Distinguished Schools."

Tamika Casey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies, Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and her Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration. Teaching is her passion and currently she is a Program Specialist, helping teachers become better in the art and science of teaching, in San Bernardino, CA. In response to the Targeted Instructional Improvement Policy (TIIP), The Department of Equity and Targeted Student Achievement, is dedicated to providing effective staff development programs for district staff grades K-12. As a program specialist, she partners with administrators to support in the form of coaching, presentations and demonstrations of instructional strategies to support staff and teachers district-wide. She has worked as an elementary educator in the district for twenty years. During her tenure, she's taught grades 1-5. Additionally, her wide range of expertise include consulting and providing professional development around both Cultural Proficiency and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.

Christopher P. Chatmon serves as Deputy Chief of Equity for the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and was named as a "Leader to Learn From" by *Education Week* magazine. Chatmon was selected as a Campaign for Black Male Achievement "Social Innovation Accelerator" because he is committed to improving life outcomes for all youth and especially African American males. Chatmon is passionate about uplifting the African American community and has dedicated his career and life work to creating pathways of success within Oakland and beyond. His inspirational leadership motivates educators and community members to engage, encourage, and empower young people regardless of gender or non-gender identity, race, class, or nationality.

Barbara Christensen is a leader in the faculty and staff housing arena. As a retired senior executive of the San Mateo Community College District, she managed many complex projects there, including the development of the first ever residential housing program for community college faculty and staff: College Vista (opened in 2005), Canada Vista (opened in 2010) and a forthcoming project at Skyline College.

Vincent Cobb is the CEO of the Fellowship-BMEC Inc. Previously he has worked as a community organizer, family and community engagement director and a background in school leadership starting his education career at the Syracuse City School District, there Cobb worked for 7 years as a school administrator and then program director for the Say Yes to Education Foundation organizing faith based initiatives and school partnerships, managing an annual \$500,000 community grant. In 2013, Mr. Cobb moved to Washington, DC as an Education Pioneer fellow working for the Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools to increase workforce readiness supports and internships for rising high school juniors and seniors. After the year-long EP fellowship, Cobb accepted a job with Teach for America, Philadelphia as the school and community partnerships regional manager with special focus on Black male achievement programs to help bolster the region's Black male educators in the TFA corps and supports for Black male students in Philadelphia public schools. Currently, Cobb serves as manager of family and community engagement with a portfolio of Mastery North Philadelphia schools.

Flojaune G. Cofer, PhD, MPH Epidemiologist: Director of State Policy & Research Public Health Advocates: an epidemiologist who serves as the Director of State Policy and Research for Public Health Advocates. The mission of Public Health Advocates is to promote health equity by helping cities, counties, and schools become places that nurture health and wellbeing for everyone. Her professional interest is conducting translational research to influence to address emerging and persistent public health challenges through policy. Prior to joining Public Health Advocates, for six years she led the preconception health initiative as a contractor for the California Department of Public Health.

Carl A. Cohn is on leave from Claremont Graduate University to direct the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, a new state agency established by Governor Brown and the State Legislature to advise and assist school districts on their academic performance. Before his tenure at Claremont, he served as superintendent of schools in the San Diego Unified School District. Prior to that, he worked as a professor at the University of Southern California, and a federal court monitor for the special education consent decree in the Los Angeles school system. From 1992 to 2002, he was superintendent of the Long Beach Unified School District. His tenure at Long Beach culminated with him winning the McGraw Prize in 2002, and the district winning the Broad Prize in 2003. Cohn has worked as a faculty advisor for both

the Broad Superintendents Academy and the Harvard Urban Superintendents Program. He also serves on the boards of the Spencer Foundation, Teaching Works at the University of Michigan and St. Mary's Academy. He recently completed service on the California State Board of Education and ACT, Inc. Earlier this year, he completed the long-term evaluation of the DC Public Schools for the National Research Council.

Roy A. Combs is a partner with Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, in the firm's Oakland office. He joined F3 in 2007 and serves as co-chair of the firm's Governance & Leadership Practice Group. Before joining F3, he served as General Counsel and Chief Labor Negotiator with the Oakland Unified School District for nearly 10 years. He brings broad and deep experience in providing legal advice and counsel to school boards, superintendents and school administrators on matters ranging from collective bargaining, labor and employment, personnel, governance, Brown Act, conflict-of-interest, facilities, construction, charter schools, risk and litigation matters.

Eric Cooper; "When we are able to break the glass ceiling for inner city children and see achievement gains go way beyond system expectations; that is when I am the proudest. To seize the opportunity to create hope out of despair — commitment out of frustration ... change rather than inaction ... hard work leading to huge gains (not easy simplistic answers, but focused commitment) — to see children and teachers' eyes light up with expectation and awareness that they can teach and learn complex concepts ... Wow!" Dr. Cooper is the President of the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUA). He served in a similar position as Executive Director for the NUA at Columbia University's Teachers College and as Adjunct Associate Professor for 7 years. Prior to this position, he was the Vice President for Inservice Training & Telecommunications for the Simon & Schuster Education Group. He has worked in the capacities of Associate Director of Program Development for the College Board, Administrative Assistant in the Office of Curriculum for the Boston Public Schools, and Director of a treatment center for emotionally disturbed students, in addition to working as a teacher, researcher, counselor, and Washington Fellow.

Gudiel R. Crosthwaite, Ph.D., Lynwood Unified School District Superintendent, has enjoyed a 24-year career in education while teaching, mentoring and removing barriers to student success. Since joining Lynwood in 2010, as Director of School Reform, Crosthwaite's collaborative work and leadership has been instrumental in the District's extraordinary gains in student achievement, including rising graduation rates and increasing participation and success in Advanced Placement (AP) coursework. The District's growth culminated when it was named 2017 AP District of the Year by the College Board for expanding access to AP courses while simultaneously improving AP exam performance. Lynwood Unified was one of only three Districts in the nation – and only one in California – to receive this distinction. Crosthwaite earned an undergraduate degree from University of California, Los Angeles, and after graduating taught middle school English, English language development and social studies. He returned to school to pursue a master's degree at Harvard University Graduate School of Education and became the executive director of a nonprofit organization that provided educational support to students in need. Crosthwaite holds two master's degrees; one from California State University, Los Angeles in Educational Administration and another from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He earned his Ph.D. in Education from Claremont Graduate University.

Cullen Ben Daniel is Vice President of *The Educational Network*, creators of "*Our History Today! A Multicultural Journey*," a dynamic, web-based program that explores the contributions that African

Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asians, women and various other minority groups have made to American history and culture. Cullen holds a BA in History and a Master of Arts in World History. As a Historian, the bulk of his work focuses on African American and Latin American studies.

Brendan Darsie, M.P.H., is the lead epidemiologist with the Oral Health Program with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). He has worked for CDPH for four years, doing public health surveillance, evaluation, and other epidemiologic activities for various programs. He is currently working with the State Dental Director to develop California's first Oral Health Surveillance System to provide state and local data to support the California Oral Health Plan and to provide information to schools and local programs regarding the status of oral health. Prior to working with the Oral Health Program. He published a study entitled "Colorectal Cancer Burden and Access to Federally Qualified Health Centers in California" and was co-author of the 2016 "Burden of Cardiovascular Disease in California." He currently serves as the evaluation lead for the Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Program.

