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WELCOME

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Welcome to the inaugural Aspen ThinkXChange! We are delighted that you are joining us for this dynamic convening, focused on the exchange of good ideas multiplied by action.

The United States has made progress since President Lyndon B. Johnson first declared a “War on Poverty” in 1964 with landmark legislation such as Job Corps and Head Start moving millions of families toward greater economic stability. But the progress has slowed, and today, alarming rates of poverty and inequality threaten our country’s future and that of our children. More than one in five U.S. children live in poverty, while more than two in five are low income. Family structure is rapidly shifting, too: Women and children in single-mother families have disproportionately high rates of poverty. And while we know that low levels of educational attainment and poverty are strongly correlated – only 10 percent of those with a bachelor’s degree are poor, while over 30 percent of those with a high school diploma or less are poor – we have struggled as a country to unite around opportunities that improve the lives of parents and their children together.

Ascend at the Aspen Institute was founded as a hub for breakthrough ideas and proven strategies that move parents, especially women, and their children beyond poverty toward educational success and economic security. We believe that growing inequality in the U.S. is a fundamental challenge to our democracy. However, periods of crisis can spur powerful innovation. The Aspen ThinkXChange has gathered more than one hundred dynamic leaders from across sectors – from cutting-edge community-based programs, policy, academia, philanthropy, business, and media – to discuss and debate opportunities, challenges, and solutions for moving parents and children toward mobility and opportunity.

The theme of the 2012 ThinkXChange is the power and potential of two-generation approaches, which focus on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both vulnerable parents and children together. Ascend is building a leadership network to elevate two-generation approaches, and over the next two days, the Aspen Institute’s 2012-2013 Ascend Fellows – twenty trailblazers from around the country – will highlight the strategies they are pursuing to move two-generation approaches into action. And our title – *Think times (x) Change* – is an intentional directive to action. Through plenaries, breakout sessions, and design labs, we will engage leaders to bring their agility, boldness, creativity, determination, and excellence to one of the most pressing issues of our time: creating an America in which a legacy of economic security and educational success passes from one generation to the next.

We are on the cusp of new solutions, and the time is ripe to explore and elevate breakthrough ideas and proven strategies for building economic and social mobility for vulnerable families. I look forward to hearing from each of you as we move toward action.

Sincerely Yours,










Anne Mosle  
Vice President, The Aspen Institute  
Executive Director, Ascend



Over the course of the next day and a half, Aspen ThinkXChange participants will envision new ways of collaborating across sectors; influencing change across programs, policies, systems, and research; and leveraging resources for better outcomes for parents and their children *together*. Ascend Fellows will assume key roles in highlighting and testing new ideas, and national and community-based leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors will share strategies from their own experiences. Plenary sessions will include all participants; break-out sessions and design labs are on a first-come, first-seated basis.

You will see three sessions denoted as “Design Labs.” These are interactive sessions with a capacity of 30 participants. In each of these sessions, speakers will be testing ideas and concepts for upcoming projects. If you choose to attend one of these sessions, please note it is an opportunity to engage in a deep-dive on the topic and share your expertise and perspective.

We ask that you participate fully in this convening, and to help guide you in your selections, we have provided a color key for session themes:

- BLUE**  Voices and narratives of low-income families
- GREEN**  Piloting, scale, and replication of promising models
- PURPLE**  Local, state, and federal policy opportunities
- ORANGE**  Early childhood education
- YELLOW**  Postsecondary education and integration of economic supports
- RED**  Social capital
- GRAY**  Metrics



# MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

**3:00PM – 6:00PM**

**HOTEL CHECK-IN**

ASPEN MEADOWS & LIMELIGHT LODGE

**PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION**

DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

**5:30PM – 6:30PM**

**OPENING RECEPTION**

BARKSDALE LOBBY, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

**6:45PM – 9:00PM**

**DINNER AND EVENING PLENARY SESSION**

MCNULTY ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER



**Values and Cultural Trends in America:  
What Does Opportunity Mean Today?**

Around the world, the United States is still seen by many as the land of opportunity. Does that notion still ring true at home? How do values and cultural trends influence policies and programs to create opportunities for vulnerable families? What role does politics play in promoting economic security, and how do Americans perceive their own – and their children's – potential for success? What are the implications for leaders gathered at the Aspen ThinkXChange?

**WELCOME** Anne Mosle Ascend at the Aspen Institute








**INTRODUCTION** Merle Chambers Chambers Family Fund

**REMARKS** Colorado Lieutenant Governor Joseph Garcia

Michael Gerson *The Washington Post*

Celinda Lake Lake Research Partners

**MODERATOR** Dr. Eric L. Motley The Aspen Institute

-  Voices and narratives of low-income families
-  Piloting, scale, & replication of promising models
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# TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

6:30AM – 7:15AM

## MORNING YOGA CLASS

ASPEN MEADOWS HEALTH CENTER

7:00AM – 8:00AM

## BUFFET BREAKFAST *(will be served through opening plenary)*

BARKSDALE LOBBY, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

8:00AM – 9:30AM

## PLENARY SESSION *(breakfast still served)*

MCNULTY ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER



### Past, Present, Future: How Do Economic and Demographic Shifts Inform Two-Generation Approaches?

High-quality education, starting in early childhood and continuing through college, is key to economic opportunity. What do the changing demographics of the country mean for families seeking to move up the economic ladder? As increasing numbers of young parents with young children face economic instability, what are new solutions to empower both parents and children to achieve better educational outcomes?

**MODERATOR** Jim Tankersley *The National Journal*

Dr. Rakesh Kochhar Pew Hispanic Center

Dr. Mario Small The University of Chicago

Jim Larimore Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Anne Mosle Ascend at the Aspen Institute

9:30AM – 9:45AM

## BREAK

9:45AM – 11:00AM

## PLENARY SESSION

MCNULTY ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER



### The Big Idea: What Is a Two-Generation Approach, and Why Is It a Game Changer?

Two-generation approaches focus on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both vulnerable parents and children together. How have these approaches developed, and why are they an important breakthrough? What are the lessons learned from Ascend Fellows pioneering these approaches?

**MODERATOR** Nisha Patel Ascend at the Aspen Institute

Reggie Bicha Colorado Department of Human Services

Dr. P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale Northwestern University

Steven Dow Community Action Project of Tulsa County

Dr. Christopher King Ray Marshall Center, University of Texas, Austin

11:00AM – 11:15AM

## BREAK



11:15AM – 12:15PM

## BREAK-OUT SESSIONS



### Designing Our Way Above the Line: How Do We Use Design Thinking to Solve Social Problems?

MCNULTY ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

Human-Centered Design is a potentially powerful process to impact social change. What are principles of design thinking? How can we apply those principles to addressing poverty? What can our field learn from others?

**MODERATOR** Mia Birdsong Family Independence Initiative

Jackie Bezos Bezos Family Foundation

Steven Dow Community Action Project of Tulsa County

Jocelyn Wyatt IDEO.org



### DESIGN LAB – Inside Out: How Do We Effectively Move Parents Beyond the Criminal Justice System Toward Stability and Success?

CATTO ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

DESIGN LAB Parents who have been through the criminal justice system face significant economic and social challenges. What are the implications of race and gender in integrating two-generation education in the criminal justice system? How can policy and systems align to support both education for incarcerated and post-incarcerated parents and children together?

**FACILITATOR** Dr. Gilberto Conchas University of California, Irvine

Rev. Vivian Nixon College & Community Fellowship

Leonard Noisette Open Society Foundations

Dr. Susan Sturm Center for Institutional and Social Change,  
Columbia Law School



### Breadwinners and Innovators: How Do We Improve Job Opportunities for Women?

KAUFMAN ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER








Workforce development programs for low-income women have the potential to target an important population, but have shown mixed results. How can state policies and systems support women – and especially mothers – to develop skills for better jobs, especially in a constrained budget environment? How can the private sector take on a more significant role in supporting effective job training for low-income women?

**MODERATOR** Catherine Rampell *The New York Times*

Wendi Copeland Goodwill Industries International

Karla Davis Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Anne Ladky Women Employed

-  Voices and narratives of low-income families
-  Piloting, scale, & replication of promising models
-  Local, state, & federal policy opportunities
-  Early childhood education
-  Postsecondary education & integration of economic supports
-  Social capital
-  Metrics





## Start-Up to Scale: Where Are the Bold Two-Generation Programs, and How Are They Replicating?

PLATO'S RESTAURANT, ASPEN MEADOWS

Across the country, promising two-generation programs are emerging. What are the opportunities and challenges to piloting, replicating, and scaling these programs? What's their "elevator pitch," and how do they meet the needs of parents and children together? What can leaders looking to integrate a two-generation lens in their own programs learn from these organizations?

**MODERATOR Sharon Darling** National Center for Family Literacy  
**Leah Austin** The Annie E. Casey Foundation/Atlanta Civic Site  
**Robin Bernstein** Educational Alliance  
**Gloria Perez** Jeremiah Program  
**Dr. Richard Wylie** Endicott College

12:15PM – 12:45PM

### BREAK AND LUNCH BUFFET LINE-UP

12:45PM – 2:00PM

### LUNCH PLENARY SESSION



## Ascending from Infancy: What Are New Visions for Early Childhood Development?

MCNULTY ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

Significant strides have been made in the early childhood field since Head Start was created in 1964. And yet, in 2010, 44% of all children under 18 lived in low-income families. What have been notable milestones in the early childhood movement in recent years, and what are the critical issues for consideration? Given the number of low-income children in the U.S., what are the big ideas for the next phase of the early childhood movement? What two-generation innovations are emerging? How can different sectors best contribute?

**MODERATOR Letty Bass** Chambers Family Fund  
**David Lawrence** Children's Movement of Florida  
**Dr. Meera Mani** The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
**Henry Wilde** Acelero Learning

2:00PM – 2:15PM

### BREAK

2:15PM – 3:30PM

### BREAK-OUT SESSIONS



## Connections as Currency: How Can Parents and Children Together Build Social Capital?

MCNULTY ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

Social capital is an increasingly employed buzzword in discussions around mobility and opportunity in the United States. How has social capital traditionally been defined, and how is that definition evolving? Where are promising innovations to elevate social capital as a critical component to move families beyond poverty? What have been successes and challenges to date?

**MODERATOR Karen Yacos** Green Mountain Coffee Roasters  
**Mia Birdsong** Family Independence Initiative  
**Dr. Mario Small** The University of Chicago  
**Dr. Sandra Smith** University of California, Berkeley






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## DESIGN LAB – Early Childhood Development 2012 and Beyond: Where Are the Opportunities for Reinvention?

