

# POWER OF PLACE: A GATHERING OF LEADERS SPEAKERS

## **Cecilia Gutierrez**

### **Managing Director of Operations and Stakeholder Engagement, Blue Meridian Partners**

Cecilia Gutierrez partners with the Chief Impact Officer on strategy development and implementation and works closely with staff to establish and manage team operations to help achieve impact. Previously, Cecilia served as Deputy Director of My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBKA), Obama Foundation, where she co-led the development and launch of the MBKA Framework to Affect Systems Change. Prior to this, Cecilia spent five years as President and CEO of the Miami Children's Initiative, a place-based, cradle-to-career strategy in the community of Liberty City, Miami, Fla. Cecilia earned a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Boston College, and she was a National Urban Fellow.

## **Geoffrey Canada**

### **Founder, Harlem Children's Zone | Founder, William Julius Wilson Institute**

Geoffrey Canada is a leading advocate for children and innovator in the field of education. Canada grew up in one of the most devastated communities in the United States, the South Bronx, raised by a single mother. He earned his bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College and went on to earn a master's degree at Harvard University. He vowed to help children who grew up in disadvantaged circumstances to succeed through education. Canada created Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), a birth-through-college network of programs that today serves more than 13,000 low-income students and families in a 97-block area of Central Harlem in New York City. The unprecedented success of HCZ has attracted the attention of the media and leaders around the world. In 2011, Canada was named one of the world's most influential people by *Time* magazine and as one of the 50 greatest leaders by *Fortune* magazine in 2014. President Barack Obama created the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative to replicate the HCZ model across the country. Canada has been profiled extensively in the media, including *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *60 Minutes*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, and *Forbes*, among others. He was featured in the documentary about the dire state of American education, *Waiting for Superman*, and has received more than 25 honorary degrees including ones from Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth, and the University of Pennsylvania. He has also influenced a new generation of education reformers through his writings, having published essays in *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, as well as two critically acclaimed books on poverty and violence: *Fist Stick Knife Gun* and *Reaching Up for Manhood*. After 30 years with the organization, Canada stepped down in 2014 as Chief Executive Officer of HCZ but continues to serve as President. In June 2020, Canada founded William Julius Wilson Institute, which serves as the national platform to help communities impacted by poverty design and implement their own place-based programs. Its first initiative was to combat the devastation of COVID-19 in Black communities.

## **Jim Shelton**

### **Chief Investment and Impact Officer, Blue Meridian Partners**

James "Jim" Shelton is Chief Investment and Impact Officer at Blue Meridian Partners. In this role, Jim leads Blue Meridian's efforts to continuously increase the impact, reach, and influence of our investees and investments. Jim also oversees Blue Meridian's efforts to investigate new areas where significant focused capital can help solve problems at scale. Before becoming Chief Investment and Impact Officer, he was Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Blue Meridian. Prior to joining Blue Meridian, he founded Amandla Enterprises, an impact investment and advisory firm, and was President of Education for the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, President and Chief Impact Officer at 2U, and Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Education. Jim is currently a Senior Social Impact Advisor to KKR and Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute.

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## Secretary Miguel Cardona

### U.S. Secretary of Education

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona was sworn in as the 12th Secretary of Education on March 2nd, 2021.

Secretary Cardona previously served as the Commissioner of Education in Connecticut, a position he held after being appointed by Governor Ned Lamont in August 2019. In this position, he faced the unprecedented challenge of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and led the safe school reopening efforts in Connecticut. To do so, Secretary Cardona and his Department provided school districts with the balance of guidance, local autonomy, and oversight needed to ensure equitable and meaningful educational opportunities for students while also prioritizing public health mitigation measures. Secretary Cardona and the State of Connecticut focused on equity by arranging for student access to technology to support remote learning, helping the state become the first in the nation to provide learning devices to fulfill the identified need for all students. Recognizing the increased importance of providing resources for the social-emotional health of students and staff, Secretary Cardona and his team collaborated with the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and other stakeholders to provide free social and emotional learning courses.