Leah Denman is a Senior Project Manager at DCG Strategies where she focuses on K-12 educational institutions. This includes examining workforce housing feasibility, disposition of school district property and other facility needs. Leah previously managed a United Nations project while at the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC and worked on land use issues for Stanford University's Office of Government and Community Relations. She holds an MBA from the George Washington University.

Dr. Ben Drati currently serves as the Superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. He has previously served as Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education in the Santa Barbara Unified District. In addition, he also has experience as a site principal. He has a passion for providing educational opportunities so all students may reach their full potential. He has been instrumental in ensuring achievement and access to all students and helping to create a district focused on diversity, inclusiveness and cultural proficiency. He earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and a doctorate in education from Fresno State.

Michael J. Dumas, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley in the Graduate School of Education and the African American Studies Department. He earned a Ph.D. in Urban Education with an emphasis in social and educational policy studies from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. His research sits at the intersection(s) of the cultural politics of Black education, the cultural political economy of urban education, and the futurity of Black childhood(s).

Francisco Escobedo, 56, is South County's longest serving superintendent. He has been at the helm of the Chula Vista Elementary School District for six years. A graduate of [Yale University](#), Escobedo's accomplishments noted by trustees at the Nov. 28 meeting include sustained achievement among English language learners, increased technology access, and the implementation of a new safety system to track school buses in real time. That system earned the district its first perfect bus inspection report from the California Highway Patrol. With nearly 30,000 students and 45 schools, Chula Vista is the largest K-6 school district in the state. It has a budget of about \$257 million for the 2016-17 academic year.

Eileen Espejo spearheads Children Now's policy efforts to improve oral health care quality and access for children in California. This includes a recent pilot in LA County, now being replicated in Sacramento whereby data-sharing agreements between medical and dental plans, allow primary care providers to refer children to oral health providers, if they haven't been seen by a dentist. Eileen serves as an advisor

to state and local oral health projects including the State Oral Health Plan Advisory Committee, the Perinatal Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Project, the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program Oral Health Subcommittee, and the Alameda County Oral Health Committee. Before Children Now, she served as a Legislative Affairs Associate for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Eileen received her B.S. in Applied Behavioral Sciences from UC Davis and is also an alumna of the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs.

Michael Essien is an administrator at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Middle School in San Francisco Unified School District. As a leader of MLK Middle School, Michael has transformed the learning environment for students and teachers and has significantly reduced referral and suspension data while increasing student proficiency on SBAC. He believes in a "whole school approach" to address challenges for students and teachers. After receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees in African American Studies and urban education leadership from UC Berkeley, he taught Geometry, Algebra 2 & Trigonometry, and special education for 21 years in Oakland Public Schools. Michael also taught in the UC Berkeley M.E.S.A. (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) Program for over a decade. His approach to address equity issues within education is getting noticed and have been written about in the San Francisco Chronicle and discussed in podcasts by KQED.

Eve Peek Fichtner is a partner in the Sacramento office of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo. She represents school districts, county offices of education, community colleges and private employers for personnel matters, student issues and all forms of discrimination and harassment claims, including Title IX complaints.

Dr. Tanya A. Fisher, Selma Unified School District superintendent, is a veteran educator with over 25 years of experience. Along with an extensive background in Curriculum and Instruction, Gifted and Talented Education, and Equity and Diversity, Dr. Fisher holds a Master of Arts in Special Education, a Master of Arts in School Administration, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. She is a past recipient of the prestigious California School Boards Association's "Golden Bell Award" for Innovate Programs focusing on Culturally Responsive teaching practices, proven to increase academic achievement and close achievement gaps in ethnically and linguistically diverse communities. Dr. Fisher has completed the ACSA's Leadership Academies for New and Aspiring Administrators, the Superintendent's Academy, the Academy for School Business Officials, and the Symposium for Women in Leadership. As a Phi Lambda Theta scholar and self-proclaimed life-long learner, she is an advocate for continued growth and professional development for all educators.

Milton E. Foster III is a partner with Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost, in the firm's Inland Empire area office. A former mechanical engineer, he provides the firm with a wealth of litigation, construction, facilities, and real estate experience. Foster is especially interested in finding ways for K-12 and community college districts to take full advantage of the value of their facilities, both for educational use and revenue. He assists school districts and county offices of education throughout California on issues ranging from premises liability and construction defect to eminent domain proceedings.

Betsy Fox is Director, Early Learning Partnerships, at the New Teacher Center. Betsy has been a teacher and learner for nearly 40 years, working in schools to ensure all children an equitable start to their educational journey. After earning degrees in Early Childhood Education and Educational Administration and Supervision, Betsy has held various roles (teacher, coach, principal) in Texas and California. She has also developed programs such as an early childhood workforce development and quality improvement program, programs designed to help early childhood directors enhance their leadership knowledge and skills, and a program to help elementary school leaders support early learning programs and staff in a sustainable manner.

Amy Ferraz, Senior Education Specialist & Project Manager, Education & Outreach, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, manages educational programs, communications, and operations for the Education & Outreach team. Prior to joining the Fed, Amy worked in the financial services and IT recruiting sectors bringing a wealth of invaluable skills with her. She holds a Bachelor's in International Relations from U.C. Davis, an M.S. in Education, and a certification in project management from the U.C. Berkeley, and is currently working on a PMP.

Robin I. Freeman serves as Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services with the Oxnard School District. Prior to her current position, she served as Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services with the Santa Paula Unified School District. Robin has extensive experience in the field of education and served in the Hueneme Elementary School District for 30 years as an English and Reading teacher; Reading Specialist; Assistant Principal; Principal; Director of Educational Services; Senior Director, Pupil Support Services; Assistant Superintendent, Educational Projects; and Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services. She holds a Master of Science degree in Education, with a Specialization in Reading, from Northern Illinois University.

Diane Marshall-Freeman is a partner with Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost, serving clients from both the Sacramento and Fresno offices. With over 25 years of legal experience, Ms. Marshall-Freeman is a highly skilled practitioner, with an extensive background across all areas of general and special education law. She serves as general counsel to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) as well as former Chair of the firm's Higher Education Practice Group.

Esmeralda Fuentes' passion lies in Early Learning. She began her career teaching Head Start and Transitional Kindergarten before joining the non-profit sector. Currently, Esmeralda is a Program Consultant for the New Teacher Center working in Oakland where she supports Pre-K teachers in advancing their practice in order to more effectively reach their diverse learners. Additionally, she assists her teachers in supporting families to navigate the education system and advocate for their children.

Daniel Fukuyama, Fed Ambassador Program Manager, Education & Outreach, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, oversees the implementation of the SF Fed's employee Fed Ambassador Program. Dan grows employee engagement, strengthens the Fed's connections in local communities, and educates the public about the U.S. central bank. Prior to joining the SF Fed, Daniel was a Program Manager at Hyve Solutions. He also spent five years at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County in program design, outreach, and volunteer management. Daniel holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Cal Poly University.

Sherman Garnett is an educator with over 42 years of experience, having served as a teacher, coach, dean, assistant principal, principal and coordinator of child welfare and attendance and currently, Pupil Services Academy Director for the Association of California School Administrators. Additionally, Sherman was elected in 2014 and serves a member of the governing board of the San Bernardino County Board of Education.

Jessica Gasbarro is a Senior Associate with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo. She has represented school districts, county offices of education, and community college districts in all aspects of education law for over a decade, including student issues, labor and employment, and workplace investigations.