CATTO ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

DESIGN LAB Dr. Joan Lombardi will provide key findings from research commissioned by Ascend on two-generation approaches in early childhood development. Participants will be asked to provide feedback on themes, including: what are the policy opportunities for using early childhood development as a lever for two-generation strategies?

**FACILITATOR** Dr. Alandra Washington W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
Dr. Joan Lombardi

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## Campus Capital: Why Are Economic Supports Important for Two-Generation Postsecondary Success?

KAUFMAN ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

Parents with dependent children now make up almost one in four students pursuing higher education in the United States. What are the greatest economic challenges to student parents today? What are the greatest opportunities to help them achieve financial stability both in school and beyond? How can we be more creative and effective in providing access to and uptake of relevant benefits and supports?

**MODERATOR** Margaret McKenna Lesley University, Boston, MA  
Jim Larimore Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Elisabeth Mason Single Stop USA  
Dr. Eduardo Padrón Miami Dade College

**3:30PM – 3:45PM**

**BREAK**

**3:45PM – 5:15PM**

**BREAK-OUT SESSIONS**

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## The Buzz on Brains and Babies: Why Do the Earliest Years Matter?

MCNULTY ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

Powerful emerging research indicates that adverse experiences of young children can have long-term consequences for their development and success. How has this research influenced the work of leaders working directly with parents and children? What are the most critical findings from research and practice that underscore the need to support new parents?

**MODERATOR** Dr. Meera Mani The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
Katie Albright San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center  
Dr. Patricia Kuhl University of Washington  
Dr. Nadine Burke Harris Center for Youth Wellness  
Dr. Jack Shonkoff Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

-  Voices and narratives of low-income families
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## Beyond the Choir: How Do We Spark a New Conversation About Mobility?

KAUFMAN ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

Photography, television, documentary film – all have the power to spark important conversations about pressing social issues. Speakers will introduce clips of their work across these mediums to address critical questions for the field: What are opportunities to shift the narrative around low-income families and poverty in the United States through multimedia formats? What are the challenges?

**MODERATOR** Dr. Ali Webb W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
 Vic Carter CBS Baltimore  
 Debra Chasnoff Groundspark  
 Steve Liss AmericanPoverty.org

## DESIGN LAB – Counting Change: How Do We Measure Two-Generation ROI and Impact?

CATTO ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

DESIGN LAB Building a field around two-generation strategies requires exploring metrics for those strategies – both “benefit-cost” analysis and outcomes for parents and children. What are the outcomes we should be measuring for parents? For children? For families as a whole? What do we know about the evidence base for two-generation strategies, and what can we learn from failures to ensure better opportunities for success?

**FACILITATOR** Meg Long OMG Center for Collaborative Learning  
 Dr. Christopher King Ray Marshall Center, University of Texas, Austin  
 Dr. C. Nicole Mason  
 Dr. Susan Popkin The Urban Institute

5:15PM – 6:30PM

6:30PM – 8:45PM

## 75-MINUTE BREAK ON CAMPUS: FREE TIME

## DINNER PLENARY SESSION – SEATED DINNER

MCNULTY ROOM, DOERR-HOSIER CENTER

## Dynamic Voices and Diverse Viewpoints: What Are Families’ Experiences with Two-Generation Approaches?

In a special dinner plenary, parents who have participated in two-generation programs will share their stories, moderated by Ascend Fellow Wes Moore. What are the challenges for parents who have participated in two-generation programs? What are their thoughts about their own generation, as well as the next? What gives them hope?

**MODERATOR** Wes Moore Author  
 Leslie Campbell College & Community Fellowship  
 Tameka Henry Acelero Learning  
 Vanesa Mares Community Action Project of Tulsa County  
 Jessica Rockowitz Endicott College  
 Lubens St. Fleur Miami Dade College  
 Rebecca Stovall Jeremiah Program

9:00PM – 10:30PM

## FIRE PIT, ‘SMORES, AND MUSIC

HEFNER LOUNGE, ASPEN MEADOWS

LOCAL GUEST MUSICIAN Damian Smith



# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

7:00AM – 8:15AM

## BREAKFAST

MEADOWS RESTAURANT

8:15AM – 8:30AM

## WALK TO KOCH SEMINAR BUILDING

8:30AM – 9:30AM

## MORNING PLENARY SESSION

LAUDER ROOM, KOCH SEMINAR BUILDING



### System Re-Boot: How Do We Innovate for Two Generations at the Local, State, and Federal Levels?

From the county to the state to the federal level, system change is key to improving mobility. How does the political climate at each level impact this ongoing work? What can we learn from some leading efforts? What are the opportunities for innovation?

**MODERATOR** Mimi Corcoran Open Society Foundations  
 Reggie Bicha Colorado Department of Human Services  
 Lynn Johnson Jefferson County Department of Human Services  
 Dr. Sherri Killins Massachusetts Office of Early Education and Care  
 Andrea Levere CFED  
 Sheri Steisel National Conference of State Legislatures

9:30AM – 9:40AM

## BREAK








9:40AM – 11:00AM

## THINK TIMES CHANGE: WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?



The Aspen ThinkXChange is a springboard for collaboration and action. What are your top insights or epiphanies from the last two days? What are the big bets you can make to impact vulnerable parents and children work? What's your next move?

**MODERATOR** Anne Mosle Ascend at the Aspen Institute  
 Letty Bass Chambers Family Fund  
 Michael Dupee Green Mountain Coffee Roasters  
 Dr. Christopher King Ray Marshall Center, University of Texas, Austin  
 Wes Moore Author  
 Dr. Eduardo Padrón Miami Dade College  
 Jeannette Pai-Espinosa The National Crittenton Foundation  
 Hilary Pennington The Bridges Initiative  
 Dr. Alandra Washington W.K. Kellogg Foundation

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- Gina Adams** Urban Institute, Senior Fellow, Washington, DC
- Katie Albright** San Francisco Child Abuse and Prevention Center, Executive Director, San Francisco, CA
- Cara Aley** American Mojo, Former President and COO, San Francisco, CA
- Tonya Allen** Skillman Foundation, Chief Operating Officer, Vice President of Programs, Detroit, MI
- Leah Austin** The Annie E. Casey Foundation/Atlanta Civic Site, Director, Education Achievement, Atlanta, GA
- Dr. Elizabeth Babcock** Crittenton Women's Union, President and CEO, Boston, MA
- Monica Barczak** Tulsa Community Action Project, Director, Innovation Lab, Tulsa, OK
- Dr. W. Steven Barnett** National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers University, Director, Professor, New Brunswick, NJ
- Letty Bass** Chambers Family Fund, Executive Director, Denver, CO
- Don Baylor** Center for Public Policy Priorities, Senior Policy Analyst, Economic Opportunity, Austin, TX
- Bill Bentley** Voices for America's Children, President and CEO, Washington, DC
- Robin Bernstein** Educational Alliance, Executive Director, New York, NY
- Jackie Bezos** Bezos Family Foundation, Co-Director, Mercer Island, WA
- Reggie Bicha** Colorado Department of Human Services, Executive Director, Denver, CO
- James Bildner** New Horizon Partners, General Partner, Boston, MA
- Mia Birdsong** Family Independence Initiative, Vice President, Oakland, CA
- Jorge Blandón** Family Independence Initiative, Vice President, Oakland, CA
- Shelley Waters Boots** The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Consultant, Washington, DC
- Rachael Bradley** Endicott College, Keys to Degrees Program, Director, Boston, MA
- Patrice King Brickman** Scott & Patrice King Brickman Family Foundation, Co-Founder, Potomac, MD
- Ruby Bright** Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis, Executive Director, Memphis, TN
- Bill Browning** Northern Virginia Community College, Director, Workforce Development, Annandale, VA
- Elise Buggs** Eastern Michigan University, Keys to Degrees Program, Director, Ypsilanti, MI
- Dr. Donna Buonopane** DMB Consulting, Principal, Boston, MA
- Leslie Campbell** College & Community Fellowship, Recruitment, Intake, and Retention Coordinator, New York, NY
- Vic Carter** CBS Baltimore, Anchor, Baltimore, MD
- Rosa Maria Castañeda** Pew Charitable Trusts, Manager, Research, Pew Center on the States, Washington, DC
- Wendy Cervantes** First Focus, Vice President, Immigration and Child Rights Policy, Washington, DC
- Merle Chambers** Chambers Family Fund, Founder, Denver, CO
- Karletta Charlee** Crownpoint FACE Program, Adult Education Teacher, Gallup, NM
- Dr. P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale** Northwestern University, School of Education and Social Policy, Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, Chicago, IL
- Debra Chasnoff** Groundspark, Filmmaker, San Francisco, CA
- Peggy Clark** The Aspen Institute, Global Health and Development, Vice President, Executive Director, Washington, DC
- Stephanie M. Clark** Project Single Moms, National Director, Atlanta, GA
- Roger A Clay, Jr.** Insight Center for Community Economic Development, President, Oakland, CA
- Julia Coffman** Consultant, Washington, DC
- Dr. Gilberto Conchas** University of California, Irvine, Associate Professor, Irvine, CA
- Dr. Michelle Cooper** Institute for Higher Education Policy, President, Washington, DC
- Wendi Copeland** Goodwill Industries International, Vice President, Mission Advancement, Washington, DC