Secretary Cardona's approach to leadership in Connecticut focused on partnerships: within his Education Department; between State agencies; and with local boards, educator unions, school administrator associations, child advocates, and most importantly, students and families. He attributes his success in Connecticut in part to the strong backing of those partners, as well as support from the members of the Connecticut State Board of Education and his staff at the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Under Secretary Cardona's oversight — despite the pandemic — Connecticut launched a statewide FAFSA Data Dashboard; procured a comprehensive statewide Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS); announced the State's highest ever extended graduation rates for students with disabilities and English Learners; reached a new stipulated agreement in the landmark school integration case *Sheff v. O'Neill*, established the first national requirement for high schools provide courses on black and Latino studies; and initiated systemic improvement protocols that can reach every corner of the state. His focus on equity and excellence for all learners has driven his work at all levels.

Secretary Cardona has two decades of experience as a public school educator from the City of Meriden. He began his career as an elementary teacher. He then served as a school principal in Meriden in 2003 where he led a school with outstanding programming for three to five-year-olds, students that were bilingual, and students with sensory exceptionalities. He proudly served in this role for ten years. In 2012, Miguel won the 2012 National Distinguished Principal Award for the State of CT and the Outstanding Administrator Award from UCONN's NEAG School of Education. Secretary Cardona then transitioned to lead the work of Performance and Evaluation in the district. He then assumed the role of Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, overseeing teaching, learning, and leadership alignment.

A lifelong Meriden resident, Dr. Cardona attended Meriden Connecticut Public Schools and graduated from Wilcox Technical High School. He attended CCSU for his Bachelor's degree and UCONN where he completed a Master's in Bilingual/Bicultural Education, Administrator Preparation Program, Doctorate in Education, and Executive Leadership Program (Superintendent) Certificate. Secretary Cardona is very active in his community, serving on several non-profit charitable organization boards of directors. He has had several articles published in AASPA Perspective, National School Boards Association, District Administration, and the Scholars Strategy Network.

His greatest source of pride, however, is his family. Secretary Cardona and his beautiful wife Marissa are the proud parents of two children.

## Arti Doshi

### Assistant Director, William Julius Wilson Institute

Arti Doshi serves as the Assistant Director for William Julius Wilson Institute. She most recently served as an Education Pioneers fellow for the New York Tri-State region at Achievement First, East New York Middle School. Arti has over 10 years of experience as a program manager across various education institutions and EdTech companies. She earned her bachelor's from UC Berkeley and Masters in Education Policy from Columbia University, Teachers College.

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## **Dr. Lester Young**

### **Chancellor, New York State Education Department Board of Regents**

Lester W. Young, Jr is serving his fourth term as Regent At Large, The University of the State of New York. In January 2021, Dr. Young was unanimously elected by his peers to be Chancellor. Dr. Young has made creating opportunities “where every student can be successful” the guiding principle of his more than 50 years of public service. A career educator, Dr. Young served as a teacher, guidance counselor, supervisor of special education, principal, Associate Commissioner with the New York State Education Department, and Superintendent of Community School District 13. He also led the first NYC Office of Youth Development and School Community Services. A recognized educational leader and innovator, he was responsible for establishing some of the more successful high schools and middle schools in New York City and reproducing the nationally recognized Algebra Project and Comer School Development Program. Dr. Young’s commitment to helping improve outcomes for boys and young men of color led to the establishment of the NYS My Brother’s Keeper initiative and under the leadership of the NYS Legislature, New York State remains the only state in the nation to have the My Brother’s Keeper initiative enacted into NYS law.

## **Jermain (JT) Thomas**

### **Oakland Promise Student Artist**

Jermaine is an Oakland raised independent performing artist who is attending Texas Southern University to earn a degree in Entertainment and Record Industry Management/ Communications. Jermaine’s official website, LuJT.com, is where you can find my music, music videos and press.

## **Brandon Oliver**

### **Oakland Promise Student**

## **Othello Meadows**

### **Managing Director, Portfolio Strategy & Management, Blue Meridian Partners**

Othello provides strategic and executional leadership on critical business priorities and leads innovation efforts which will expand Blue Meridian’s work as it evolves. He explores new philanthropic investment opportunities, leads due diligence on potential Blue Meridian investees, and manages relationships with current investees. In his previous role as President and CEO of Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp., a community revitalization and development organization based in Omaha, Nebraska, Othello oversaw the implementation of a \$90 million community redevelopment initiative in addition to managing the direction and daily operations of the organization. Before this, Othello was Executive Director of the Omaha Workforce Collaborative, a non-profit housed at the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, designed to restructure the workforce development efforts of the Omaha metropolitan area. His responsibilities included designing and implementing improved workforce delivery systems for low-income and low-skilled workers in the greater Omaha area and building strategic relationships with the foundations, community-based institutions, and social services agencies. In addition to his work with Blue Meridian, Othello owns and operates The Meadows Group, a neighborhood redevelopment consulting firm, and he also serves on several boards in the Omaha area. Othello earned his BA in Psychology from East Carolina University and his JD from North Carolina Central University School of Law.