Barbara Ginsberg is a Partner in the law firm of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, a premier law firm in the area of education law. She is an education law attorney with more than 25 years of experience in labor and employment law. For the last 18 years, her practice has specifically focused on education law and advising administrators with regard to workplace and educational environment issues. She works closely with human resource departments, conducts workplace investigations, and provides training and coaching to administrators and managers on a variety of issues impacting daily personnel operations, including preparation and presentation of discipline, conducting evaluations, negotiations, building relationships of trust with employees and unions, conducting investigations, and conflict resolution. She trains school and community college district personnel and school boards on a national level.

Tiffany Gilmore is a wife, mother, educator and current doctoral student. Raised in Carson and Compton, California, she has is dedicated to improving the lives of "voiceless" children of color. Tiffany has spent the past 12 years educating students at both the elementary and secondary levels. Gilmore is currently an Assistant Principal and Transformational Leader at Palm Middle School in Moreno Valley. She has implemented various programs, strategies and initiatives for historically disenfranchised youth.

Elizabeth Golchert, currently completing her dissertation toward an Ed.D. in Educational Administration, is a Consultant at the California Department of Education (CDE). Elizabeth has taught Kindergarten through eighth grades, served as Reading Specialist, been an administrator at site and district levels, and served as a county level Special Education liaison. At the state level, Elizabeth oversees multiple early childhood education contracts, is a member of the California Transforming the Workforce Birth to 8 Core Team, is a member of the CA-QRIS CQI Pathways Workgroup and Leadership Workgroup, and is co-leader of the CA ECE Professional Learning Team. Additionally, Elizabeth has been a member of various Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visiting review teams, a My Digital Chalkboard and Collaboration in Common contributor, co-planner of the CAAEYC/CDE Early Childhood Educator annual Forum for Professional Learning for faculty, coaches, mentors and trainers, and team member of CDE's One System/Whole Child Integration Team which serves learners cradle to career.

Landis Graden is President, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of DCG Strategies, a commercial real estate firm with a distinct mission to serve California's community-benefit organizations. Offering a comprehensive suite of strategic advising, property planning and real estate services, DCG partners with leaders of school districts, faith communities, local governments and nonprofits to transform their real estate into resources for their missions and the communities they serve.

Sterling Grimes teaches 11th and 12th grade English with Mastery Charter Schools. In addition to teaching, he serves as the 12th grade team lead, manages professional development surrounding culturally responsive teaching and advises the school's mentoring program for high school boys. Outside of the classroom, Sterling serves as a program director for Maryland Leadership Workshops, a non-profit that provides leadership training for middle and high school students. He is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. where he currently serves as the Vice President of the Rho Chapter based in Philadelphia

Wes Hall is an Educational Consultant, to the Los Angeles Unified School District, and districts across the country. He currently heads the Young Men of Color Initiative for the district, which includes the conference series, Village Mentoring Movement, and the Gathering of Great Minds (adult male think-tank). Hall, is the author of four books, including a curriculum for young men of color. He created an Elective Course, for young men of color, which he co-teaches at Locke High School. He is the host of the "You Are the Money Radio Show," that airs live every Thursday at 11 a.m. on Accelerated Radio.

Gary Hardie is currently serving his second term as a Member of the Board of Education for the Lynwood Unified School District, 2017 National AP District of the Year. He currently works as a Regional Manager for Think Together, an educational service provider, offering extended learning opportunities in after-school, intervention, sports, outdoor education, and summer programming across the state of California. The work and mission of Think Together are directly aligned with his passion for youth and providing them with opportunity and pathways to success via college and career. Hardie's work with the White House's My Brother's Keeper initiative in Lynwood has been highlighted by President Barack Obama when he created and launched The Village Project in 2015. He also serves on the City of Lynwood Personnel Commission, the California After-School Network Executive Leadership Team, and President of the Cal APS Bellflower-Lynwood Joint-Powers Authority, providing career, technical education and internships to students in the Bellflower and Lynwood Unified School Districts.

Gloria Hassel started her career in public education as an elementary teacher in Merced County Schools. After teaching seven years, she served as an Assistant Principal and a Principal for over 19 years. During the early part of 2007, Gloria became a Consultant with the Education Consultant Group based in the Bay Area. She provided professional development support to Northern California school principals and their staffs. Most recently, Gloria worked at Aspire Public Schools for three years as the Director of Principal Residency. She currently serves Alder Graduate School of Education as the Senior Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Gloria earned her Master's degree in Education from Chapman University, an Administrative Services Credential from California State University, Stanislaus, and she is currently working on her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at North Central University, San Diego.

Dr. William Hayes, Ed.D. , Vice Chair of the Board: Dr. William Hayes is the founding principal of the Mastery East Camden Middle School and Mastery High School of Camden. He is a native of Hartsville, SC and a 2007 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College. He received his masters from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and his doctorate from Vanderbilt University. He began his teaching career in Boston Public Schools and was previously a turnaround principal in Cleveland Public Schools. He is a founding member of the Fellowship-BMESJ and an advocate for urban schools servicing students of color in low income areas.

Jody Hoff, Director, Education & Outreach, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco has responsibility for developing and executing educational strategies and content for teachers and students in the 12th District. She is also involved in research projects examining the effectiveness of instructional strategies and tools. Jody was a former high school teacher with secondary teaching certificates in economics, mathematics, and social studies. She has a Bachelor's in Economics from the University of Idaho, and an MBA from Boise State University.

Assemblymember, Chris Holden: Assemblymember Chris Holden brings to the legislature a lifetime of experience in public service and business garnered during his many years on the Pasadena City Council and the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority. He was first elected to the California State Assembly in 2012, and was overwhelmingly re-elected in 2014 and 2016 from a district that stretches from Pasadena in the West to Upland in the East and includes the communities of Altadena, Claremont, La Verne, Monrovia, Rancho Cucamonga, San Dimas, Sierra Madre, and South Pasadena.

Tyrone Holmes' is a captivating public speaker with a long-standing passion for professional education services. His background in mathematics education and his years in educational publishing have enabled him to travel the nation and support a wide range of public and private schools. For many years Tyrone has worked as a National Mathematics Consultant supporting schools as they implement curricular changes and strive for academic excellence. He has facilitated numerous professional development workshops and spoken at countless regional and national conferences.

Jennifer Howerter, with seven years of teaching experience at the community college level, is currently a literacy consultant at the California Department of Education, focusing on information and secondary literacy, Social Emotional Learning, as well as supporting efforts in global education.

Corey Jackson currently serves as the founder and chairman of the Sigma Beta Xi Inc. Youth and Family Services, whose mission is eliminate poverty through mentoring, education, and community organizing. Continuing to serve his community, he serves as the President of the 100 Black Men of the Inland Empire, Political Action Chair of the Riverside NAACP, and Riverside County Coordinator of the Boys and Men of Color Alliance. He also serves as Chairman of the advisory board of the Moreno Valley Salvation Army, and Youth Minister at the Moreno Valley Church of Christ. Being appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California State University Board of Trustees, Corey represented over 400,000 thousand students in the largest and most respected public higher education system in the nation from 2004-2006.

Rosanna Jackson is the Oral Health Program Manager for the California Department of Public Health. She has been responsible for providing programmatic leadership for the California Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program, Community Water Fluoridation, oral health workforce and general oral health issues. She is a member of the California Head Start Collaboration Advisory. She has over thirty years' experience working in public health, both at the state and local levels. Ms. Jackson is a co-author of the "*States of Oral Health in California: Oral Disease Burden and Prevention 2017.*" Ms. Jackson is passionate about reaching the goal for all Californians to achieve their highest level of health and well-being, no matter their zip code.