- Mimi Corcoran** Open Society Foundations, Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation, Director, New York, NY
- Sharon Darling** National Center for Family Literacy, Founder and President, Louisville, KY
- Siobhan Davenport** Rocksprings Foundation, Executive Director, Potomac, MD
- Karla Davis** Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Commissioner, Memphis, TN
- Mekaelia Davis** The Aspen Institute, Ascend, Program Associate, Washington, DC
- Tiziana Dearing** Boston Rising, CEO, Boston, MA
- Sandhya Deshetty** Washington, DC
- Steven Dow** Community Action Project of Tulsa County, Executive Director, Tulsa, OK
- Tamara Draut** Demos, Vice President, Policy and Research, New York, NY
- Michael Dupee** Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Boston, MA
- Carol Emig** Child Trends, President, Washington, DC
- Mary Fairchild** National Council of State Legislatures, Senior Fellow, Denver, CO
- Frank Farrow** Center for the Study of Social Policy, Director, Washington, DC
- Oleta Fitzgerald** Children's Defense Fund, Director, Southern Regional Office, Jackson, MS
- Fedora Galasso** Austin, TX
- Evelyn Ganzglass** Center for Law and Social Policy, Director, Workforce Development, Washington, DC
- Andrew Gatewood** The Kresge Foundation, Program Officer, Troy, MI
- Dr. Barbara Gault** Institute for Women's Policy Research, Executive Director and Vice President, Washington, DC
- Michael Gerson** *The Washington Post*, Columnist, Washington, DC
- Phyllis Glink** The Irving Harris Foundation, Executive Director, Chicago, IL
- Nicola Goren** Washington Area Women's Foundation, President, Washington, DC
- Felicia Griffin** Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Development Director, Denver, CO
- Kristen Grimm** Spitfire Strategies, Founder, President, Washington, DC
- Steve Gross** Life is good Kids Foundation, Chief Playmaker, Boston, MA
- Mary Gunning** St. Jerome's Head Start, Director, Baltimore, MD
- Sarah Haight** The Aspen Institute, Ascend Program Associate, Washington, DC
- MayKao Hang** Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, President and CEO, St. Paul, MN
- Jeffrey Harris** The Aspen Institute, Senior Public Affairs and Social Media Coordinator, Washington, DC
- Dr. Nadine Burke Harris** Center for Youth Wellness, CEO, San Francisco, CA
- Nikki Hatch** Colorado Department of Human Services, Deputy Executive Director, Operations, Denver, CO
- Tameka Henry** Acelero Learning, Las Vegas, NV
- Robert Hildreth** Families United in Educational Leadership, Founder, Boston, MA
- Donna Horney** The Aspen Institute, Director, Administration, Policy and Public Programs, Seminars, Washington, DC
- Yvonne Hunt** Legacy Venture, Chief Philanthropy Officer, San Francisco, CA
- Matt Ipcar** Blue State Digital, Vice President, Strategy, New York, NY
- Cliff Johnson** National League of Cities, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, Executive Director, Washington, DC
- Lynn Johnson** Jefferson County Department of Human Services, Director, Denver, CO
- Avis Jones-Deweever** National Council of Negro Women, Executive Director, Washington, DC
- Dr. Sarah Kastelic** National Indian Child Welfare Association, Chief of Staff, Portland, OR
- Portia Kennel** Ounce of Prevention Fund, Senior Vice President, Chicago, IL
- Julie Kerksick** Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Security, Deputy Executive Director, Denver, CO
- Dr. Sherri Killins** Massachusetts Office of Early Education and Care, Commissioner, Boston, MA



- Dr. Christopher King** Ray Marshall Center, University of Texas, Austin, Director and Professor, Austin, TX
- Sharon Knight** Warren Village, President and CEO, Denver, CO
- Dr. Rakesh Kochhar** Pew Hispanic Center, Associate Director, Research, Washington, DC
- Dr. Patricia Kuhl** Endowed Chair, Bezos Family Foundation for Early Childhood Learning, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Anne Ladky** Women Employed, Executive Director, Chicago, IL
- Celinda Lake** Lake Research Partners, Principal, Washington, DC
- Judy Langford** Center for the Study of Social Policy, Senior Fellow, Washington, DC
- James L. Larimore** Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Deputy Director, Postsecondary Success, Seattle, WA
- David Lawrence** The Children's Movement of Florida, Chair, Miami, FL
- Chauncy Lennon** Ford Foundation, Program Officer, New York, NY
- Andrea Levere** CFED, President, Washington, DC
- Lori Levine** Acelero Learning, Vice President of Head Start Services, New York, NY
- Steve Liss** AmericanPoverty.org, Project Director/Photographer, Chicago, IL
- Dr. Joan Lombardi** The Aspen Institute, Ascend, Advisory and Consultant, Washington, DC
- Meg Long** OMG Center for Collaborative Learning, Deputy Director, Philadelphia, PA
- Dr. Ginger Maloney** Chambers Family Fund, Program Director, Denver, CO
- Dr. Meera Mani** The David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Director of Children, Families and Communities, Palo Alto, CA
- Vanesa Mares** CareerAdvance®, Tulsa, OK
- Ellen Marshall** Good Works Group, Denver, CO
- Julia Martinez** Colorado Department of Human Services, Senior Policy Advisor, Denver, CO
- Ellen Marshall** Good Works Group, Denver, CO
- Dr. C. Nicole Mason** New York, NY
- Elisabeth Mason** Single Stop USA, CEO, New York, NY
- Margaret McKenna** President Emeritus and Professor of Leadership, Lesley University, Boston, MA
- David McKinney** Public Allies, Vice President, Program Operations, Milwaukee, WI
- Tamitha Walker McKinnis** The Kresge Foundation, Program Officer, Troy, MI
- Scott Miller** Move the Mountain Leadership Center, CEO, Albuquerque, NM
- ReNika Moore** NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., Director of the Economic Justice Practice, New York, NY
- Sandra Moore** Urban Strategies, President, St. Louis, MO
- Wes Moore** *The Other Wes Moore*, Author, New York, NY
- Anne Mosle** The Aspen Institute, Ascend, Vice President and Executive Director, Washington, DC
- Rev. Vivian Nixon** College & Community Fellowship, Executive Director, New York, NY
- Leonard Noisette** Open Society Foundations, Director, Criminal Justice Fund, New York, NY
- Rick Noriega** AVANCE, President & CEO, San Antonio, TX
- Cec Ortiz** Denver, CO
- Beatriz Otero** Government of the District of Columbia, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, Washington, DC
- Michele Ozumba** Women's Funding Network, Chief Executive Officer, San Francisco, CA
- Dr. Eduardo Padrón** Miami Dade College, President, Miami, FL
- Jeannette Pai-Espinosa** National Crittenton Foundation, President, Portland, OR
- Nisha Patel** The Aspen Institute, Ascend, Deputy Director, Washington, DC
- Steve Patrick** Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Senior Program Officer, Seattle, WA
- Carol Penick** Women's Fund of Mississippi, Executive Director, Jackson, MS
- Hilary Pennington** Director, The Bridges Initiative, Seattle, WA
- Gloria Perez** Jeremiah Program, President and CEO, Minneapolis, MN



- Dr. Susan Popkin** Urban Institute, Director, Program on Neighborhoods and Youth Development, Washington, DC
- Mollie Price** Bezos Family Foundation, Advisor, Mercer Island, WA
- Catherine Rampell** *The New York Times*, Economics Reporter, New York, NY
- Jessica Rockowitz** Endicott College, Philadelphia, PA
- Irasema Salcido** Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy, CEO, Washington, DC
- Ayris Scales** DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative, Executive Director, Washington, DC
- Brenna Nan Schneider** American Mojo, Former Vice President of Operations, Lowell, MA
- Rachel Schumacher** The Aspen Institute, Ascend, Consultant, Washington, DC
- Dr. Jack Shonkoff** Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, Director, Boston, MA
- Marta Siberio** Marta Siberio Consulting, Consultant, New York, NY
- Dr. Mario Small** University of Chicago, Dean of the Social Sciences Division, Chicago, IL
- Dr. Sandra Smith** University of California, Berkeley, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Berkeley, CA
- Lubens St. Fleur** Miami Dade College, Miami, FL
- Sheri Steisel** National Conference of State Legislatures, Senior Federal Affairs Counsel, Washington, DC
- Tracey Stewart** Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Family Economic Security Program Manager, Denver, CO
- Rebecca Stovall** Jeremiah Program, Minneapolis, MN
- Susan Sturm** Columbia Law School, Professor, New York, NY
- Bill Svrluga** Jeremiah Program, Board Member, Minneapolis, MN
- Jim Tankersley** *National Journal*, Economics Correspondent, Washington, DC
- Janet Topolsky** The Aspen Institute, Community Strategies Group, Executive Director, Washington, DC
- Roxana Tynan** LAANE, Executive Director, Los Angeles, CA
- Tamitha Walker McKinnis** The Kresge Foundation, Program Officer, Troy, MI
- Dr. Alandra Washington** W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Deputy Director, Battle Creek, MI
- Dr. Ali Webb** W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Deputy Director, Battle Creek, MI
- Ken Weber** Zynga.org, Executive Director, San Francisco, CA
- Henry Wilde** Acelero Learning, Co-Founder & Senior Vice President of Operations, Madison, WI
- Jocelyn Wyatt** IDEO.org, Co-lead and Executive Director, San Francisco, CA
- Dr. Richard Wylie** Endicott College, President, Boston, MA
- Karen Yacos** Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Director of Domestic Outreach, Corporate Social Responsibility, Waterbury, VT
- Duane Yoder** Garrett County Community Action Committee, President, McHenry, MD



**Katie Albright**, an attorney, is the Executive Director of the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect, promoting healthy families and the mental health of children. Ms. Albright has 20 years of experience advocating for children throughout her career working in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in California and Washington, DC.

Before joining the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center, Ms. Albright served as a San Francisco Deputy City Attorney, as well as Acting General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel for the San Francisco Unified School District. She led policy development and outreach efforts at both the San Francisco Education Fund and Preschool California. Ms. Albright was an associate at Latham & Watkins, LLP in Los Angeles and clerked for Chief Judge Motz on the United States District Court in Maryland. Ms. Albright received her law degree, graduating cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center and received her Bachelor of Arts with honors from Williams College.

**Letty Bass** is the Executive Director of Chambers Family Fund, a private family foundation in Denver, Colorado. Letty received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Liberal Arts degrees from Southern Methodist University. She began her career as a first grade teacher, an experience that inspired her passion for the importance of the early care and education of children.

Chambers Family Fund supports the early care and education of children; women's economic self-sufficiency; and justice, equality and, opportunity. The foundation focuses on systemic change by investing in policy change and improving systems, committing to upstream solutions to make the most significant impact in vulnerable populations. Prior to joining Chambers Family Fund in 1997, Letty was Senior Program Officer of Rose Community Foundation. She developed the grant making program in the children and families priority area during the start-up phase for this new community foundation. From 1990-1996, Letty was Executive Director of The Women's Foundation of Colorado where she was responsible for the overall operation of the public charity foundation, managing both grant making and fundraising activities. Letty is a member of the International Women's Forum, serves on The Women's Foundation of Colorado Honorary Trustees Council, is a Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction, and served as Vice President of the Colorado Association of Funders.

**Robin Bernstein** is the President & CEO of The Educational Alliance, a network of community centers offering social, educational, cultural, and recreational services, programs, and events to the diverse population of Downtown Manhattan for more than 120 years. She has been with the agency for 22 years, starting as a union employee and then holding a number of key senior management positions. The Alliance has remained vital under Robin's leadership by keeping its finger on the pulse of Downtown Manhattan, and then having the flexibility and strength of purpose to adapt.