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## **Dr. Russell Booker**

### **Executive Director, Spartanburg Academic Movement**

Following his retirement as Superintendent of Spartanburg County School District Seven, Russell Booker was named Executive Director of the Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM). SAM is committed to ensuring Spartanburg's youth reach academic and life success by convening partners, aligning resources, and driving equity. Russell is deeply involved in the community and serves on several local, state, and national boards. He has garnered numerous awards over his career and in June 2020, received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor for extraordinary lifetime service. Russell holds a bachelor's degree in Education from Wingate University and a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

## **Alan Cohen**

### **Executive Director, Child Poverty Action Lab**

Alan Cohen is the Founder & CEO of the Child Poverty Action Lab (CPAL). Additionally, he is the Co-Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Safe Communities and serves on the boards of TexProtects, United To Learn, Dallas Thrives, and Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas. In his previous role, Alan worked at the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), where he was the architect of DISD's nationally recognized early childhood education strategy. He is also a recent graduate of the Presidential Leadership Scholars program, a combined initiative of the Presidential Centers for George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B Johnson. Alan earned his MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and his BA in Sociology from Tulane University.

## **Taylor Toyne**

### **Chief Executive Officer, For Oak Cliff**

Taylor Toyne is the co-founder and CEO of For Oak Cliff, which he started with students as a first-year teacher. Discouraged by the disparities and inequities his students experienced, and noting that nothing had changed since his childhood, Taylor organized the inaugural FOC Back to School Festival, which drew attention to the needs of the community and led to collaborations with system leaders. For his leadership, Taylor has received awards from the United Nations, the NAACP, and Southern Methodist University (SMU), to name a few. Taylor and the FOC team won Teach For America's Social Innovation Award and have been recognized by national news outlets. Taylor is a graduate of University of North Texas, earned a master's degree from SMU, and is a 2020 Echoing Green Fellow.

## **Rob Watson**

### **Co-founder and Advisor, Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet**

Rob Watson is the Director for Partnerships and Community Impact at the EdRedesign Lab at Harvard Graduate School of Education. His work has focused on issues of civic engagement, community development and educational equity in the US, Latin America, and Africa. Prior to joining EdRedesign, Rob served as a consultant to organizations that include the World Bank, FUSE Corps, the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School, Obama Foundation and Harlem Children's Zone. A former Peace Corps Volunteer, Rob has co-founded five civil society organizations overseas, including Teach for Paraguay and the Paraguayan Government's first national youth service program as well as two initiatives in his hometown of Poughkeepsie, NY (The Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet and Lead for Poughkeepsie).

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## **Brian McClendon**

### **Managing Director of Place, William Julius Wilson Institute**

Brian McClendon serves as the Managing Director of Place with the William Julius Wilson Institute. In this role, Brian serves as a relationship manager and ongoing touchpoint for leaders of neighborhood and regional organizations and helps build capacity for place-based work by providing expertise to strengthen the systems and skills of community collaborators. A Harlem native who has served HCZ for over 25 years, Brian began his journey with the organization as a participant before joining as an AmeriCorps intern after high school. He holds a BA in Criminal Justice and a master's in Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

## **Paul Reville**

### **Founder and Director, The EdRedesign Lab at the Harvard Graduate School of Education**

Paul Reville is the Francis Keppel Professor of Practice of Educational Policy and Administration at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). He is the founding director of HGSE's Education Redesign Lab (EdRedesign). Reville is a former Secretary of Education in the administration of Governor Deval Patrick. He also chaired the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. He has been active in education reform in Massachusetts and nationally for decades. He is a frequent writer and commentator on education who has served on numerous boards and commissions and has created several education, non-profit organizations. He provides regular, educational commentary on WGBH's Boston Public Radio. At HGSE, Reville teaches courses on leadership, policy and collaborative action. He directs the school's Education Leadership Doctoral program. His work at EdRedesign focuses on locally-based collaborative action aimed at building cradle to career, child development and education pipelines to create equitable opportunities for all children to succeed.