Terri Jackson brought years of experience both in teaching and association involvement to her first term as CTA Board member for District C. She was re-elected and her second term of office

representing Alameda and Contra Costa counties will end June 25, 2019. Jackson has taught for 33 years and is currently a fourth-grade teacher at Stewart Elementary School in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. She is an active member of United Teachers of Richmond, where she has served as faculty representative, elementary director, vice president and president.

Edwin Javius, is the Founder/President/CEO of EDEquity Inc., an educational consultant firm. He has led his company to becoming one of the most sought-after educational consultant firms in the country. The company's Culturally Conscious Behavioral and Learning tools has provided essential data to support site administrators and teachers clear approach to analyze how culture can be used as preventive strategies for student from diverse cultures. Edwin has provided school districts and schools with professional development and strategies in the successful implementation of culturally conscious strategies to decrease disproportionality in discipline for students of color.

Dr. Martinrex Kedziora is the Superintendent of Schools for the Moreno Valley Unified School District, an urban California district serving 34,000 students. Originally, from Memphis, TN, Dr. Kedziora has been a middle school teacher, special education coordinator, K-8 Principal and Professional Development Director during his 30-year career. He serves as President for the California League of Middle Schools which serves teachers and administration K-12 and as an Education Faculty member for National and Brandman Universities. He is a committee member of the Urban Education Committee for ACSA. Additionally, he has leadership responsibilities as the Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades, Vice President of the Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Tara Kini serves as the Learning Policy Institute's Director of State Policy. She has co-authored several LPI reports, including serving as lead author of a comprehensive analysis of the impact of experience on teacher effectiveness, Does Teaching Experience Increase Teacher Effectiveness? A Review of the Research. Kini has nearly two decades of experience working in public education as a civil rights attorney, classroom teacher, and teacher educator. Previously, she was a Senior Staff Attorney with the civil rights law firm Public Advocates, taught English and history in Bay Area public schools, and served as a faculty supervisor with UC Berkeley's teacher education program. Kini is a member of the State Bar of California. Kini received a J.D. from the UC Berkeley School of Law and an M.A. in Education and a teaching credential from Stanford University, where she also received her B.A.

Gerald Luke currently an elementary school principal in Palmdale, CA. Has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Howard University in Washington, DC and a master's degree in education: curriculum and design and administration from McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. Mr. Luke worked as a counselor and therapist in human services for four years and was a licensed NTU (Bantu African therapeutic model) psychotherapist in Maryland and Washington, DC. Currently, a doctoral candidate aiming to receive an Ed. D. in organizational leadership from Grand Canyon University by the spring of 2018. Husband to a wonderful wife who is a dynamic 5th grade teacher and together they have three beautiful children.

Dr. Tia C. Madkins is a professor in the STEM Education Program in the College of Education at the University of Texas, Austin. Her work focuses on the intersections of issues of equity and diversity in TK-12 STEM teaching and learning with emphases on equitable teaching practices, equity-focused STEM education, and elementary teacher education. Additionally, she investigates teacher workforce diversification, including increasing the number of Black women in teaching via alternate routes into the teaching profession and historical perspectives on Black women teachers in the segregated South. Dr. Madkins served as an elementary school teacher and teacher educator in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) prior to earning her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. She obtained a bachelor's degree in biology at Boston University and master's degree in science education from the University of Southern California.

Janet Mann, with 25 years teaching and administrative experience in high poverty schools, is currently a History–Social Science consultant at the California Department of Education, focusing on environmental literacy, civic education, and global education.

Christopher Maricle serves as the Executive Director of the California Head Start Association. Armed with a BA in Psychology from CSU Sacramento, Christopher taught grades 5-8 for 5 years. He finished an MA in educational leadership in 1991 (without the internet) and went on to serve as a K-8 principal from 1991-2001. From 2001-06, as Assistant Superintendent for the diocese of Stockton, Christopher was responsible for content standards, teacher professional development, data for improving schools, and accreditation. In 2006, Christopher joined the California School Boards Association, consulting with district and county school boards across California. He also worked internally, contributing to CSBA's board development, research on governance and leadership, and facilitating small and large group discussions on a variety of issues.

Assemblymember, Kevin McCarty: currently serving in the [California State Assembly](#). He is a [Democrat](#) representing the [7th Assembly District](#), which encompasses a portion of the [Sacramento metropolitan area](#). McCarty is a member of the [California Legislative Black Caucus](#). Prior to being elected to the Assembly in 2014, he was a [Sacramento](#) City Councilmember representing the 6th district, which includes part of the eastern and southeastern parts of the city.

Kandice McLurkin is the Administrative Coordinator for the Academic English Mastery Program in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Kandice was a former Elementary Principal at a Program Improvement school in the historic Los Angeles community of West Adams that consistently made double-digit gains on the Academic Performance Index for all subgroups. Her school was especially successful with serving African American students, evidenced by 160 points of growth in the API within a five-year period. With more than thirty-five years of experience as an instructional leader, Kandice is the President Elect for the Council of Black Administrators and is a member of the California Association of Bilingual Educators. She was instrumental in developing the Equal Access Series to Effective Teaching for Standard English Learners and the Standard English Learner Resolution Action Plans.

William Jahmal Miller: was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as Deputy Director to the Office of Health Equity at the California Department of Public Health, starting October 2013. In August 2014, the California State Senate unanimously voted to confirm Mr. Miller. Previously, he served as Communications Manager with Kaiser Permanente's National Offices – Community Benefit, Health

Policy & Research Division. At Kaiser Permanente, he also served in the Central Valley Service Area, where he was Manager for Community & Government Relations within the Public Affairs Division. Mr. Miller has provided overall management of for Sutter Health's Sacramento Sierra Region as Manager for Strategic Marketing & Communications and oversight of growth, marketing and communications efforts with large-employer groups and brokers. Prior to that, he was the Program Manager for Sutter Children's Hospital at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento. Mr. Miller was responsible for managing inpatient and outpatient operations by providing strategic direction for Sutter Children's Cancer Program and Outpatient Clinics.

Charles Chip Mc Neal is an international arts educator and transdisciplinary researcher who advises on a wide range of subject matter and learning contexts including: social justice, equity, artistic inquiry, outreach and education, community programming, arts integration and professional development. He guides government agencies, non-profits and schools on change-management, policy, creative collaboration, program assessment and funding initiatives. Mc Neal is currently *Senior Curriculum & Programs Manager* for San Francisco Opera. He serves as a *Transformative Learning Coach*, Mentor and *Arts Integration Specialist* for Alameda County Office of Education. He is a member of the San Francisco Unified School District's Arts Education Master Plan Advisory Committee and he serves on the Leadership Council of Create California, a coalition of leaders who work together to create sustainable and equitable access to arts learning for California students. He holds bachelors degrees in psychology and sociology from Excelsior College and a Master's degree in Education: Curriculum and Instruction, from Lesley University. He is currently a Ph.D. scholar at California Institute for Integral Studies in San Francisco.

Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D., serves as the superintendent of the Alameda Unified School District. McPhetridge has held many roles in the district, including assistant superintendent, principal of the Alameda Science and Technology Institute, vice principal of Alameda High School and director of secondary and career technical education. McPhetridge graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles and earned his doctoral degree from Harvard University. Before taking on the interim superintendent position, he served as the interim director of student programs and services at the Alameda County Office of Education

Claudia Medina serves as Coordinator, Family Involvement & Community Engagement Programs with the Alameda Unified School District. Claudia's most recent success lies in being the first in the state to offer monolingual and bicultural workshops for non-English speakers (Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Tagalog) in partnership with the California State PTA. Claudia partners with UC Berkeley's Center for Education Partnerships to bring Parent University to strengthen Alameda family's college aspirations and launched ALCANCE, an equity roundtable/ learning group to help the Latino community. Claudia works with West Ed's Regional Equity Center and Harvard's School of Education. Claudia is a Fellow at the National Equity Project, Appointee to the City of Alameda's Social Services and Human Relations Board, serves as a Board member for Girls Inc., and co-founded the Latino Community Foundation's East Bay Latina Giving Circle.

Sharif El-Mekki, Founder and Board Chair; For almost 18-months (2014-16), El-Mekki served as one of Secretary Duncan's three Principal Ambassadors, providing the principal-level perspective to the US Secretary of Education and his senior cabinet. He currently serves on the Mayor's Commission on African American Males and recently completed a fellowship with America Achieves, a non-profit organization that helps communities, states, and practitioners leverage policy, practice, and leadership

to build high-quality educational systems. El-Mekki has served as a member of US delegations to the International Summit on Teaching and Learning (Banff, 2015) and the Conference on Integrating Refugees and Immigrants into Schools (Poitiers, 2017). El-Mekki is in his ninth year proudly serving as the principal at Mastery Charter School-Shoemaker Campus, a neighborhood public charter that serves almost 800 students in grades 7-12. El-Mekki holds a Bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) and gained his Master's degree and Principal Certification from Cheyney University.

Wm. Jahmal Miller serves as the Deputy Director of the California Department of Public Health's Office of Health Equity (OHE). Appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2013, Miller is the State's lead advisor on issues related to reducing health and mental health disparities and achieving health equity for all Californians. He is responsible for leading the OHE mission to promote equitable social, economic and environmental conditions to achieve optimal health, mental health and well-being for all. Miller is a graduate of Columbia University in New York City, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. He also holds a Master of Health Administration degree from the University of Southern California. In May of 2016, he was conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters by Western University of Health Sciences, for his lifetime achievements in the field of health and human services.

Senator, Holly Mitchell: currently serving in the [California State Senate](#). She is a [Democrat](#) representing the [30th Senate District](#), which encompasses [Culver City](#) and parts of [Los Angeles](#). She previously represented the [26th Senate District](#) after replacing then-Senator [Curren Price](#) in a 2013 [special election](#). Mitchell is a member of the [California Legislative Black Caucus](#). Prior to being elected to the State Senate, she served in the [California State Assembly](#) representing the [54th Assembly District](#). Before her service in the [Legislature](#), she served for seven years as executive director of the nonprofit Crystal Stairs, one of the largest childcare agencies in the state. She also served as a Consultant to the Senate Health Committee, and as a legislative advocate for the Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Lynn Miyamoto currently serves as the Vice President for Family Engagement for the California State PTA. She serves on various non-profit boards including Jericho Road Pasadena (a capacity building non-profit for other non-profits) and Keiro, a non-profit serving seniors in the Japanese American community. She is a past president of the Glendale Educational Foundation and immediate past chair of the School Smarts Committee for the California State PTA. A graduate of UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in international relations and a law degree, she is a partner of Lynn A Miyamoto, a PLC, a practice focused on immigration.

Dr. Christopher Morris is the Assistant Director of Secondary Education in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District. He supports secondary, adult, and alternative schools, and is leading the work of college and career readiness. He previously served in Natomas, Vallejo City, San Juan, Elk Grove, and Plumas Lake Elementary school districts. In his twenty years in education, Dr. Morris led both small and large schools in urban and suburban communities. His research has focused on public policy and school governance, as they relate to educational access and equity. In 2013, he was presented with the *Dissertation of the Year* award from CSUS for his study "An Assessment of the Factors that Drive Parental Choice Regarding Open Enrollment and Intradistrict Transfers." He serves on the Secondary Education Council for the Association of California School Administrators, and is a Board Member for CA Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Nicolus Moskop is a Regional Business Development Manager and has been with Grand Canyon University since 2012. He earned an undergraduate degree in Finance from Arizona State University and

is nearing completion of his MBA with GCU. Nicolus resides in Portland, Oregon and manages the Northern California and Oregon territory.

Briana Mullen is the Policy Advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, who oversees the education of 6.3 Million public school students. She also currently serves as the "Team Captain" for CDE's organizational development initiative "Team Advancement" and leads an internal cross-department team, focused on building the internal capacity of CDE employees. Previously she served as the Special Assistant to the SSPI, was a UC Berkeley Matsui Fellow, and an After School Literacy Director at an elementary School in Fruitvale, Oakland.

Jamie Valenzuela Mumau, Ed.D. is a 20-year Educator/Administrator. He most recently served as the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services for the Monterey County Office of Education. Dr. Valenzuela-Mumau is widely known as a member of the Commission at First 5 for Monterey County.

ReJois Frazier-Myers, Ed.D. is the Director of Student Services for Pittsburg Unified School District. Dr. Myers earned a B.A. in Political Science, M.A. in Counseling and M.A. in Administration from San Francisco State University. She also earned a doctorate from University of San Francisco in Leadership. She has 35 years of education-related experience including service as a teacher, Counselor, Dean, Vice Principal and Principal within the San Francisco Unified School District as well as the Pittsburg District, where she served as an Alternative Programs Principal. As an accomplished educator, Dr. Myers conducts professional development workshops, and supervises district support programs that educate the whole scholar. Her Department has earned Pittsburg Unified School District the 2017 State Recognition for a Model Student Attendance Review Board, and a plaque for Superior Implementation of Restorative Justice, along with accolades for decreased suspension rates in the District.

Regina Myles is a Standard English Learner Specialist with the Los Angeles Unified School District's Academic English Mastery Program. Currently, she is responsible for providing professional development for teachers and administrators on the use of data informed practices, Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Pedagogy, and making learning visible for Standard English Learners. With 22 years in education, she has experience effectively teaching diverse student subgroups, including gifted students, Standard English Learners, English Learners, and Students with Disabilities (K-12). She has also served as a gifted magnet coordinator and Standard English Learner Instructional Coach.

Jacquelyn Ollison serves as Education Administrator to the Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Glen Price, at the California Department of Education (CDE). A committed educator, she has extensive education experience as both a teacher and administrator. She has served as an AVID/MESA Coordinator, Mathematics Teacher, Assistant Principal, After-School Education and Safety Program (ASES) Coordinator, Vice Principal, and Principal. Prior to working with Chief Deputy Price, she was an Education Programs Consultant at the CDE in the School Turnaround Office. There, she supported the development of the California "State-Determined Intervention Model," currently in use by the School Improvement Grant program. In addition, she is pursuing an Education Doctorate at the University of the Pacific with research interests that encompass trauma.

Lynne Olson joined the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Planning and Preparedness Branch, as a Senior Emergency Services Coordinator and site liaison to the San Onofre Nuclear

Generating Station (SONGS). In 2014, she was assigned to the Northern California Catastrophic Flood Response Plan development team where she continues work on California's fourth catastrophic response plan. Lynne is also responsible for assisting schools with their emergency planning and preparedness efforts. Prior to coming to Cal OES, Lynne was the Amador County Emergency Services Coordinator for 11 years. Lynne graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1981 with a Bachelors of Science in Police Administration and upon graduation was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Lynne retired from the Army after 21 years of service. Lynne is married to Bob Olson, retired Army and California Highway Patrol, and they have one daughter, Carley Olson. Lynne and her family reside in Pine Grove, CA.