Robin holds an M.S.W. from the University of Chicago's School of Social Services Administration and an A.B. from Washington University in St. Louis. Prior to joining the Alliance, she was the Director of the Rivertowns Family Center of the Yonkers Jewish Community Center, and was a therapist with Chicago's Jewish Family and Community Service, Red Cross, and Travelers Aid Society, and a psychotherapist in private practice.

**Jackie Bezos** is co-director of the Bezos Family Foundation. She loves the intersection between a big idea and passion, what she refers to as the sweet spot of philanthropy. For the Bezos Family Foundation, that sweet spot is the field of education from birth through 12th grade. Through investments in research, public awareness, and programs, the foundation aims to elevate the field of education and improve life outcomes for children. Bezos serves as Chair of Thrive by Five, a statewide early learning initiative in Washington, as well as on advisory boards for The Institute for Learning and Brain Science, Teach for All, and Global Nomads Group.



**Reggie Bicha** is a social worker, administrator, educator, and national leader. In January 2011, Governor John Hickenlooper appointed Bicha Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services. He has extensive experience working on child welfare, education, employment, and health issues at the county, state, and national levels. Mr. Bicha has undertaken a bold initiative to redesign and refocus early childhood services in Colorado.

Prior to coming to Colorado, Mr. Bicha served as the Inaugural Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Under his leadership, Wisconsin increased the safety of child care programs, dramatically reduced fraud in the child care subsidy program and established a quality rating and improvement system to help child care professionals improve. He also initiated prevention and permanency objectives that reduced the number of children living in foster care by more than 22% in Milwaukee. He obtained a Masters' in Social Work from the University of Minnesota, and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He and his wife, Becky, have three children, and have served as foster parents.

**Mia Birdsong**, Vice President of the Family Independence Initiative (FII), is dedicated to supporting the self-determination of low-income people and communities. Under her leadership, the organization has expanded and achieved national recognition for its innovative, strength-based approach to catalyzing economic and social mobility. Mia comes from a diverse family of writers, artists, and quiet, passionate do-gooders. She brings to her work at FII a wide range of experiences from her time in the publishing world, her on-going practice in prenatal health and folk medicine, and a decade as a volunteer and organizer for the prison abolition movement builder Critical Resistance. Mia also spent ten years as a trainer and educator in the fields of youth development and health education.

Mia co-founded BirthCircle, a grassroots collective making pregnancy and birth choices more accessible to families in California's Central Valley. Mia sits on the Board of Directors of People's Grocery, the Advisory Board of the Tannery World Dance & Cultural Center, and volunteers in her neighborhood and community. She holds a B.A. in Black Studies from Oberlin College. Mia is an occasional runner, enthusiastic gardener, and pretty good cook. She lives with her husband and two children in Oakland.

**Leslie Campbell** is a formerly incarcerated woman and has reclaimed her life through education. After being released from prison, Leslie joined the College and Community Fellowship as a fellow and found hope for the future in higher education. She earned an A.A. degree at Borough of Manhattan Community College and a B.A. in Forensic Psychology from John

Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is now in school to obtain a Master's in Mental Health Counseling. She supplements her income by working part time as a tutor to children in foster care at TestQuest Inc. She has received numerous awards, such as the Calvin Miles Award for Student Leadership in Adult Education from the NYC Mayor's Office of Adult Education, and has been inducted into two academic honor societies: Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society.

**Vic Carter** has for thirty years approached his job with this philosophy: If the story is important enough to tell, it's important enough for him to go there and to take you with him. Vic has followed stories and taken viewers around the world; from the jungles of Colombia in South America; to the dusty roads of Western Africa; to communist Cuba; to the White House in Washington, DC, and all across the country.

Since 1995, Vic Carter has been delivering the news for WJZ-TV. He anchors newscasts at 4, 6 & 11. He graduated with honors from Morehead State University and serves on the Board of Trustees for the MSU Foundation and has been a visiting lecturer and Black Scholar in Residence. At the age of 23, Vic received broadcasting's highest honor, the George Foster Peabody Award. He was named Journalist of the Year by The School of Journalism at the University of Georgia and was inducted into the National Association for Black Journalists Hall of Fame. He serves on the Boards for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland, The March of Dimes, and Open Society Institute founded by billionaire George Soros. He also volunteered as a committee chairman in the effort to construct the \$120 million memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, DC.

**Dr. P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale** is Professor of Human Development and Social Policy at the School of Education and Social Policy and Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University. She is an expert on the interface between research and social policy for children and families, a former AAAS Congressional Science Fellow, and the first developmental psychologist to be tenured in a public policy school in the United States. She specializes in multidisciplinary research on social issues and how they affect families and the development of children, youth, and young adults. Much of her work addresses family strengths that promote healthy social and educational outcomes for children in poverty.

Chase-Lansdale is a fellow in the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science. She is the recipient of the Society for Research on Adolescence Social Policy Award as well as the SRCD Award for Distinguished Contributions to Public Policy for Children. She chairs the Visiting Committee of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the NIH Study Section on





Social Sciences and Population Studies. Chase-lansdale received her B.A., Magna Cum Laude, in Social Relations from Harvard University in 1974 and her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Michigan in 1981.

**Debra Chasnoff** is an Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and nationally recognized champion of using film as an organizing tool for social justice campaigns, and a pioneering leader in the international movement working to create safe and welcoming schools and communities. Debra's highly acclaimed documentaries addressing youth and bias issues are widely hailed by educators and advocates as among the best tools available today to help open up dialogue and activism around many of the most challenging issues affecting young people's lives and school environments.

Her films include *Straightlaced—How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up*, about the gender and sexuality pressures that teens and young adults face today. Her other award-winning films include *It's Elementary—Talking About Gay Issues in School*, *Let's Get Real* (about bias and bullying), *That's a Family!* (supporting youth growing up in diverse family structures), and the Academy Award-winning *Deadly Deception—General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment*. In addition to dozens of film festival awards, Debra is the recipient of the Wallace A. Gerbode Foundation Fellowship for outstanding nonprofit leadership, the Pathfinder Award from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, and the first-ever alumnae achievement award in documentary filmmaking from Wellesley College. She is the founder of GroundSpark and co-creator of the renowned Respect For All Project. She has served the organization in a directing capacity since 1982.

**Dr. Gilberto Q. Conchas** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Education with joint appointments in Chicano/Latino Studies and Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. Prior to UCI, Dr. Conchas was Assistant Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

A sociologist by training, Dr. Conchas' work focuses on inequality with an emphasis on urban schooling systems. Professor Conchas teaches courses on theory, policy, and practice about race and urban schooling. Professor Conchas is currently in the initial stages of a multi-year research project that involves a qualitative study of Latino youth and their parents who participated in a larger quantitative study of promising after-school programs. This qualitative study will provide the first in-depth examination of parents' views about their children's after-school programs and also offer one of the first systematic investigations of the after-school experiences of Latino youth.

**Wendi Copeland**, Vice President of Mission Advancement, joined the Goodwill Industries International's team in 2005. Goodwill® works to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, and helping people in need reach their full potential through learning and the power of work.

Prior to joining GII, Copeland was employed by Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia and the Central Savannah River Area. In her ten-year tenure, the organization expanded from a budget of \$1.2 million to over \$17 million, from serving about 100 people a year to over 10,000 per year, and from placing 14 people in employment each year to over 2,000 per year. Copeland has a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Master of Science in Counseling Psychology. Her people and business systems approach has been invested in supporting nonprofits for over a quarter of a century.

**Mimi Corcoran** is the Director of the Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation at the Open Society Foundations. Working with government, foundations, and community-based organizations, Mimi leads a team to identify strategies to alleviate poverty through the support of scalable and sustainable programs in education, workforce development, and benefits access for our most disadvantaged populations. Prior to joining OSI, Mimi was an independent management consultant advising clients on strategy, policy, compliance, and operational structures domestically and internationally. Mimi served as the Executive Director of Beginning with Children Foundation, Inc., and was a leader in education reform in New York. Mimi also worked as the Director of Special Projects at Open Society Institute supporting the development of NGOs internationally. Mimi began her career in the private sector and worked as an executive in International Trading and Treasury Operations and Systems for the Chase Manhattan Bank. Mimi serves on the boards of a variety of educational and youth related institutions. She received her B.A. in English from Yale University, where she captained the gymnastics team, and she holds a Masters in Public Administration from New York University. Ms. Corcoran lives in New York with her husband, Michael, and their four sons.



**Sharon Darling** is the president and founder of the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFLE). Ms. Darling serves as an advisor on education issues for governors, policy makers, business leaders, and foundations. She is well known for deploying family literacy—parents and children learning together—as an intergenerational pathway to literacy and self-sufficiency in hundreds of cities and communities throughout the nation, as well as many countries worldwide. Darling's work has created new educational models and has helped more than 1 million families in the United States achieve success through an intergenerational approach to education. She has held key leadership positions at the local, state, and national level and serves on the boards of numerous national and international organizations, including the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning.

Darling is the recipient of many prestigious national awards, including the National Humanities Medal, the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, the Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Achievement in Education, and the Harold W. McGraw Award for Outstanding Educator. She has received several honorary doctoral degrees for her contributions to education, has authored numerous articles, and is frequently quoted in the national news and featured in education-related stories on television.

**Siobhan Davenport** is Executive Director of The Rocksprings Foundation. In that role, she oversees all aspects of the organization's programming. The Foundation primarily focuses on funding programs that help low-income women and youth. Prior to her role at The Rocksprings Foundation, Siobhan had a career in broadcast news. She is the mother of two young children. She is also a member of the Washington Area Women's Foundation's Washington 100.

**Karla Davis** is Commissioner of the state of Tennessee's Department of Labor and Workforce Development, with nearly 2,000 employees, a budget of \$220 million, and over 60 offices across the state. In 2011, Davis was appointed to this position by Governor Bill Haslam. Prior to that, Davis was Director of Urban Strategies at Memphis HOPE, managing and overseeing the Community and Supportive Services Program for three U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOPE VI public housing redevelopment projects and two HUD ROSS Grant projects in Memphis, TN. Davis previously worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for 16 years, starting with the Superfund program and rising to become an Environmental Justice Program Manager covering six states.

Davis serves on a number of boards, including as the chair of the Prevailing Wage Commission, member of the Workforce Development Board, and southern representative of the National Association

of Government Labor Officials. Over the years, she has received several awards, including the Regional Administrator's Award for Excellence. Ms. Davis, a Chicago native, attended Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, and holds a bachelor's in Bioengineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She and her husband, Terence, reside in Memphis, TN.