## **Dr. Ron Ferguson**

### **Founder and Chief Executive Officer, The Basics, Inc.**

Ron Ferguson is an MIT-trained economist whose teaching, research, and social entrepreneurship span topics ranging from state and local economic development, to school reform, to early childhood parenting. A full-time faculty member at Harvard Kennedy School from 1983-2014, he has been in an adjunct role since 2014. Ron's current priority is The Basics, an initiative that he launched as Faculty Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University, to mobilize communities for infant and toddler learning and brain development. His most recent book, coauthored with Tatsha Robertson and published in 2019, is *The Formula: Unlocking the Secrets to Raising Highly Successful Children*. He grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, before earning an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a PhD from MIT, both in economics.

## **Barbara Squires**

### **Director of Leadership Development, Annie E. Casey Foundation**

Barbara Squires became the Director of Leadership Development at the Annie E. Casey Foundation in February 2010, after serving as a Senior Associate since January 2007. As Director, she oversees the implementation of the Foundation's method of leadership development, called Results Count® and directly manages several programs, including the Children and Family Fellowship. Before coming to the Casey Foundation, Barbara was the Assistant Commissioner for Maternal and Child Health at the Baltimore City Health Department. During her nearly twenty-two year tenure with the Health Department, she developed both policies and programs in the areas of childhood lead poisoning, substance abuse and maternal and child health. She holds a BA in International Studies from Johns Hopkins University.

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## **Sonali Nijhawan**

### **Director, AmeriCorps State and National**

Sonali Nijhawan has committed her career to developing leaders and growing national service. Most recently, she developed and served as the executive director of Stockton Service Corps, a six-year, \$12 million initiative to address local needs through AmeriCorps. Her professional background also includes extensive experience in education, beginning as an AmeriCorps member with City Year Chicago. Inspired by the students, families, and AmeriCorps community she met, she then went on to help found City Year Sacramento and launch the organization's 22nd site with 50 new AmeriCorps members.

## **Dr. Rev. Alfonso Wyatt**

### **Founder, Strategic Destiny: Designing Futures Through Faith and Facts**

Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt retired as vice president of the Fund for the City of New York after serving over two decades. He is founder of Strategic Destiny: Designing Futures Through Faith and Facts. Strategic Destiny seeks to find common language and opportunities for collaboration between socially engaged practitioners motivated by faith and secular practitioners motivated by evidence based learning. Alfonso Wyatt is a youth developer, sought after public speaker, educator, organizational development consultant, executive coach and public theologian. He brings a relevant message of hope, empowerment and perseverance to sacred and secular communities locally and around the country. He was a high school teacher and became the school leader in the early alternative school/humanistic education movement in NYC.

He has mentored thousands ranging from young people in foster care, juvenile detention facilities, adults in prison, as well as individuals in: corporate America, youth serving organizations, the faith community, or mentees receiving their Ph.D. He serves as an advisor and consultant to government, colleges, civic groups, community based organizations, public and charter schools, education intermediaries, foundations and the broader faith community.

Dr. Wyatt attended Howard University, Columbia Teachers College (course work), The Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy, Columbia Business School Institute for Nonprofit Management and New York Theological Seminary.

He serves on Boards of organizations that promote a progressive social agenda through programs helping people, in and out of the criminal justice system. He is a founding Board member of The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy and past Chair of The 21st Century Foundation now Powered By Tides Foundation.

Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt has transformed the lives of adults and youth in institutions, youth programs, faith-based settings, training programs, as well as the public/private sectors and colleges. He is the lead visionary of The Institute for Transformative Mentoring at the New School for Social Research, where he serves as a Visiting Fellow, as well as the Credible Messenger Institute based at Hunter School of Social Work/Silberman Center in Harlem. Dr. Wyatt's youth focused books are, Mentoring From The Inside Out: Healing Boys Transforming Men and Madd Truth: Lasting Lessons for Students of Life. Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt is an ordained Elder on the staff of The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York.

## **Amber Deas**

### **Graduate, Harlem Children's Zone**

Amber Deas is a former student at the Harlem Children's Zone. Amber recently graduated from Syracuse University with a major in public health pre-med. Amber is currently interning as a child life specialist and will be receiving a Masters degree this upcoming fall.