Shawn Nealy-Oparah has nearly twenty years of experience in education as a teacher, instructional coach, school leader, and a school transformation equity coach. Using a trauma-informed, social justice, and equity lens, Shawn works alongside and thought partners with leaders and teachers in urban schools to build capacity and transform teaching and learning to improve and accelerate achievement for students of color. Utilizing trauma theories, Somatic Healing, Restorative Justice, and Theater of the Oppressed activities, she has designed an innovative, trauma-sensitive training for K-12 educators. Shawn is also a doctoral candidate in the School of Education at Mills. Her dissertation research centers on using a trauma-sensitive lens along with youth participatory action research (YPAR) to examine how youth exposed to trauma are impacted by traditional school policies and procedures while highlighting their voices and action points on how to create a trauma-informed school that is a safe, healing space.

Lorrie Owens heads the technology program at the San Mateo County Office of Education. She and her team provide technical support the SMCOE's educational programs and administrative functions. They also provide various levels of support to the 23 public school districts in San Mateo County. To date, Ms. Owens is the first and only African-American female leading a technology support group at the county office of education level in California. Ms. Owens is a member of the Board of Directors for the California Educational Technology Professionals Association (CETPA) and was the first African American and the first female to chair the statewide Technology and Telecommunications Steering Committee (TTSC). She serves as an instructor and steering committee member for California's Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Mentor Program, and is a member of a number of other statewide and national organizations.

Alexis Patterson, Ph.D., is an assistant professor at UC Davis. Her research lies at the intersection of equity studies, social psychology, and science education. Dr. A native Californian, she received her undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley and her Master's degree from Stanford University. She received her doctorate in Curriculum Studies and Teacher Education in Science from Stanford's Graduate School of Education. Prior to graduate school, she worked in Oakland Unified School District as an assistant director of an after school program, as a middle school science teacher, and as an intervention instructor at an elementary school.

Erica Peterson As an accomplished speaker and presenter, She began her career at School Innovations & Achievement in 2004 and has held several key positions within the organization. Erica has worked with school district executive teams across the country providing professional development, leadership training, and solution consulting. She is passionate about improving student attendance through fostering effective and efficient communication and parent engagement. She is the Board Secretary for

the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance-Delta Sierra section. Erica is a graduate of California State University, Chico with a degree in Psychology and is a life member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology.

Sarah Prescher currently serves as Lead Teacher for Alternative Education at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE). She was a court school teacher for 10 years, serving a diverse group of students in a self contained classroom before transitioning to a leadership role at Sequoia Schools. As a school leader she works tirelessly to support both staff and students. She is committed to supporting students achieve success, both academically and social-emotionally, and she believes in each and every one of them. Sarah brings to the school her vision of a restorative school culture and climate where students feel safe, respected, and valued. She pushes for academic rigor as well as diversified student experiences, including after school sports and student council. Sarah plays an active role in changing the trajectory of young people's lives and she utilizes her excellent mediation and communication skills to teach youth how to resolve conflict and repair harm.

Theresa Price is the founder of the National College Resources Foundation (NCRF), a 501c3 non-profit organization in 1999, in direct response to the passing of California's proposition 209, which banned affirmative action programs in California colleges. After noticing a surge in high school dropout rates, primarily among the underserved and underrepresented students, she was determined to find a way to provide resources to help students and their families. As a result, she launched the Black College Expo, a portal providing college resources for as many as would come. Now, 20 years later, NCRF provides production support, marketing and outreach for the seven-city Black College Expo, Latino College Expo, Students Think S.T.E.A.M. Expo and All Sports Expo. Since its inception, the HCRF has secured and distributed more than \$300 million in scholarships and grants to over 400,000 students, (including 200,000 first generation students) through 100 College Expos produced by NCRF. A native of Compton, Theresa graduated from Cal State University Long Beach, with a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism. In 2016, she received an Honorary Doctorate Humane Letters from Virginia University of Lynchburg. Prior to NCRF, she had a successful career in television and radio.

Dr. Marcie Poole is currently a Lead Consultant with InnovateEd. She works with district and school site staff to develop schoolwide and districtwide coherence and capacity building for continuous improvement of leadership, teaching and learning. She has over 20 years of experience in education, serving in various demographics, as a classroom teacher, Instructional Coach, assistant principal, and principal. Marcie believes in educating every child with consideration of both academic and social needs, as well as ensuring that children are ready for college and career success. She has been a change agent in her roles and has provided professional development related to academic improvement, social/emotional initiatives and building leadership capacity at both the site and district levels. She has also been trained in coaching strategies and change processes.

Toni Robinson, MA, serves as Director of Professional Development with Discovery Education. By combining her experiences as an educator and a performing artist, Toni inspires audiences to make bold, balanced and meaningful changes in their professional practice. Through her work as an educational consultant, she has created and conducted training programs in a wide-range of corporate, academic and non-profit settings for nationally known companies. In addition to her work in the United States, Toni has conducted workshops and training in Spain, South Africa and Japan.

Ayindé Rudolph, Ed.D., has served as the Superintendent of the Mountain View Whisman School District since 2015. Previously, he served as Associate Director of School Transformation at the Buffalo Promise Neighborhood (New York). Dr. Rudolph has held the position as principal in a traditional high and middle school, a kindergarten through 8th grade school, a charter school, countywide arts magnet, Title 1 and a Bill and Melinda Gates-funded STEM high school. Dr. Rudolph received his Doctorate in Education in Leadership, Policy and Organizations from Vanderbilt University.

Jacqueline Rushing, an educator, is the Founder and CEO of the Young Scholars Program (YSP). YSP is a College Board (2006) Model of Excellence Program. Housed in the six comprehensive high schools in West Contra Costa Unified School District, the project focuses on historically underrepresented Young Men of Color, with the goal of increasing college matriculation. YSP has partnerships with Post-Secondary institutions who have a willingness to accept institutional accountability and responsibility for Young Men of Color matriculation, retention and degree attainment. A component of the program is also to train high school counselors to work effectively with Young Men of Color. Jacqueline holds two Administrative credentials and has earned two masters degrees.

Roberto Salinas serves as the Director of Academic Alliances for California with Grand Canyon University (GCU). His primary focus is to promote the undergraduate and graduate degree opportunities available through the University's on campus and online programs. Prior to joining GCU, Roberto served as a Senior Fellow with the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) located in Washington, D.C. His assignments included collaborating with NISL staff to update the Executive Development Program's leadership curriculum; supporting the NISL staff on the implementation of the Federal Investing in Innovation (i3) Grant in California; and Marketing the capacities of the National Institute for School Leadership curricular offerings for the West Coast. Roberto retired after a career that encompassed roles as Superintendent of Schools, Central Office Administrator, University Professor and various administrative/teaching positions in California. He served as Executive Director of the P-16 Council for the California State Department of Education (CDE) whose primary goal was to develop the strategies that produced the State Document on "Closing the Achievement Gap" for California School Districts. He is a former migrant student and the only member of his family to have attended and graduated from College with advanced degrees.

Francisca Sánchez is a poet, "word weaver," educator, and former English Learner. She is CEO of Provocative Practice™, an educational consultant organization. She recently retired as Associate Superintendent for Educational Services with Hayward Unified School District. She has served in a variety of leadership, administrative, and teaching positions at the district, county office, regional, and state levels, including as Chief Academic Officer for San Francisco Unified School District and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction with the San Bernardino County Office of Education. She also served as president of the California Association for Bilingual Education for two terms.