**Steven Dow** has served as Executive Director of Community Action Project of Tulsa (CAP) since 1992. CAP's anti-poverty strategy focuses on providing high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive family economic support through both direct services and public policy efforts. In the 20 years he has been leading the agency, it has grown from a small agency with a staff of 2 and budget of \$165,000 to one with an annual operating budget of \$53 million and a staff of nearly 600. CAP currently serves 2,100 young children in its early education program, and its economic support programs reach more than 18,000 Tulsa households annually. CAP has received national recognition for its innovative and effective approaches, having been honored in the initial class of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family Counts National Honors program, a member of the Fannie Mae Foundation Alliance, named as a National Head Start Center of Excellence, and the recipient of both Choice and Promise Neighborhoods planning grants.

A graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, Dow worked as an investment banker for Goldman Sachs and practiced law prior to joining CAP. He and his wife Stacy have three daughters.

**Michael Dupee** serves as the Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility for Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. Mike leads the company's overall Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, including providing strategic direction and reporting publicly on the company's social and environmental responsibility initiatives and programs; managing the company's allocation of 5% pre-tax earnings into socially responsible projects; and generating increased understanding of and recognition for the company's SR activities, both internally and externally. He is a 2011 Aspen Institute First Mover Fellow.

Prior to joining Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Mike was a Vice President at Goldman Sachs & Co. in New York, NY, making and managing opportunistic investments in distressed financial assets from 2000 to 2004. Mike earned his Juris Doctor, cum laude, and Master in Business Administration degrees at Georgetown University and his B.A. in history, magna cum laude from Boston College.

**Lubens St. Fleur**, a student at Miami Dade College, writes: My mother, a strong single parent, decided to move from Nassau, Bahamas, to the United States for a better opportunity at life. I came to Miami when I was sixteen. We thought life would be easier, because the United States is known as the land of the free. The land where a nobody can be a somebody



as long as they tried. Life as an immigrant was hard. It was hard for my mom to get a job, and when she did get a job, the company would pay her under the table but would never give her the full rate or any type of benefits. My mom stressed the importance of going to school and trying to do well. I did my best and graduated in the top 10% of my class. After graduation I had to get a job. I was still going through the process of trying to be a "legal alien." My mom did not want this life for me; she wanted me to continue my education. Ten years later and now with a child, I realize what my mom wanted for me. Now I'm trying to be an example for my son and show him to never give up on your dreams.

**Michael Gerson** is a nationally syndicated columnist who appears twice weekly in *The Washington Post*. He is the author of *Heroic Conservatism* (HarperOne, 2007) and co-author of *City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New Era* (Moody, 2010). Gerson serves as Senior Advisor at ONE, a bipartisan organization dedicated to the fight against extreme poverty and preventable diseases. He is the Hastert Fellow at the J. Dennis Hastert Center for Economics, Government, and Public Policy at Wheaton College in Illinois. He is Co-Chair of The Poverty Forum and Co-Chair of the Catholic/Evangelical Dialogue with Dr. Ron Sider. From 2006 to 2009, Gerson was the Roger Hertog Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

Before joining CFR in 2006, Gerson was a top aide to President George W. Bush as Assistant to the President for Policy and Strategic Planning. Prior to that appointment, he served in the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Speechwriting and Assistant to the President for Speechwriting and Policy Advisor. He was previously a senior editor covering politics at *U.S. News and World Report*. Gerson was a speechwriter and policy adviser for Jack Kemp and a speechwriter for Bob Dole during the 1996 presidential campaign. He has also served Senator Dan Coats of Indiana as Policy Director. Gerson is a graduate of Wheaton College in Illinois. He grew up in the St. Louis area and now lives with his wife and sons in Northern Virginia.

**Dr. Nadine Burke Harris**, is the Founding Physician and former Medical Director of the CPMC Bayview Child Health Center. She has earned international attention for her innovative approach to addressing adverse childhood experiences as a risk factor for adult disease such as heart disease and cancer.

Dr. Burke Harris has recently embarked on a new project to create the Center for Youth Wellness, a comprehensive health and wellness center that integrates medical, mental health, holistic, and social services for an evidence-based approach to improving the health and well-being of urban children and youth. Her areas of interest are in health disparities, child trauma, nutrition, and asthma. Particularly, her

focus is serving communities where issues of poverty and race present challenges to conventional health care and education. She also maintains her clinical practice at the CPMC Bayview Child Health Center.

**Tameka Henry** is a native of Las Vegas, NV. She is a mother of four, whose experience with Head Start began as a parent at the Acelero Learning Clark County program in 2007. Tameka quickly became engaged is one of Acelero's most vocal advocates on the importance of Head Start. She is now a Board Member of the Region IX and National Head Start Associations, and is the current Policy Committee Chairperson and member of the Board of Directors for Acelero Learning Clark County. Now pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education at College of Southern Nevada, Tameka has also organized and led several advocacy events, including sending over 1,000 letters to Congress on behalf of Head Start families and speaking to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and his staff on the benefits of the program. She was the recipient of College of Southern Nevada's Martin Luther King Diversity Award for education. Ms. Henry hopes to not only inspire parents but to empower them in their roles as their children's first teacher and advocate.

**Lynn Johnson** currently serves as the Executive Director of Jefferson County Human Services. This agenda includes Divisions of Head Start, Workforce, Career and Family Services (TANF), Children, Youth and Families (Child Welfare), Justice Services, and Community Assistance, which includes Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Adult and Aging Services. Prior to this position, Mrs. Johnson ran her own firm consulting on issues pertaining to mental health, high-risk youth, developmental disabilities, children welfare, and early childhood education. She was the Chief of Staff to Lieutenant Governor Jane E. Norton in 2002 and from 1999 to 2002 was a policy advisor to Governor Bill Owens handling Human Services issues. Earlier in her career Mrs. Johnson served as a senior specialist with the United States Courts as a probation and parole officer. She has a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation from the University of Northern Colorado and a master's degree in Social Work from Arizona State University.



**Dr. Sherri Killins** is the Commissioner of Early Education and Care for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Since 2009, Dr. Killins has provided leadership in designing and implementing a statewide method to define, measure, and communicate quality called the Quality Rating and Improvement system for early education and care, out of school time in multiple environments, including family child care, public schools, center based, and Head Start. Dr. Killins has also positioned four statewide systems of mental health, educator and provider supports, community family engagement, and information and referral for early educators, children and their families, and providers of early education and out of school time services.

Dr. Killins has worked as an advocate for children and families in a variety of ways for more than 20 years, both as a provider of direct care and in leadership roles on issues relating to children and families. From 2006 to 2009, Dr. Killins has worked at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. She held several roles in the Foundation. Her final position was serving as Vice President for Human Development and Operations. Prior to her work with the foundation, she served as the founding President/CEO of the New Haven Empowerment Zone, was a mayoral candidate in New Haven, Connecticut, and led operations and programs for both the Empowerment Zone Corporation and the Family Preservation Initiative of Baltimore. Dr. Killins holds a nursing degree from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's of administrative science from Johns Hopkins University, and a doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Sarasota. Dr. Killins is the mother of three daughters.

**Dr. Christopher King** is a Senior Research Scientist, Director of the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources, and a lecturer at The University of Texas at Austin's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. He currently directs the Dual-Generation Strategy Initiative, the Central Texas Student Futures Project, as well as an evaluation of local workforce services in Austin (Texas). He also co-directs a team designing and analyzing the implementation of a sectoral jobs strategy for low-skilled, low-income parents of children served by Head Start and Early Head Start programs operated by the Community Action Program of Tulsa County, working with a multi-disciplinary team from Harvard, Northwestern, and Columbia.

Previously, Dr. King was Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Utah (1973-1976), an economist with the U.S. Secretary of Labor (1976-1980), and Director of Research, Demonstration and Evaluation for job training programs in the Texas Governor's Office (1983-1985). He has a B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University, all in economics.

**Dr. Rakesh Kochhar** has over 20 years of research experience in the areas of labor economics and price and wage measurement and analysis. Prior to joining the Pew Hispanic Center, he was Senior Economist at Joel Popkin and Company, where he served as a consultant to government agencies, private firms, international agencies, and labor unions. Kochhar is a past President of the Society of Government Economists. His doctoral thesis at Brown University focused on the theory of labor migration.

**Dr. Patricia Kuhl** is the Bezos Family Foundation Endowed Chair for Early Childhood Learning, Co-Director of the UW Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences, Director of the NSF-funded Science of Learning Center, and Professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences. She is internationally recognized for her research on early language and brain development and studies that show how young children learn. Dr. Kuhl's work has played a major role in demonstrating how early exposure to language alters the brain. It has implications for critical periods in development, for bilingual education and reading readiness, for developmental disabilities involving language, and for research on computer understanding of speech.

Dr. Kuhl is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Rodin Academy, and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, among many other awards. Dr. Kuhl was one of six scientists invited to the White House in 1997 to make a presentation at President and Mrs. Clinton's Conference on "Early Learning and the Brain." In 2001, she was invited to make a presentation at President and Mrs. Bush's White House Summit on "Early Cognitive Development: Ready to Read, Ready to Learn." In 2000, she co-authored *The Scientist in the Crib: Minds, Brains, and How Children Learn* (Morrow Press). Dr. Kuhl has discussed her research findings on early learning and the brain at NBC's Education Nation and on The Today Show, Good Morning America, CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, NHK, CNN, and in *The New York Times*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*.

**Anne Ladky** is a founding member of Women Employed. She joined the staff in 1977 and was named director in 1985. Ladky is a nationally recognized expert on equal opportunity issues, workplace fairness, workforce development and higher education policy, and issues affecting low-paid working women. She has developed and directed innovative advocacy and training programs designed to improve women's economic status. She is the author of numerous reports, articles, and testimony on women's economic issues.

Ladky has served on many public boards and commissions, including the Chicago Workforce Investment Council, the Chicago Workforce Board, the Higher Education Finance Study Commission, the Illinois Workforce Investment Council, and the



Community Advisory Council of the City Colleges of Chicago. In 2007, she was named a Visiting Social Activist at the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University

**Celinda Lake** is president of Lake Research Partners and is one of the Democratic Party's leading political strategists, serving as tactician and senior adviser to the national party committees and dozens of Democratic incumbents and challengers at all levels of the electoral process. Lake and her firm are known for cutting-edge research on issues including the economy, health care, the environment, and education and have worked for a number of institutions including the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the Democratic Governor's Association (DGA), The White House Project, AFL-CIO, SEIU, and CWA.