## **Kiara Molina**

### **Graduate, Harlem Children's Zone**

# POWER OF PLACE: A GATHERING OF LEADERS SPEAKERS

## **Kwame Owusu-Kesse**

### **Chief Executive Officer, Harlem Children's Zone**

Kwame Owusu-Kesse is the CEO of Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), a world-renowned education and poverty-fighting organization based in New York.

Appointed to the role in 2020, after his tenure as COO, Mr. Owusu-Kesse launched HCZ's transformation into a truly national organization — spearheading efforts to scale its place-based model to under-resourced communities across the country. As part of this effort, he catalyzed HCZ's national COVID-19 Relief and Recovery to support Black and brown communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Locally, Mr. Owusu-Kesse oversees the administration of HCZ's comprehensive, cradle-to-career services to over 34,000 children and families in Central Harlem.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse sees himself in the youth of HCZ. Growing up against a backdrop of poverty and family struggles, he was fortunate to have opportunities as a young boy to receive a high-quality education and reach his academic potential. After graduating high school, Mr. Owusu-Kesse earned his bachelor's degree in Economics from Harvard University and launched his career at Morgan Stanley as an analyst. During his third year with the bank, Mr. Owusu-Kesse was chosen for an externship at HCZ — an experience that paved the way for his career at HCZ.

After finishing the externship, Mr. Owusu-Kesse returned to Harvard, where he earned a Master's in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School and a Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. With his time at Harvard complete, Mr. Owusu-Kesse re-joined HCZ as senior manager and special assistant to the CEO. Two years later, he was promoted to COO and finally, CEO.

## **Dr. Michael McAfee**

### **President and Chief Executive Officer, PolicyLink**

Michael McAfee, President and CEO, leads PolicyLink, a national research and action institute focused on advancing racial and economic equity: just and fair inclusion for everyone living in America. He brings over 20 years of experience as a leader who has partnered with organizations across the public, philanthropic, and private sectors to realize this vision. During his time at PolicyLink, Michael has played a leadership role in securing Promise Neighborhoods as a permanent federal program, led efforts to improve outcomes for more than 300,000 children, and facilitated the investment of billions of dollars in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. He is also the catalyst for the growing body of work on corporate racial equity at PolicyLink. Furthermore, Michael McAfee is building a well-coordinated and sustained campaign to “win on equity” -- to free America's democracy from the oppressive blend of patriarchy, capitalism, and racism. Before joining PolicyLink, Michael served as senior community planning and development representative in the Chicago Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He earned his doctorate of education in human and organizational learning from George Washington University and completed Harvard University's Executive Program in Public Management.

## **Hayling Price**

### **Sr. Managing Director of External Engagement, Harlem Children's Zone**

Hayling Price serves as Senior Managing Director of External Engagement for Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ). He drives the organization's efforts to scale impact by leading HCZ's public policy work and building the capacity of place-based organizations across the country. To this end, he co-founded and supports the work of the William Julius Wilson Institute, HCZ's national hub for place-based, people-focused solutions that open pathways to social and economic mobility. Hayling received his BA from the University of Pennsylvania. He also received his master's in business administration from Harvard Business School and master's in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

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## Margery Turner

### Fellow, Urban Institute

Margery Turner is an Institute fellow at the Urban Institute, focusing on research and policy to advance equity and upward mobility in the United States. She previously served 10 years as Urban's senior vice president for program planning and management and 11 years as director of the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. Margery served as deputy assistant secretary for research at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 1993 through 1996, focusing HUD's research agenda on the problems of racial discrimination, concentrated poverty, and economic opportunity in America's metropolitan areas. During her tenure, HUD's research office launched three demonstration projects to test different strategies for helping families from disinvested neighborhoods gain access to opportunities through employment and education.