Patricia Brent-Sanco, Ed.D., has been part of the education community for over 21 years. She has had the opportunity to serve students as a middle school teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal (14 years), and Director of Equity for Lynwood Unified School District. She holds a BA Degree in Political Science from Hampton University, a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from CSUDH, and a Doctorate degree in Urban School Leadership from USC. She is the founder of the Lighthouse Academic Enrichment Foundation and Co- Founder of Unity Professional Networking Organization for African American Female Administrators.

Denise Sanson M.Ed currently serves as Director for Alternative Education at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE). She spent the first half of her career working in the comprehensive school setting as a bilingual classroom teacher before finding her path in Alternative Education. The SCCOE Alternative Education Programs serve expelled, incarcerated, and underserved students from across the county. Denise has always sought to work with the most underserved youth, with equity at the core of her beliefs. She has dedicated herself to making a difference in the lives of students that other systems have been unable to serve successfully. As school principal and program director, she works closely with community partners including Juvenile Probation, local school districts, and mental health agencies to support students and families. Two years ago she was selected to open a new school facility, Sequoia Schools. The program has quickly earned an excellent reputation throughout the community, known specifically for the intentional commitment to restorative practices and student wellness.

April Scott serves as Principal of Visitacion Valley Elementary School in the San Francisco Unified School District and has more than 20 years of experience as an educator and principal leader in the Bay Area. She has dedicated her career to public education and is focused on addressing systemic barriers to equity, with a focus on underserved youth in urban communities

Tovi C. Scruggs is a visionary and innovative educator who serves as principal of a large Bay Area high school. Returning to public education a decade after co-founding her own private school (ASA ["ah-sah"] Academy & Community Science Center) with 100% success rates, Tovi brings a wealth of experience, skills, and talents about "best practices" to larger scale. Most recently, Tovi has released a book titled *Be a Parent Champion: A Guide to Becoming a Partner with Your Child's School*. Continuing to nurture her love of growth and development for herself, leaders, and others, Tovi is a Certified Integral Coach® by New Ventures West. She uses the methodology of integral coaching in her professional work with parents, teachers, and school administrators. Inspiring deep, conscious change is Tovi's specialty. Her pioneering work inspires parents, teachers, and school leaders to partner to create academic success for the children they serve.

Socorro Shiels serves as the Director of Education for the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE). She works closely with volunteer districts in long term partnerships with the goal of achieving the strongest community engagement for long term, equity-minded decision making and student success. Most recently, she served as the Superintendent of Santa Rosa City School (SRCS) District. She has nearly 20 years of public education experience at the administrative and classroom levels. Her proudest accomplishments in SRCS includes an empowering district culture shift to restorative justice for the entire school community, as well as creating a strategic plan that included all community stakeholders with a commitment to college and career readiness for each student. Additionally, she served on the Instructional Quality Commission for the California Department of Education and as a representative for the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT). She continues to serve Sonoma County as a First Five Commissioner.

Connie Silva currently serves as Director for three projects of the Napa County Office of Education with funding from the California Department of Education: The State Performance Plan Technical Assistance Project (SPP-TAP); The California Services for Technical Assistance and Training (CalSTAT) and The

California Alternative Dispute Resolution Grant (CalADR). As the Director of SPP-TAP, Ms. Silva provides project leadership and oversight of a statewide technical assistance (TA) system to decrease ethnic and racial disproportionality in special education within local education agencies (LEAs).

Ellen Siminoff, is the President, CEO and Founder of Shmoop University, Inc. : Ellen is an experienced businessperson and full-time dog lover. She obtained an AB in Economics from Princeton University and an MBA from Stanford University. She was a founding executive and Senior Vice President of Yahoo!, and former Chairman and CEO of Efficient Frontier, now a division of Adobe Corporation. In 2005, she was one of eight industry professionals named "Masters of Information" by Forbes magazine.

Kaytie Brissenden-Smith is a Program Consultant with New Teacher Center coaching and delivering professional learning to prekindergarten teachers in the Ravenswood School District. For over 12 years, Kaytie worked as a preschool teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as in administration in the early childhood field. She graduated from Mills College with a double major in Child Development and Latin American Studies & Literature. Kaytie's passion for language, literacy, and equity are the driving forces behind the work she does today with teachers and students.

Andy Smith, M.P.P. serves as a P-12 Data & Policy Analyst with The Education Trust. In this role, he collects, analyzes, and interprets education data related to student achievement, attainment, and opportunities to learn. His current work focuses on the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and issues of school diversity. Prior to joining The Education Trust, Andy participated in the Education Pioneers Graduate School Fellowship as a Policy Research Associate for the Partnership for Children and Youth in Oakland, California. He has also served as an Ella Baker Trainer for the Children's Defense Fund's Freedom Schools® program.

Angela Stevens-Stevenson grew up in segregated schools until integration required her to be bused across town. Experiences of inequity and unequal opportunities helped to guide her vision as principal of Martin Luther King, Jr. Junior High School in the Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD). Her B.A. was earned from Northeast Louisiana University. As a Behring scholar, she received her M.A. in Education and an Administrative credential through the Principal Leadership Institute (PLI) at University of California, Berkeley. The last 30 of her 35 years in education have been in PUSD. She served as teacher, Vice Principal and Principal of one school for 24 years. Six years ago, she became the Principal of the newest junior high in PUSD. As practitioner of principles of Restorative Justice, Mrs. Stevens-Stevenson guides her staff in creating a culture focusing on building trust and relationships with scholars to improve learning and social responsibility.

Lorraine Thayer, District Manager, Education & Outreach, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, manages educational outreach efforts and partnerships throughout the SF Fed's district and represents the SF Fed on the Federal Reserve System's Economic Education Group. She previously served on the Executive Board of the Oregon Council on Economic Education and a planning committee for the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry's MoneyVille project, a traveling exhibit that provides financial literacy education for K-12 students. Lorraine holds a B.S. in Business & Leadership from Marylhurst University.

Desiree Carver-Thomas is a member of LPI's Educator Quality Team. She is the lead author of Addressing California's Growing Teacher Shortage: 2017 Update and is the co-author of the Institute's report, A Coming Crisis in Teaching? Teacher Supply, Demand, and Shortages in the U.S. Previously, Carver-Thomas

taught in New York City public schools for five years. As a graduate student, she consulted with the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department on strategies for diverting recidivism and with West Contra Costa Unified School District on implementing a full-service community schools' initiative. She also conducted similar work with the City of Richmond. Carver-Thomas received an M.P.P. from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, an M.S. in Teaching from Fordham University, and a B.A. in Comparative Ethnic Studies with a concentration in Anthropology from Columbia University.

Gail L. Thompson, Ph.D., the Illuminate Education Equity and Professional Development Expert, is the author of many articles and books, including the award nominated *The Power of One: How You Can Help or Harm African American Students*, and the critically acclaimed *Through Ebony Eyes: What Teachers Need to Know but are Afraid to Ask About African American Students*. Dr. Thompson has appeared on numerous television and radio programs, and is the former Fayetteville State University "Wells Fargo Endowed Professor of Education," creator and former Director of the "Black Men Teaching Program," and former member of the California State Board of Education's "African American Advisory Committee."