Celinda's work also took her to advise fledgling democratic parties in several post-war Eastern European countries, including Bosnia and South Africa. Lake Research Partners' Battleground poll is widely recognized as one of the leading national issue and election thermometers. Lake is one of the nation's foremost experts on electing women candidates and on framing issues to women voters. Lake, a native of Montana, holds a master's degree in political science and survey research from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and a certificate in political science from the University of Geneva in Geneva, Switzerland. Lake received her undergraduate degree from Smith College in Massachusetts, where she graduated *summa cum laude* with honors and was recently awarded the Distinguished Alumna Medal by the College.

**Jim Larimore** is Deputy Director, Student Success, U.S. Program, Postsecondary Success at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. His responsibilities include supervision of the Postsecondary programmatic investments to improve early academic momentum for low-income students and foster greater use of data to improve institutional performance for both completion and cost. In addition, he provides oversight of the Gates Scholarships programs, such as the Gates Millennium Scholars program.

Most recently, Jim served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Life and Dean of Students at the New York University campus in Abu Dhabi. He served as Dean of Students at Swarthmore College from 2006 to 2009, Dean of the College at Dartmouth College from 1999 to 2006, and held a number of administrative roles at Stanford University between 1985 and 1999, including Assistant to the Provost, Acting Dean of Students, and Assistant Dean and Director of the University's American Indian Program. Jim is involved in numerous boards and associations, including Stanford Associates Board of Governors, National Black Male College Achievement Study Advisory Council, Massachusetts

Institute of Technology Dean for Student Life Advisory Committee, Rinconada Ventures Fund Advisory Board, and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Jim and his wife, Karen, recently relocated to Seattle with their two children, Anthony (age 8) and Joseph (age 6).

**Andrea Levere** has led the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) as its President since 2004. CFED designs and operates major national initiatives that expand matched savings for children and adults, integrate self-employed entrepreneurs into the financial mainstream, and turn manufactured housing into an appreciating asset. CFED operates a comprehensive research and public policy program to build and protect assets at the local, state and federal levels, and produces the nationally recognized Assets & Opportunity Scorecard. Prior to joining CFED in 1992, Ms. Levere was a director with the National Development Council, where she was a lead trainer, designed a financial management program for entrepreneurs, and structured financing for small businesses, affordable housing, and urban development projects.

Ms. Levere served as Chair of the Board of the Ms. Foundation for Women from 2002 to 2005. Currently, she serves as the Chair of ROC USA. She holds a bachelor's degree from Brown University and an MBA from Yale University. She received the Alumni Recognition Award from the Yale School of Management and was named to the inaugural class of its Donaldson Fellows Program, which recognizes alumni who help educate business and society leaders.

**Steve Liss** is a photographer and photojournalist concerned with issues affecting the poor and underserved in the United States. At *Time* magazine he has focused on stories of social significance involving ordinary people. Forty-three of his photographs have appeared on the cover of *Time* and he has covered six presidential campaigns. In 2004, he was the recipient of a Soros Justice Media Fellowship for his work on juvenile justice, and in 2005, he received an Alicia Patterson Fellowship for work on domestic poverty. His most recent book, *No Place for Children: Voices from Juvenile Detention*, won the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award in 2006. Liss is also the recipient of the World Understanding Award from Pictures of the Year International. He is the Director of AmericanPoverty.org – a project of the nonprofit In Our Own Backyard, which uses visual media to raise awareness about poverty in the United States, dispel inaccurate and destructive stereotypes about poor people and encourage action to alleviate poverty. In addition to shooting, Liss taught graduate photojournalism at Northwestern University and is presently on the full-time faculty at Columbia College Chicago.



**Dr. Joan Lombardi** is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role she provided overall policy coordination for the Head Start and Early Head Start Program and the Child Care and Development Fund, as well as serving as the liaison with the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies.

Dr. Lombardi has spent almost four decades dedicated to the needs of young children and their families. She has served as an advisor to a number of foundations, national, and international organizations, helping to create innovative policies to improve the conditions for children and families. She served as the Founding Chair of the Birth to Five Policy, a group of national organizations dedicated to shifting the odds for at risk children ages 0-5 and as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and External Affairs in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during the Clinton Administration and as the first Director of the Child Care Bureau. Joan is the author of numerous publications, and in 2004, she launched the Global Leaders for Young Children program in partnership with The World Forum Foundation, which has provided leadership support to early education leaders around the world.

**Meg Long** is the Deputy Director of OMG Center for Collaborative Learning. She has a background in nonprofit management and evaluation research and has hands-on nonprofit management experience and a strong research background in a broad range of international and domestic issues, including educational reform, health care provision, and nonprofit management and efficiency.

Meg directs OMG's postsecondary success portfolio, which currently includes the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Community Partnerships portfolio evaluation, the assessment of the Citi Post-Secondary Success Program (CPSP), and Skill Up Washington's Skill Link Initiative. In tandem with DVP-Praxis LTD, Meg is providing real-time evaluation and strategy feedback to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Completion by Design management team, and co-leading the Benefits Access for College Completion Initiative evaluation, funded through the Lumina Foundation for Education. Meg also provides strategic and evaluation support to Ascend.

**Dr. Meera Mani** is Director of the Children, Families, and Communities (CFC) Program at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. She joined the Foundation in February 2009 as program officer, and in 2010 assumed responsibility for leading the preschool, after-school, and summer enrichment subprogram in CFC. Prior to joining the Foundation, Mani served as research director

for Preschool California, where she monitored and advised national and state research and evaluation efforts, and provided expertise and strategic support to ensure effective policy development, field operations, communications, and messaging.

Before working for Preschool California, Mani served as the president of The Clayton Foundation in Denver, Colorado. Between 1999-2001, Mani led and managed the day-to-day operations of Educare Colorado, now known as Qualistar Early Learning, a statewide initiative dedicated to improving children's early learning experiences through the implementation of a quality rating and improvement system. Mani has a master's degree in child development from M.S. University in India and a doctor of education in Educational Leadership and Administration from Boston University.

**Vanesa Mares** is a participant in CareerAdvance®, part of the Community Action Project of Tulsa, OK. She lives in Tulsa and is married with two wonderful kids: Lexii (5) and MarC (3). She was a teenage mother and was fortunate to have support from her family. She did not think that she had the opportunity to pursue her dreams to become a RN. She is happy to get to better herself with the help of CareerAdvance®. She is currently enrolled in school and completing prerequisites for becoming a Registered Nurse. She is currently a Certified Nurse Assistant and waiting to test for her Advanced Unlicensed Assistant certification. Vanesa and her family are participating in Global Gardens, a nonprofit organization in Tulsa that assists in planting and maintaining a garden in the city. She also volunteers at her church's nursery during service.

**Elisabeth Mason** is the CEO and one of the founders of Single Stop USA, a major national poverty-fighting organization, which recently received funding through The White House Social Innovation Fund. Elisabeth is an expert on venture philanthropy, children's rights, start-up organizations and poverty-fighting programs. She has over 15 years of experience, including her work at Atlantic Philanthropies developing a \$1 billion, 10-year spend-down plan to help disadvantaged children. Elisabeth was also a Managing Director at the Robin Hood Foundation, Senior Advisor at Innovative Philanthropy, and practiced law at Cleary, Gottlieb, and Steen & Hamilton in New York City. She worked with the artist Shakira to set up her Barefoot Foundation, an international education foundation.

Elisabeth has also served as an advisor to the United Nations and to local and international agencies on various human and children's rights, legislative reform, juvenile justice, and community and youth development programs throughout the Latin American region. Additionally, she has participated in projects in India and Africa and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Costa Rica,





where she lived for six years. A lifelong resident of East Harlem, Elisabeth holds a J.D. from Columbia University and an A.B. and a M.A. from Harvard.

**Dr. C. Nicole Mason** was until recently the Executive Director of the Women of Color Policy Network at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Dr. Mason's research and advocacy work serves to influence policy outcomes and public attitudes by focusing on the impact of the intersections of race, class, and gender. Dr. Mason's commentary and writing have been featured in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *POLITICO*, *The Nation*, *The Progressive*, *Spotlight on Poverty*, *USA Today*, *Essence* magazine, The Huffington Post and on CNN, MSNBC, NPR, and NBC, among other outlets.

Prior to joining the Network, she served as the Director for Research and Policy Initiatives at the National Council for Research on Women, where she remains a Senior Research Fellow. Dr. Mason is an Assistant Research Professor at New York University and has previously held an appointment in the Department of Political Science at Howard University.

**Margaret A. McKenna** is a lawyer and educator, and a leading expert in educational opportunity and philanthropy. McKenna is President Emeritus and Professor of Leadership at Lesley University, and led Lesley from a small regional college to a nationally recognized university with one of the leading teacher training programs in the country. She is also a Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Institute of Politics. From 2007 to 2011, McKenna served as President of the Walmart Foundation, the largest corporate entity of its kind in the United States. In 2010, the Foundation provided over 900 million dollars in cash and in-kind donations to nonprofit organizations. McKenna held a previous appointment at Radcliff College, Harvard University, where she served as Director of the Bunting Institute and Vice President. Prior to Radcliff, she has a distinguished career in federal government as a civil rights lawyer with the Department of Justice, Deputy Under-Secretary of Education, and Deputy White House Counsel under President Jimmy Carter.

McKenna serves on a number of boards, including Dominion Resources; America's Promise, among others, and she led Education transition teams for President Clinton and for the Mayor of Boston and has served on national and state commissions and task forces on judicial appointments, early childhood policy, hunger relief, workforce programs, and social philanthropy.

**Wes Moore** is a youth advocate, Army combat veteran, national bestselling author, and innovative social entrepreneur. His first book, *The Other Wes Moore*, became an instant *New York Times* bestseller. He is also the host of "Beyond Belief" on the Oprah Winfrey Network. Wes graduated Phi Theta Kappa from Valley Forge Military College in 1998 and Phi Beta Kappa from Johns Hopkins University in 2001. He completed an MInt in International Relations from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar in 2004. Wes was a paratrooper and Captain in the United States Army, serving a combat tour of duty in Afghanistan with the 1st Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division in 2005-2006. He spearheaded the American strategic support plan for the Afghan Reconciliation Program, and, as a White House Fellow from 2006-2007, Moore served as a Special Assistant to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Wes serves on IAVA's Board of Directors (Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America) and on the Board of Trustees for Johns Hopkins University and The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. While a student at Johns Hopkins he founded STAND!, which works with Baltimore youth involved in the criminal justice system. A widely featured public speaker, Wes lives with his wife Dawn and his daughter in New York.

**Anne Mosle** is Vice President of The Aspen Institute and Executive Director of Ascend. Prior to The Aspen Institute, Mosle served for three and half years as a Vice President and Officer of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. As a Kellogg Vice President, Mosle was responsible for the development of two new portfolios: Family Economic Security and Civic Engagement and oversight of the launch of the \$100M Mission-Driven Investing pilot program and spearheading the New Mexico place-based programming.