## Michael Nutter

### Former Mayor of Philadelphia

Michael A. Nutter is a former two-term mayor of Philadelphia who previously spent nearly 15 years in the Philadelphia City Council. Since leaving public office in 2016, he has remained active in public policy, government, and civic life. He is the inaugural David N. Dinkins Professor of Professional Practice in Urban and Public Affairs at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and holds fellowships at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Chicago, and Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics. He is a senior advisor and national spokesperson for the What Works Cities program at Bloomberg Philanthropies and a member of the external advisory council for JPMorgan Chase's AdvancingCities initiative. Mayor Nutter is past President of the United States Conference of Mayors and founder of Cities United. He is on the board of Rubicon Technologies, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the Council on Criminal Justice, Heartland Alliance, the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation, the Urban Institute and the Advisory Board of the African American Mayor's Association. Mayor Nutter maintains active involvement in critical areas of education, media, public policy, political campaigns, the corporate community and academic institutions across the country. He holds a B.S. Degree in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

## Marcus Molinaro

### Dutchess County Executive

Marcus J. Molinaro was elected as Dutchess County's 7th County Executive in November 2011. At 36, he took office as the youngest County Executive in county history. He was re-elected for a third term in 2019. Marc Molinaro was first elected to public office at the age of 18 in 1994, serving on the Village of Tivoli Board of Trustees. In 1995, he became the youngest mayor in the United States. He was re-elected mayor five times and elected four times to the Dutchess County Legislature. In 2006, he brought his passion for public service to Albany when elected to represent the 103rd District in the New York State Assembly. As County Executive, Marc serves as Second Vice President for the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) and on the board of directors. Marc has been an innovator in New York, establishing a holistic approach to dealing with residents' health. By combining the former departments of Health and Mental Hygiene into the Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH), Marc focused on population health in Dutchess County, looking at the health of the whole person – both the physical and the mental health – to best serve his or her needs.

## Richard Raya

### Chief Strategy Officer, Mission Economic Development Agency

As Chief Strategy Officer, Richard Raya is informing equitable recovery efforts that other communities are embarking upon. Before taking on this role, Richard was the Director of Mission Promise Neighborhood for four years, working with community partners to improve educational results for San Francisco's children and help families with their income, housing and health needs. He is also a member of the Executive Committee for End Child Poverty in California. Prior to this, Richard was Chief of Staff for an Oakland City Councilmember, and Director of Administration for the Alameda County Public Health Department. He has a BA and Master's in Public Policy from UC Berkeley.



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## Logan Herring

### Chief Executive Officer, The WRK Group

Logan Herring is the CEO of The WRK Group (The Warehouse, REACH Riverside, and Kingswood Community Center). REACH Riverside is a community development corporation leading the revitalization of the Riverside neighborhood, under the Warren Buffett funded Purpose Built Communities model, to include 600 units of mixed-income housing and a new state of the art Kingswood Community Center (KCC). Logan was recognized in the 2018 Delaware Business Times 40 Under 40, 2021 and 2022 Delaware Online's Most Influential Delawareans, and 2021 CEO of the Year for Large Nonprofits by Delaware Business Times. He was also inducted to the Junior Achievement Delaware Business Leaders Hall of Fame. Logan holds a BA in Business Management from Goucher College and a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from Boston College.

## Dreama Gentry

### President and Chief Executive Officer, Partners for Rural Impact

As the founder, president and CEO of Partners for Rural Impact, Dreama Gentry works to ensure the success of all rural students. For 25 years, those efforts were focused on Appalachian Kentucky, where she developed strategies to increase investment and improve outcomes on six indicators of success – kindergarten readiness, third-grade reading, eighth-grade math, high-school graduation, postsecondary degree attainment, and individual wellness. Through the experience of designing and leading the first rural Promise Neighborhood, she created a place-based, cradle-to-career approach for improving outcomes for rural students and communities across the country. The model has been shared with and adopted by communities across the country, including Walla Walla and the Yakima Valley in Washington, Cocke County in Tennessee, and South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas. In 2018, Gentry launched the annual Rural Summit to bring practitioners and leaders from across the nation to share inspirations and ideas for improving the educational outcomes for students from rural communities. An Annie E. Casey Children and Family Fellow, she also serves on the board of directors for the Pine Mountain Settlement School and Fahe, a community development non-profit.

## Marland Cole

### Executive Director, Evolve502

Marland Cole is the executive director of Evolve502, a public-private partnership working to ensure that every child in Louisville is prepared for college, career and a successful, productive life. Marland previously served as assistant vice president of governance and board support for Baptist Health, where she was responsible for activities related to the function, recruitment, education and engagement of the Baptist Health Boards. Prior to this, she served as vice president of institutional advancement for Simmons College, as chief public affairs officer for Hosparus, and as assistant vice president for Jewish Hospital and St. Mary's Healthcare. She has an MBA from Bellarmine University and a bachelor's degree in communications, with emphasis in public relations, from the University of Louisville.