Assemblymember Tony K. Thurmond: currently serving in the [California State Assembly](#) and candidate for [California State Superintendent of Public Instruction](#)^[1]. A [Democrat](#), he represents the [15th Assembly District](#), which encompasses the northern [East Bay](#). The district includes the East Bay communities that stretch along the I-80 corridor from Hercules to Oakland, including Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, El Cerrito, Pinole, Richmond, San Pablo, El Sobrante and Kensington. Thurmond is a member of the California Legislative Latino Caucus, [California Legislative Black Caucus](#), and California Legislative Jewish Caucus. Prior to being elected to the Assembly in 2014, he was a member of the [Richmond](#) City Council, a Board Member of the [West Contra Costa Unified School District](#), and social services administrator.

Toni Tinker currently serves as Parent and Community Liaison for the Black Parallel School Board which provide feedback for Sacramento Unified School District. She also works for Sacramento State University in the Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution. With more than 20 years in higher education, she has also served as an advisor on parent engagement, LCFF, the California Dashboard and Ethnic Studies curriculum. Toni is also published works in several k-12 textbooks, journals and other publications.

Jenna Wachtel is the Senior Director of the Early Learning at New Teacher Center, a national non-profit dedicated to improving student learning by accelerating the effectiveness of teachers and school leaders. There, she leads NTC's Early Learning Initiative to ensure high levels of school success for our youngest learners through the support of teachers. To date, the work has focused on supporting teachers, coaches and administrators serving over 10,000 children. Jenna completed her undergraduate and graduate work at Stanford University and began teaching in East Palo Alto, California. Throughout her career, Jenna has taught in both high- and low-income communities. She has earned National Board Certification in Early and Middle Childhood Literacy, completed Reading Recovery Certification, and was named one of Splashlife's 30 Under 30 Innovative Educators and a Skoll World Forum Young Leader.

Jewett L. Walker, Jr., M-Div., serves as a Senior Advisor/Staff Liaison in the office of LAUSD Board Member. Dr. George J. McKenna III. Working with school districts throughout the Southern California region for more than 30 years, he is well versed on issues of concern to students, parents, teachers,

school administrators and school board members. Additionally, as President of the 100 Black Men of Los Angeles, he oversees the organization's educational, mentoring and leadership initiatives, including Young Black Scholars and Pathways to Success entrepreneurial training program.

Anne Watkins currently serves as Senior Director of Teacher Induction for the New Teacher Center, where she has created and presented professional development workshops and conferences, consults, and writes publications since 2000. She taught high school English and social studies for more than 20 years in Oakland and Santa Cruz before becoming a supervisor of teacher education and an instructor for the education department at University of California, Santa Cruz. Anne's current focus is on supporting school districts in building sustainable and impactful professional development for teachers through coaching and mentoring. She creates online professional development. Anne is committed to helping all teachers create effective, equitable learning environments and develop their leadership skills.

Susie M. Watt applies decades of experience in adult learning and professional development to the unique challenges and copious rewards to be gained through engaging families in their children's education. Currently the principal contact for World Language in the Professional Learning Support Division of the California Department of Education, Ms. Watt has also served the Department as the parent engagement specialist for the Migrant Education Office of the English Learner Support Division, where she supported the State Parent Advisory Council for Migrant Education and coordinated the annual State Migrant Parent Conference.

Judy White, Ed.D. serves as the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools. Her educational career began at San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) as a classified staff member assisting a principal. After earning a teaching credential, she taught in multiple settings within the SBCUSD. She also served as a principal, assistant superintendent, and deputy superintendent within SBCUSD, before being selected in 2011 as the superintendent of the Moreno Valley Unified School District. She earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Azusa Pacific University.

Patricia Wicks began delivering Professional Learning for Curriculum Associates in 2015 and in January, 2017 started working as one its Strategic Relationship Consultants. In this role, Patricia works with districts in ensuring the successful implementation of Curriculum Associates' products such as I-Ready as well as building and maintaining critical relationships in the educational marketplace. Patricia has created and delivered Professional Development for district, site and teacher leaders in states such as Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas resulting in improved teacher and principal effectiveness and student academic achievement gains.

Roland Williams, NFL; has transitioned his drive and commitment from professional sports into becoming an impact player for students and communities across the nation. Born in Rochester, NY, Roland attended Syracuse University, graduating with a BA in Speech Communications and a minor in Management from the Whitman School of Management. Roland also attended Newhouse School of Public Communications to pursue his Masters in Public Relations, is a graduate of the Wharton School of Business Entrepreneurial Management program as well as a certified grant proposal writer. Since his retirement from professional football, Roland has been a passionate speaker, trainer, and consultant working with school districts, municipalities and non-profits interested in cost-effective and outcome-based solutions for increased engagement and impact (AllProCatalyst.com).

Roxanne Williams is an Educator with more than 18 years experience in teaching Science at the middle school, high school, community college and university level. She holds 7 teaching credentials, a Master of Science and a Master in Educational Administration. She has been a Teacher of the Year, Top 10 Teacher and nominated for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). She has served as Past President for the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 12, and is active in her local community. Currently, she is a district office Program Specialist in the Department of Equity and Targeted Student Achievement, focused on training, supporting and assessing, especially with African-American students. Presently, she is working on the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), Differentiated Instruction and professional development to elementary and secondary sites. Her passion is fixing broken systems, for the expressed purpose of helping students.

Dr. Robert Whitman has been an educator in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for 17 years. Within LAUSD, he has served as a teacher, dean of students, assistant principal, principal, and is currently a director of special projects within the district's Access, Equity and Acceleration Unit. Through each of these experiences, he has acquired expertise in several areas of education (e.g., curriculum and instruction, special education, college readiness, school leadership, and education reform) that has enabled him to become a strong advocate for underserved student populations.

Amber Woodford is a Literacy Strategist for McGraw-Hill Education. As part of the National Urban Education Team, she partners with districts to advocate for equity and access for all students through culturally relevant and responsive literacy instruction. Amber received her B.S. from Temple University and her M.Ed. from Penn State University while teaching. Amber left the classroom but, always an educator, she has remained in the education field. Her personal and professional goal is to inspire lifelong literacy lovers.

Aileen Allison-Zarea is the Education Administrator of the Literacy, History, and Arts Leadership office in the Professional Learning Support Division at the California Department of Education (CDE). In this capacity, she oversees state-level professional learning, primarily related to standards and frameworks implementation in the program areas of English Language Arts/Literacy, English Language Development, World Language, History-Social Science/Civics, and Visual and Performing Arts. Her office also oversees statewide equitable services for private school educator professional development, and supports schools, districts, and families with inquiries related to Gifted and Talented Education. Aileen oversaw California's first Global Education Summit and the writing of the final report, *Educating for Global Competency: Recommendations from the 2016 California Global Education Summit*, which was published in early 2017.

Nancy Zarenda serves as an Education Policy Consultant, Superintendent Initiatives with the California Department of Education (CDE). In this capacity, she oversees school safety planning initiatives and activities on behalf of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Coordinated Student Support Division. She serves as liaison to the SSPI statewide School and Community Safety Advisory Committee, provides technical assistance, and implements training on emergency plan development, school behavioral threat assessments, mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect, and other school safety topics. Her teaching experience spans K-12, community colleges, adult schools, and police agencies. Nancy is an adjunct instructor at Lake Tahoe Community College and a California court

certified interpreter. She served two terms as a gubernatorial appointee to the CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing and received special congressional recognition as Outstanding Hispanic American Educator. She presently serves as a mentor to youth in county detention facilities.