Prior to W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Mosle served as the President of Washington Area Women's Foundation from 2000-2007. She was the lead architect of a nationally recognized program, Stepping Stones, an initiative to build financial independence for low-income women-headed families. Earlier in her career, Mosle was a member of the leadership team at the Center for Policy Alternatives and held positions on Capitol Hill. Mosle currently serves on the board of the Tides Network and Foundation and the Advisory Committee of Oxford University Said School of Business. She has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Richmond and has completed graduate coursework at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She currently resides in Washington with her husband, Jim, and children, Elliot and Jasper.



**Dr. Eric L. Motley** joined The Aspen Institute in 2007 as a Vice President and the Managing Director of the Henry Crown Fellows Program. In addition to this role, he currently serves as the Executive Director of the Aspen-Rockefeller Foundation's Commission to Reform the Federal Appointments Process. In 2003, he became Special Assistant to President George W. Bush for Presidential Personnel, where he managed the appointment process in the White House for over 1,200 presidentially appointed advisory board and commission positions. He joined the White House staff as Deputy Associate Director, Office of Presidential Personnel in 2001.

Eric is a Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute, Class of 2003. His civic involvement encompasses leadership roles with a wide range of local, state, and national organizations. Eric is an avid book collector whose library consists of over 4,500 volumes, which include over 1,700 first editions and rare books. In June 2006 Eric's life story was featured in *The Washington Post* as a part of the series "Being a Black Man in America." Eric earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science and Philosophy from Samford University in 1996. As a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, he earned a Master of Letters in International Relations and a Ph.D. in International Relations as the John Steven Watson Scholar.

**Reverend Vivian Nixon** is the Executive Director of the College and Community Fellowship (CCF), an innovative organization that assists formerly incarcerated women in pursuit of higher education, leadership skills, and career paths that lead to economic security. Rev. Nixon came to CCF in 2001 as a student, following a period of incarceration during which, as a peer educator to other incarcerated women, she became painfully aware that lack of education severely impedes the ability to escape the cycle of poverty and recidivism.

In 2003, while completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services Administration at the State University of New York Empire College, Rev. Nixon became lead organizer at CCF. In 2006, she became Executive Director. The number of program participants has grown exponentially under her leadership. More than 190 CCF participants have earned college and graduate degrees. Fewer than 2% have had subsequent criminal justice involvement.

**Leonard Noisette** is the Director of the Criminal Justice Fund for U.S. Programs at the Open Society Foundations. In this role, Noisette leads the foundation's efforts to reduce mass incarceration, end harsh punishment, and eliminate racial disparities, and secure a fair and equitable system of justice.

Noisette has spent his entire professional career working in the criminal justice arena. He has worked with the New York City Legal Aid Society and was

a founding member and longtime Executive Director of the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, an innovative public defender office renowned for its leadership in the development of community-based, full-service representation of clients. During the years of the Clinton Administration, Noisette participated in the Justice Department's work to improve indigent defense and defense-prosecution relations. Noisette has served on the boards of the New York State Defenders Association and the National Legal Aid & Defender Association. He is an Adjunct Professor at Fordham and Columbia University Law Schools and is an active member of numerous bar associations.

**Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón** is President of Miami Dade College. An American by choice, Dr. Padrón arrived in the United States as a refugee at age 15. Since 1995, he has served as President of Miami Dade College, a national model of student achievement and the largest institution of higher education in America, with more than 174,000 students. An economist by training, Dr. Padrón earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. In 2009, *Time* magazine included him among the "10 Best College Presidents" in the U.S. In 2010, *Florida Trend* magazine named him "Floridian of the Year." In 2011, *The Washington Post* named him one of the eight most influential college presidents in the U.S., and the Carnegie Corporation of New York granted him the prestigious Centennial Leadership Award. He is a past Board Chair of the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the current Board Chair of the American Council on Education. He has been selected to serve on posts of national prominence by six American Presidents. Most recently, President Obama named him chairman of the White House Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

Dr. Padrón serves on the boards of the Business/Higher Education Forum, the League for Innovation (former chair), RC-2020, the College Board Advocacy and Policy Center, the White House Fellows Selection Panel (chair), the International Association of University Presidents, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Jeannette Pai-Espinosa** is President of The National Crittenton Foundation (TCNF). A firm believer in the power and potential of all girls and young women, Jeannette Pai-Espinosa assumed leadership of The National Crittenton Foundation in January of 2007. Jeannette brings to this 124-year-old institution more than thirty years of experience in advocacy, education, intercultural communication, public policy, strategic, communication, program development, and direct service delivery.

Jeannette began her career as a vocal advocate and activist for issues of importance to girls and women in the early seventies, working to open doors and address gender bias. Today, she leads TCNF, which is the national umbrella for the 27 members of the





Crittenton family of agencies, which provides services in 31 states and the District of Columbia. Prior to coming to The Foundation, Jeannette was a partner for nearly 10 years at Metropolitan Group, an award-winning social change agency specializing in serving social-purpose organizations and businesses. Additionally, Jeannette has experience as senior policy staff for Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts, the director of human rights commissions for the cities of Salem and Portland, Oregon; the founder and executive director of a nonprofit middle and high school-level alternative school; as a university administrator; Federal grant administrator and as a board member of numerous organizations. Jeannette holds a master's degree in student development and education administration. She and her husband are the parents of four "grown" children ages 27–34.

**Nisha Patel** is Deputy Director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute and has more than 15 years of experience in philanthropic and policy initiatives focused on systems change. Immediately prior to joining Ascend, Nisha was a Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she managed a \$40 million portfolio focused on postsecondary education and reducing inequity in the United States. Nisha previously held positions as Director of Programs at the Washington Area Women's Foundation, where she helped launch the Early Care and Education Funders Collaborative and staffed the inaugural African American Women's Giving Circle and Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), where her research, analysis, and advocacy efforts focused on welfare reform, workforce development, and work supports for low-income families. Earlier, Nisha worked at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and was an Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University. Nisha holds a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Social Work degree from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Gloria Perez** is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jeremiah Program, a leading nonprofit organization proven to help single mothers and their children break the cycle of generational poverty. Perez joined Jeremiah Program in 1998 following her role as Executive Director of Casa de Esperanza, a domestic violence agency in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She brings more than twenty years of management, supervision, and leadership experience to her position. Her community service, volunteer work, and professional affiliations include the Allina Health Systems Board of Directors, The Minneapolis Foundation Board of Trustees, F.R. Bigelow Foundation Board of Trustees, the Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation Board of Directors, Minneapolis Rotary #9, and the Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable.

A graduate of Macalester College, Perez is a recipient of the Catharine Lealtald Service to Society Award, and in 2008 she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. In 2009 she received the Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts Council of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, Citizen of the Year Award from the Minneapolis University Rotary Club, and the Unsung Hero Award from WomenVenture at their 2009 annual conference.

**Hilary Pennington** is the Director of The Bridges Initiative. She is the former Director of Education, Postsecondary Success, and Special Initiatives in the United States Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she led the foundation's Postsecondary Education initiative as well as efforts around one-time opportunities to respond to unique challenges and unanticipated events in the United States.

Pennington most recently served as a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank, and as vice-chair of Jobs for the Future (JFF), a research and policy development organization that she co-founded. In her 22 years as president and CEO of JFF, Pennington helped the organization become one of the most influential in the country on issues of education, youth transitions, workforce development, and future work requirements. She played a leading role in the development of early college high schools while at JFF. Pennington served on the Presidential Transition Team for the first Clinton administration and as co-chair of a Presidential Advisory Committee on using technology to expand training opportunities. Pennington is a graduate of the Yale School of Management and Yale College. She holds a graduate degree in social anthropology from Oxford University and was a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 2000.



**Dr. Susan J. Popkin** is both Director of The Urban Institute's Program on Neighborhoods and Youth Development and a Senior Fellow in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. A nationally recognized expert on assisted housing and mobility, Dr. Popkin's research has focused on the impact of the radical changes in housing policy over the past decade on the lives of the most vulnerable public and assisted housing families. Dr. Popkin is currently developing a new research agenda growing out of her work on public housing that will focus on the ways that neighborhood environments, particularly violence, sexual harassment and pressure for early sexual initiation affect youth transitions to adulthood. Previously, she directed a series of studies on public housing transformation in Chicago, the only national study of public housing desegregation, and two large-scale studies of the Gautreaux Housing Desegregation program.

Prior to joining the Urban Institute, Dr. Popkin was an Associate at Abt Associates, Inc. Before coming to Abt, she was an Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences, School of Public Health, and a Senior Research Specialist at the Prevention Research Center, University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Popkin holds a Ph.D. in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University.

**Catherine Rampell** writes about economics and theater (usually separately, but sometimes together) for *The New York Times*, where she served as the founding editor of the Economix blog. Under her stewardship the blog was honored with an award from the Society of American Business Editors and Writers. She has also received the Weidenbaum Center Award for Evidence-Based Journalism and is a Gerald Loeb Award finalist.

Before joining *The Times*, Catherine wrote for *The Washington Post* editorial pages and financial section and for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. She grew up in South Florida (the New York part) and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton.

**Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff** is the Julius B. Richmond FAMRI Professor of Child Health and Development at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Harvard Graduate School of Education; Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital; and Director of the university-wide Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. He also chairs the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, a multi-university collaboration comprising leading scholars in neuroscience, psychology, pediatrics, and economics, whose mission is to bring credible science to bear on policy affecting young children. Under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Shonkoff served as Chair of the Board on Children, Youth, and Families. Dr. Shonkoff has received multiple

honors and elected memberships and has served on numerous professional networks and public interest advisory boards. He has authored more than 150 publications, including nine books; co-edited two editions of the widely heralded *Handbook of Early Childhood Intervention*; and served on the editorial board of several scholarly journals, including *Child Development*. He has been a visiting professor or delivered named lectureships at more than 30 universities in the United States, Australia, Canada, China, Israel, Japan, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Prior to assuming his current position, he was the Samuel F. and Rose B. Gingold Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and Dean of The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

**Dr. Mario L. Small** is the Dean of the Social Sciences Division at the University of Chicago. A recipient of the C. Wright Mills Best Book Award (2005 and 2010), the Robert Park Best Book Award (2005), the Jane Addams Best Article Award (2004), and numerous other honors, he has published books and articles on urban poverty, inequality and culture, social capital, interpersonal networks, case studies, mixed methods, community organization, social isolation, college education, the formation of new disciplines, and a host of other topics. Small's work has been published widely, and he recently co-edited an issue of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* devoted to the relationship between culture and poverty. He is Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Sociology*, a trustee of N.O.R.C., and Director of the experimental initiative the Urban Portal, a gateway to the latest in urban social science.