## Andre Dukes

### Vice President of Family and Community Impact, Northside Achievement Zone

Andre Dukes, Vice President of Family and Community Impact, leads the Family Academy, Early Childhood, Parent Leadership and Community Power initiatives of the Northside Achievement Zone. He oversees the planning, development, and implementation of strategies to help individuals and families to achieve community level change. Before joining NAZ, Andre worked as a community pastor and in partnership with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis on the issue of youth violence prevention. He serves on the board of Think Small and is a member of the Governor's Council of Minnesotans of African Descent. Andre holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Minnesota Graduate School of Theology, Masters of Applied Child and Adolescent Development and a Certificate in Infant Mental Health and Early Childhood from the University of Minnesota Center for Early Education Development.

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## **Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff**

### **Julius B. Richmond FAMRI Professor of Child Health and Development and Director, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University**

Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D., is the Julius B. Richmond FAMRI Professor of Child Health and Development at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health and Harvard Graduate School of Education; Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital; and Founding Director of the university-wide Center on the Developing Child at Harvard. He chairs the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, whose mission is to bring credible science to bear on public policy affecting young children, and the JPB Research Network on Toxic Stress, which is developing new measures of stress effects and resilience in young children. He has received multiple honors, including elected membership to the National Academy of Medicine, the C. Anderson Aldrich Award in Child Development from the American Academy of Pediatrics; the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Public Policy for Children from the Society for Research in Child Development, and The Lego Prize. He has authored more than 180 publications.

## **Andrea Levere**

### **President Emerita, Prosperity Now**

Andrea Levere is Executive Fellow at the Yale School of Management. In this role, Andrea has drafted the Blueprint for Enterprise Capital to scale the delivery of "philanthropic equity" for nonprofits and social ventures. She is President Emerita of Prosperity Now, a founding investor and the Chair of ROC USA, and Vice Chair of the EBA Fund. Andrea was a member of the Community Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors for three years, serving as Vice Chair in 2018 and Chair in 2019. In 2013, President Obama appointed Andrea to the National Cooperative Bank's (NCB) Board of Directors and she has recently been appointed as Board Chair of their new CDFI, Rochdale Capital.

## **Jennifer Klein**

### **Chief Development Officer, Harlem Children's Zone**

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

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

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

Jennifer also serves as an Annual Fund Class Captain at Colgate University, volunteers at her children's schools, and offers pro bono support to local organizations in the Fairfield County area.

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## **Teresa Wilke**

### **Owner and Principal, Silver Arrow Strategies**

Teresa Wilke is the Owner and Principal of Silver Arrow Strategies, LLC. She is a federal grants consultant who has helped clients secure over \$140 million in grant awards, including funds from RWJF, NSF, ED, DOJ, ACF, SAMHSA, CMS and HRSA. A Grant Professionals Association-approved trainer, Teresa leverages over 20 years of federal grant writing experience, as well as her prior service as a federal appointee in the Clinton Administration White House, HUD, EPA and EEOC. Teresa earned her MBA from Washington University in St. Louis, where she is an adjunct instructor of government grant writing at the Brown School (Social Work, Public Health, and Social Policy).

## **Dr. Ryan Lugalía-Hollon**

### **Executive Director, UP Partnership**

Ryan Lugalía-Hollon serves as the CEO for UP Partnership, an education backbone that seeks to ensure all young people in San Antonio are ready for their future. An organization builder, leadership coach, and collective impact organizer, he previously served as an executive director for Excel Beyond the Bell San Antonio and the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago's Youth Safe and Violence Prevention department. He is a leader in the StriveTogether network and serves as chair of the board of directors for the Children's Funding Project. Ryan was selected as the Outstanding Young San Antonian of 2020 by the Rotary Club of San Antonio. He received a PhD in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago and BA in Anthropology from the University of Chicago.