Professor Small's research interests include urban poverty, inequality, culture, networks, case study methods, and higher education. He is currently working on several projects dealing with urban conditions, organizations, and networks. Dr. Small is currently on the board of *Social Science Quarterly*. Next year, he'll be on the boards of the *Social Psychology Quarterly* and *Sociological Forum*. Small received his bachelor degree from Carleton College in 1996 and his master and doctoral degrees from Harvard University in 2001.

**Dr. Sandra Susan Smith** joined the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology in 2004. Smith received a B.A. in History-Sociology from Columbia University in 1992 and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1998. From 1998 to 2000, she was a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan's Poverty Research and Training Center. After Michigan, Smith accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Sociology at New York University where she remained until her move to the Bay Area.



Smith's research interests include urban poverty, joblessness, race and ethnicity, social networks and social capital, trust, and culture and social structure. In her book, *Lone Pursuit: Distrust and Defensive Individualism among the Black Poor* (Russell Sage Foundation), Smith advances current and enduring debates about black joblessness, highlighting the role of interpersonal distrust dynamics between low-income black jobholders and their jobseeking relations that make cooperation during the process of finding work a problematic affair. In her current project, tentatively titled *Why Blacks Help Less*, Smith further interrogates the process of finding work by examining racial and ethnic differences in trust dynamics and exploring the social, psychological, cultural, and structural factors that generate these differences.

**Sheri Steisel** is Federal Affairs Counsel and the Senior Director of the Human Services Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), where she has been on staff since 1988. Ms. Steisel plays a key role in the development of policy and lobbying strategy on state-federal human services issues, and she has testified in 48 state and territorial legislatures. She is the founder of the State and Local Coalition on Immigration and helped develop NCSL's Immigrant Policy Project, where she serves as a Governing Board member. Ms. Steisel previously worked for New York City's Human Resources Administration in the Income Maintenance Division on welfare policy, analyzing policies and creating strategy for the Commissioner of Income Maintenance.

Ms. Steisel serves on the Public Policy Advisory Group for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and has served on the Policy Coalition for the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families. She received her Master of Public Policy degree with concentrations in human services policy and press, politics, and public opinion from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and received her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

**Susan Sturm** is the George M. Jaffin Professor of Law and Social Responsibility and the Founding Director of the Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School. She has published numerous articles, case studies, and books on "the architecture of inclusion," institutional change, transformative leadership, workplace equality, legal education, and inclusion and diversity in higher education. Sturm is the principal investigator for a Ford Foundation grant awarded to develop the architecture of inclusion in higher education. She has worked with numerous research and educational organizations and networks seeking to build the knowledge and capacity needed to advance full participation and exercise leadership in addressing important problems.

Her research on strategies for facilitating constructive multi-racial interaction in police training is featured on the Racetalks website, [www.racetalks.org](http://www.racetalks.org). Professor Sturm was one of the architects of the national conference on The Future of Diversity and Opportunity in Higher Education. In 2007, she received the Presidential Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching at Columbia.

**Jim Tankersley** is the economics correspondent for *National Journal*. Tankersley joined *National Journal* from the *Tribune* Washington Bureau, where he covered energy, the environment, and politics, with a heavy focus on economic issues during the 2008 presidential campaign, for newspapers including *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Chicago Tribune*. He previously worked at *The Toledo Blade*, *The Rocky Mountain News* and *The Oregonian*. Tankersley and a colleague at the *Blade* won the 2007 Livingston Award for Young Journalists for their "Business as Usual" series of stories revealing the true roots of Ohio's economic decline. He was also part of the "Coingate" team at *The Toledo Blade* that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Tankersley is an Oregon native and 2000 graduate of Stanford University. He lives in Washington with his wife, Marci Prenger, and his son Max.

**Dr. Alandra L. Washington** is the Deputy Director for the Family Economic Security and Education and Learning teams at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Alandra supports the Vice President for Programs in providing overall coordination of the teams' programming efforts in support of the Foundation's mission. She is responsible for grantmaking management and administration and assists the Vice President in providing day-to-day management and oversight of the teams' human, technical, and financial resources. In addition, Alandra manages a portfolio focused on philanthropic engagement and community philanthropy. Prior to joining the Kellogg Foundation in May 2002, Alandra was chief executive officer of The Greater East St. Louis Community Fund (1997-2002). Earlier, she was executive director and community organizer for the New Spirit Organizing Office (East St. Louis, IL) (1994-1997) where she provided in-depth leadership along with neighborhood leaders in addressing social, political, and economic inequities. Alandra earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in public policy and administration from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and was a doctoral candidate at St. Louis University, where she studied organizational theory and development. She holds a doctorate degree in educational leadership and organizational analysis from Western Michigan University.



**Dr. Ali Webb** is the deputy director to chief of staff at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. Her primary responsibility is to facilitate the work of the Foundation's Michigan Team and to manage grant making outside of the three priority cities of Detroit, Grand Rapids and Battle Creek. She is also assisting with the Foundation's Africa portfolio. During 14 years with the Foundation, she has served in a variety of roles and issue areas. Most recently she was a program officer for the Family Economic Security team. She joined the Foundation as a communications manager working in food system and rural development issues.

Ali has 32 years of experience with nonprofit and governmental organizations. Previously, she was director of communications for The Nature Conservancy, an international conservation organization. She also served as director of communications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., as well as political director of the League of Conservation Voters. She started her career as the press secretary to the Mayor of Los Angeles, Tom Bradley. She received her bachelor's degree in journalism at Stanford University, and a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Ali also has a PhD in Mass Media from Michigan State University in East Lansing.

**Jocelyn Wyatt** is the Co-Lead and Executive Director of IDEO.org. Jocelyn's work focuses on identifying nonprofit and social enterprises with whom to partner and designing innovative solutions related to water and sanitation, agriculture, energy, health, financial services, and early childhood education. Jocelyn specializes in building social enterprises and advising businesses in the developing world, where she uses the market to effect social change. Jocelyn oversees IDEO.org's business development, fundraising, and operations and works to spread IDEO.org's learnings through the social sector.

Prior to joining IDEO in 2007, Jocelyn worked in Kenya as an Acumen Fund fellow with an agro-pharmaceutical company involved in the production of malaria treatments. She served as VisionSpring's interim country director in India, where she helped increase the distribution of low-cost reading glasses to the urban and rural poor. Jocelyn received an MBA from Thunderbird School of Global Management and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Grinnell College in Iowa. She is an advisory board member to Fenix International and Hattery, and an Aspen Institute First Movers Fellow.

**Henry Wilde** is the Co-Founder of Acelero Learning, a company explicitly dedicated to closing the achievement gap for young children served in the Head Start program. Founded in 2001, Acelero provides high-quality early childhood education to 4,000 low-income children and families and offers training and technical assistance to Head Start programs around the country. In the past three years, Acelero Learning has trained over 300 Head Start leaders, and its tools are utilized by 65 Head Start programs all over the country, reaching more than 20,000 children. Wilde previously served as the Deputy Secretary for the Department of Children and Families for the State of Wisconsin. In this role, he oversaw massive reforms in the state's child care subsidy program and also coordinated the creation of YoungStar, Wisconsin's child care Quality Rating and Improvement System, which has rolled out statewide. He began his career working as a Special Assistant to Marian Wright Edelman at the Children's Defense Fund, after graduating from Harvard University, magna cum laude. Wilde earned his MBA from the Harvard Business School, where he focused on social entrepreneurship. Wilde is originally from Beloit, Wisconsin.

**Dr. Richard Wylie** is the fifth President of Endicott College. He became president after successful careers as a professor and administrator at the University of Connecticut, Temple University, University of Colorado, and Lesley University. He holds a bachelor's degree from Plymouth State University and a master's and doctorate from Boston University. Dr. Wylie authored numerous publications for professional journals. He authored monographs, book chapters, and a wide variety of children's books.

He served as President of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which accredits more than 2,500 schools, colleges, and universities in New England. He has consulted with ministries of education and government agencies in Ethiopia, Portugal, Spain, and Brazil. His accomplishments have earned him such recognitions as the Jack Mombourquette Award for International Education and the Richard J. Bradley Award for his contributions to school improvement through accreditation in New England. He was one of the founders and first chair of the Board of Trustees for the Urban College of Boston. Dr. Wylie sits on numerous boards, including banks, corporate, and nonprofit agencies. He is active in all phases of community development. To say that he is a student-centered president would be an understatement.



**Karen Yacos** is the Director of Enterprise Domestic Community Outreach at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters (GMCR). She is part of GMCR's Corporate Social Responsibility team and leads outreach activities in the United States and Canada, including grantmaking, volunteerism, product donations, and employee giving. She also works with the brand marketing teams to develop and implement signature cause programs for GMCR's brands. Before joining GMCR, Karen was with ICLEI USA, an international association of local governments that have made a commitment to sustainable development.

While at ICLEI, she managed the development of the goals, measures, and best practices that will comprise the STAR Community Index—a national sustainability rating system designed to improve the livability of cities by integrating and advancing social, economic, and environmental values and solutions. Karen has also worked for several nonprofit organizations on a variety of community development, planning, and public engagement initiatives in communities across the country. These include the Orton Family Foundation, where she was the Senior Program Director for nine years, and The Seaside Institute.



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- Henry Wilde** Co-Founder and Senior Vice President of Operations, Acelero Learning, Madison, WI
- Dr. Richard Wylie** President, Endicott College, Boston, MA

Recognizing that breakthrough ideas come from different sectors and communities, the Ascend Fellowship targets diverse pioneers paving new pathways that break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

The 2012-2013 Ascend Fellows are a network of leaders from across the country who share knowledge, develop and test ideas, and coordinate their efforts. Ascend supports the Fellows with resources and a platform to accelerate the creation, amplification, and expansion of proven and promising two-generation strategies.



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ABOUT ASCEND AND THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

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Ascend is a policy program of The Aspen Institute. Ascend at the Aspen Institute is a hub for breakthrough ideas and proven strategies that move parents, especially women, and their children beyond poverty toward educational success and economic security. Ascend works to spark a new conversation around low-income families, build a network of leaders through a national fellowship program, and elevate promising two-generation policies and community solutions. Learn more at [www.ascendprogram.org](http://www.ascendprogram.org).



The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute has campuses in Aspen, Colorado, and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also maintains offices in New York City and has an international network of partners.