## **Jennifer Park**

### **Executive Director, Opportunity Accelerator, Results for America**

Jennifer Park is the Executive Director of the Opportunity Accelerator and the Founding Director of What Works Cities (WWC) Certification at Results for America, leading programs that enhance the capacity of governments to promote economic mobility, reduce racial disparities, and improve the wellbeing of residents. She created WWC Certification, the first-ever national standard of excellence for well-managed, data-driven local government, and recently, launched WWC's City Budgeting for Equity and Recovery program, an effort to help 28 U.S. cities confront budget crises while strengthening equity following COVID-19. Previously, Jenn managed the expansion of Echoing Green's Work on Purpose program, and has experience in political and advocacy organizing with Mayors Against Illegal Guns (now Everytown for Gun Safety), the 57th Presidential Inaugural Committee, President Barack Obama's reelection campaign.

## **Jennifer Blatz**

### **President and Chief Executive Officer, StriveTogether**

Jennifer Blatz is the president and CEO of StriveTogether, a national movement of almost 70 communities across the United States working to enable nearly 14 million young people to succeed in school and life. For two decades, she has designed, developed and implemented strategies that drive large-scale community improvement through partnership with local leaders and organizations. Prior to taking the helm of StriveTogether, Jennifer served in leadership roles, including Deputy Director and the Senior Director of Operations. She was instrumental in launching the national Cradle to Career Network and creating the StriveTogether Theory of Action™. Before leading StriveTogether, Jennifer was a founding member of StrivePartnership, serving Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

# POWER OF PLACE: A GATHERING OF LEADERS SPEAKERS

## **Carol Naughton**

### **Chief Executive Officer, Purpose Built Communities**

Carol Redmond Naughton is the Chief Executive Officer of Purpose Built Communities, an incubator and catalyst for social change dedicated to improving racial equity, economic mobility and health outcomes in communities across the country. Purpose Built Communities works to improve neighborhoods so that they become platforms that support families and individuals working to improve their lives. Carol serves on the Board of the Directors of the Low-Income Investment Fund and serves on several national advisory boards including Build Healthy Places Network and Fifth Third Bank's National Community Advisory Forum. She is a graduate of the Emory University School of Law and Colgate University.

## **Robert Runcie**

### **Chief in Residence, Chiefs for Change**

Robert Runcie is a chief in residence at Chiefs for Change. He provides coaching, advising, and thought partnership to fellow members of our network and participants in our Future Chiefs leadership development program.

As the former superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, he led the nation's sixth-largest district, with more than 260,000 students and 35,000 employees, and oversaw an annual budget of \$4 billion. Runcie has blended his two decades of private sector technology, management consulting, and entrepreneurship experience with 18 years of leadership in urban public schools to deliver innovation, organizational and systems change, and improved student outcomes. He is nationally recognized for his expertise in communications, technology and innovation, crisis management, enterprise risk management, and for building effective leadership teams.

Runcie has been recognized as Superintendent of the Year by Florida Association of District School Superintendents; National Alliance of Black School Educators; Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents; and Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools.

He serves on boards for several other national and local organizations, including United Way of Broward County, Urban League of Broward County, Code.org, and National Education Equity Lab.

Runcie knows first-hand how a high-quality education can transform a person's life. Born in Jamaica, he moved to the United States as a young boy and became the first in his family to finish high school and graduate from college, earning his bachelor's from Harvard College and his MBA from Northwestern University. He later founded a management and technology consulting company and held several strategic leadership positions with Chicago Public Schools.

## **Wendy Viola**

### **Managing Director, Knowledge and Awareness Building, William Julius Wilson Institute**

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

# POWER OF PLACE: A GATHERING OF LEADERS SPEAKERS

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## **Takema Robinson**

### **Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Converge Consulting**

Takema Robinson is the CEO and founder of Converge with over 20 years of experience in strategic philanthropy, policy advocacy, and fundraising. Takema has built a company with clients like the Ford Foundation, Walton Family Foundation, Walmart Foundation, and George Soros's Open Society Foundation, representing over \$50 billion in philanthropic investment worldwide. In 2017, Takema worked along-side grassroots criminal justice organizations, organizing philanthropic investments to pass Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards' signature legislation - the Justice Reinvestment Initiative - and in 2018, Takema spearheaded a \$2 million fundraising effort in 90 days for Amendment 2, a statewide ballot initiative to end the racist practice of non-unanimous juries in Louisiana. Takema serves on the board of both the Innocence Project New Orleans as well as Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast.