PAHARA INSTITUTE

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Pahara-Aspen Education Fellows

Spring 2013 Cohort

Jay Altman
Chief Executive Officer, FirstLine Schools

Jay Altman is CEO of FirstLine Schools, a non-profit organization whose mission is to create and inspire great public schools in New Orleans. FirstLine Schools directly operates charter schools, focusing on turning around failing schools. From 2005 to early 2008, Jay worked in London as Director of Education for ARK Schools, developing a network of charter-type schools and helping develop training programs for leaders of open admissions urban schools, including Future Leaders, a program for aspiring principals of open-admissions urban schools, and Teaching Leaders, a program for mid-level school leaders. Prior to this he was co-founder and a school leader of New Orleans Charter Middle School, the first charter school in New Orleans. Jay serves on the boards of Leading Educators, New Leaders and the Teaching Trust. Jay is the proud father of two children, Calder and Talia, and the lucky husband of Adrienne.

Susan Asiyanbi
Senior Vice President, Teacher Preparation, Support and Development, Teach for America

Susan Asiyanbi is responsible for ensuring corps members have the necessary training and ongoing program support to lead their students to success as highly effective teachers. After teaching fourth grade math and science in Newark as a 2001 corps member, Asiyanbi joined Teach for America staff as a program director in 2003 supporting new corps members in the Newark region. She then served as managing director of the charter Philadelphia Institute and subsequently as the Vice President of Institutes before leaving to pursue her graduate degree. Prior to returning to Teach For America, Asiyanbi summered at Boston Consulting Group and joined Sears Holding Company as a senior leader associate reporting to the CEO on key strategic initiatives. Asiyanbi earned her B.A. from Williams College, received her M.A. in Education Administration & Supervision from St. Peters College, and obtained her M.B.A. from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. She's a founding board member of Chicago's Noble Day Care, a Link Unlimited sponsor, and a 2013 Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow.

Jim Blew
Director of K-12 Reform/Consultant, Walton Family Foundation

Jim Blew has served as the Director of K-12 Reform for the Walton Family Foundation (WFF) since 2005. WFF is the nation's largest funder of K-12 reform groups, having invested more than $1 billion in initiatives that expand parent choice and equal opportunity in education. From 2000 to 2005, Jim directed various campaigns for the Alliance for School Choice and its predecessor, the American Education Reform Council. Prior to committing himself full-time to the parent-choice movement, Jim worked at political and marketing communications firms in New York and California. His experience includes several political issue campaigns and high-profile corporate crises. Jim lives near Los Angeles with his wife and two children. He holds a BA from Occidental College and an MBA from Yale University.

Tom Boasberg
Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

Since being unanimously appointed as Superintendent in January of 2009, Tom Boasberg has led the district's efforts to accelerate its progress in student achievement and better serve the families of Denver. Over the past four years, the district has posted record enrollment increases (with a higher rate of enrollment growth than any other major urban school district in the country), increased its four-year graduation rate by 16 percentage points, dramatically expanded the number of preschool and full-day kindergarten slots, and continued the student-achievement gains that began with the creation of the Denver Plan in 2005.

Since the start of the Denver Plan, DPS has gone from being the district with the lowest rate of student academic growth among major Colorado districts to the district with the highest rate of academic achievement growth for both students in poverty and middle class students. The District has also more than doubled the number of its students taking and receiving college credit for Advanced Placement courses. And, it has cut its drop-out rate in half.

He earned his B.A. in History summa cum laude from Yale College and J.D. with Distinction from Stanford Law School.

Stacey Childress
Deputy Director of Education, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Stacey Childress leads the K-12 Next Generation Learning Team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The team is working toward the day when all students experience personalized learning as the norm rather than the exception by investing in learning technologies and new school models.

Prior to joining the foundation, Stacey was on the faculty of the Harvard Business School where she wrote and taught about entrepreneurial activity in public education in the United States. Her work explored the strategies of leadership teams in urban public school districts, charter schools, and nonprofit and for-profit enterprises with missions to improve the public system. During her time at Harvard she wrote three books and more than thirty cases and articles about education entrepreneurship. She also won teaching awards from her students and the HBS dean for her elective course on education entrepreneurship, which was taken by more than 1,000 students between 2004 and 2010.

Before working in academia, Stacey was a co-founder of an enterprise software company and spent ten years in a Fortune 500 company in sales and general management. Early in her career, she taught in a Texas public high school. She is a graduate of Baylor University and Harvard Business School, where she was the first woman in school history to be elected by her classmates to deliver the class day graduation address.

J. Kristean Dragon
Chief Executive Officer, Citizens of the World Charter Schools

Kriste Dragon began her work in education as a middle school mathematics teacher in South Los Angeles. She later served as Executive Director of Teach For America in Los Angeles and Vice President of regional operations for six of Teach For America's western regions. In that role, Kriste was responsible for the placement and ongoing support of over 900 Teach For America corps members. She has also served as professional development coordinator at UCLA's Center X, developing mathematics curricula and training more than 4,000 teachers in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Kriste served as founding board chair for Citizens of the World Charter School Hollywood, vice chair of Community Magnet Charter School for five years, and a board member of Larchmont Charter Schools for eight years. She has a Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia and a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Alabama. Kriste is a member of the first cohort of the Broad Fellowship for Education Leaders.

Mike Feinberg
Co-Founder, KIPP Foundation & Executive Vice Chair, KIPP Houston

Dr. Mike Feinberg is Co-Founder of the KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) Foundation and Executive Vice Chair of KIPP Houston, which includes 21 public charter schools: 9 middle schools, 9 primary schools, and three high schools. To date, 90% of the KIPPsters who have left the KIPP Houston middle schools have gone on to college.

After graduating from Penn, Dr. Feinberg joined Teach For America and taught fifth grade in Houston, Texas. In 1994, he co-founded KIPP with Dave Levin and established KIPP Academy Houston a year later. In 2000, he co-founded the KIPP Foundation to help take KIPP to scale. Today, KIPP is a network of 125 high-performing public schools around the nation serving nearly 40,000 children.

In 2005, Dr. Feinberg led the effort to start a public K-8 school in Houston for Hurricane Katrina evacuees from New Orleans. The school, NOW College Prep (New Orleans West), opened in 10 days. Drs. Feinberg and Levin have been awarded The Thomas B. Fordham Prize for Excellence in Education, the National Jefferson Award for Greatest Public Service by a Private Citizen, and were named to the list of "America's Best Leaders" by *U.S. News & World Report* and received the Presidential Citizens Medal in the Oval Office of the White House. They also were the recipients of the Charles Bronfman Prize, the Manhattan Institute's William E. Simon prize for Lifetime Achievement in Social Entrepreneurship, and the Guardian of the Human Spirit award by the Holocaust Museum Houston. Dr. Feinberg and Dr. Levin's efforts became the story told by Washington Post reporter, Jay Mathews, in his book "Work hard. Be nice." KIPP has been featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show, CBS 60 Minutes, ABC World News Tonight*, and in *The New York Times, Houston Chronicle, Washington Post*, and more.

Mike received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991 and a Masters of Education from National-Louis University in 2005. In 2010, Yale University awarded Mike an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters. He is also an Ashoka Fellow. Mike is married to Colleen Dippel, and they have two children: Gus, age 7, and Abadit, age 2, who they adopted from Ethiopia in 2011.

Joe Ferguson
Chief Operating Officer, Mastery Charter Schools

Joe Ferguson serves as the Chief Operating Officer for Mastery Charter Schools. As COO, he oversees school operations, human resources, recruitment, facilities, and technology for the Philadelphia-based charter network. Mastery currently operates 12 schools, serving approximately 6,000 students, and employing 800 people.

Prior to Mastery, Mr. Ferguson held leadership positions at the School District of Philadelphia. He was the Chief of Staff to the School Reform Commission, the District's governance body, where he managed day-

to-day operations for the Commission, Legal, Auditing, Development, and Inspector General offices. Prior to that role, he served as an Executive Director to both the COO and CEO of Philadelphia's public schools, respectively. As part of his work, he led efforts in facilities management, cost reduction, and large-scale program management. He is also a graduate of the Broad Residency in Urban Education.

Before pursuing his professional passion in education, Mr. Ferguson's career began in management consulting. While consulting for American Management Systems and Deloitte Consulting, Mr. Ferguson served on projects focused primarily in financial services and technology sectors. Mr. Ferguson received his MBA from New York University. He also graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Fisher Program in Management and Technology, earning undergraduate degrees from Penn Engineering and the Wharton School.

Karen Symms Gallagher Ph.D.
Emery Stoops and Joyce King Stoops Dean, Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California

Since becoming Dean in 2000, Dr. Gallagher has led her faculty, students, staff and alumni in a strategic plan with a mission of strengthening urban education locally, nationally and globally.

Dean Gallagher's distinguished career has established her reputation as one who transforms educational organizations to successfully achieve their goals. Under her leadership, the USC Rossier School has risen to #15 among all universities in U.S. News and World Report 2013 national rankings. Its highly innovative masters and doctoral programs prepare educational leaders to be change agents as teachers, administrators, policy leaders and scholars.

The Dean led her faculty in the design of a revolutionary Ed.D. program, now a national model, whose students tackle problems of practice in schools and districts. In 2009, the Rossier School launched its groundbreaking online Master of Arts in Teaching degree, the first of its kind from a major research university, which has enrolled 3,000 students living in all 50 states and two dozen countries. In June, the program celebrated its 1,000th graduate, with the majority of the graduates now working in underserved schools. Rossier is now launching additional online programs, including a Master of Education in School Leadership.

On a global scale, Dean Gallagher's team is building linkages with universities and school systems throughout Pacific Rim countries, and recently launched its Global Executive Ed.D. program to prepare administrators worldwide for 21st century education leadership.

Locally, Dean Gallagher and her faculty developed and recently opened the first USC Hybrid High School, a transformational charter school serving high-need students with personalized support and flexible hours, which can include weekends and longer weekdays.

Ron Gonzales
President & Chief Executive Officer, Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley

Ron Gonzales is the President and CEO of the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley (HFSV). The HFSV is a public foundation dedicated to inspiring community philanthropy and engaging people to invest in educational achievement, healthy aging, convening and engaging the Latino community, and leadership development of a thriving Hispanic community in Silicon Valley. Prior to the HFSV, Gonzales was Founder, Chairman and CEO of Presencia, LLC. He has over 35 years of technology and public policy experience. Presencia, LLC provided marketing and sales consulting services in the government, education, enterprise and SMB markets.

He also served as Mayor of San José, the capital of Silicon Valley and the nation's 10th largest city, from 1999-2006. His achievements included nationally recognized initiatives that strengthened neighborhoods, improved public education, and ensured the economic vitality of the city with high quality public services and effective solutions to affordable housing and regional traffic congestion.

Before his election as Mayor, Gonzales worked as an executive with the Hewlett-Packard Company, in the areas of marketing, human resources, and corporate philanthropy. Gonzales served for eight years (1989-1996) on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. While Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, he introduced technology into county government and launched the County's performance-based budgeting system. As a two-time mayor and member of the Sunnyvale City Council (1979-87), Gonzales helped initiate governmental efficiency measures that were recognized in the best-selling book Reinventing Government.

Aimee Guidera
Founder & Executive Director, Data Quality Campaign

Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Founder and Executive Director, leads the Data Quality Campaign's (DQC) efforts to encourage policymakers to increase the availability and use of high-quality education data to improve student achievement. Aimee was named one of *TIME's* School of Thought: 12 Education Activists of 2012 for her devoted and proactive leadership on the data front.

Prior to launching DQC in 2005, Aimee served as the director of the Washington, DC, office of the National Center for Educational Accountability, where she built and managed relations with leaders in business and education organizations as well as managed the administration of the Just for the Kids school improvement model. From 1995 to 2003, Aimee filled various roles at the National Alliance of Business (NAB), supporting the corporate community's efforts to increase achievement at all levels of learning. As NAB vice president of programs, she managed the Business

Coalition Network, which included more than 1,000 business-led coalitions focused on improving education in communities across the country.

Prior to joining NAB, Aimee focused on school readiness, academic standards, and accountability systems with the Center for Best Practices at the National Governors Association. She also taught for the Japanese Ministry of Education in five Hiroshima high schools, where she interviewed educators and studied the Japanese education system.

Aimee received her bachelor of arts from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs and earned a master's degree in public policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Christina Heitz
Managing Director, The Broad Superintendents Academy, The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems

Christina Heitz is the Managing Director of The Broad Superintendents Academy. She is responsible for all aspects of the program including recruitment, selection, session design and training, and professional development. Previously, Heitz worked on a national campaign to raise public awareness about the current crisis in education with The Broad Foundation. Prior to her work with The Broad Foundation, she served in leadership roles at AT&T, Northpoint Communications and SBC Communications. Heitz started her career as a brand manager with Ralston Purina. Heitz holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Duke University and an M.B.A. from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

Mike Johnston
State Senator, Colorado State Senate

Mike Johnston represents Northeast Denver in the Colorado State Senate and serves as a policy advisor to New Leaders for New Schools. Mike first entered education as a high school English teacher in Greenville, Mississippi, an experience that led him to write his acclaimed book, "In the Deep Heart's Core." After leaving the Mississippi Delta Mike co-founded New Leaders for New Schools, a national non-profit that recruits and trains urban principals. Mike started his own career as a principal leading two alternative high schools serving Colorado students held in state custody or living in group homes and detention centers. Most recently, Mike was the co-founder and principal of MESA (Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts), a redesigned urban high school in the Mapleton Public Schools that made Colorado history by becoming the first public high school in which 100 percent of seniors were admitted to four-year colleges.

He has been an adjunct professor of education law at the University of Denver and has served as an advisor to state and federal political campaigns around the country, most recently as a top education advisor to Barack Obama's presidential campaign and transition. Recently named to Time Magazine's "40 Under 40" and Forbes Magazine's list of the "7 Most Powerful Educators," Mike holds degrees from Yale College, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Yale Law School. He sits on the board of many local and national organizations including the "I Have a Dream" Foundation and the Urban League. He lives in Northeast Denver with his wife Courtney, who is Deputy District Attorney in Denver, their two sons Emmet and Seamus, and their new baby girl Ava.

David Keeling
Vice President for Communications, TNTP

David Keeling serves as Vice President for Communications for TNTP, a national nonprofit working to provide excellent teachers to the students who need them most and advance policies and practices that ensure effective teaching in every classroom. David leads TNTP's national communications strategy, oversees its publications efforts, and advises over 30 project sites and urban school districts on communicating teacher quality-related policies and initiatives.

Over the last decade, David's words have appeared in teacher recruitment ads in the New York City subway, in news outlets from *Education Week* to *The New York Times*, and in the remarks and messages of some of the nation's most prominent education leaders. He co-authored TNTP's acclaimed 2009 study *The Widget Effect*, which shaped major legislative reforms to teacher evaluation policies nationwide. Most recently, he managed the writing and publication of its 2012 report, *The Irreplaceables: Understanding the Real Retention Crisis in America's Urban Schools*.

David joined TNTP in 2001 as Communications Manager for the NYC Teaching Fellows, the country's largest urban alternative teacher certification program, where he led communications with Teaching Fellows in 1,100 schools and nearly 20,000 annual applicants. He holds a BA in English from Middlebury College and lives in Chicago with his wife, Jennifer, and their two children, Zadie and Auden.

Emily Lawson
Founder, DC Prep

Emily Lawson is the Founder, Outgoing CEO and a Board Member of DC Prep. Since 2002, she has led the growth of DC Prep from a single middle school to the highest-performing charter network in the nation's capital. DC Prep enrolls 1,100 Preschool – 8th grade students at three campuses and plans growth to ten campuses in the city's most underserved areas.

Emily's work at DC Prep has been featured in *The Washington Post* and The Economist as well as on the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, and has attracted the support of major national foundations focused on public education reform. Based on the 2012 DC-CAS, DC Prep's Edgewood Middle Campus is the highest-performing charter middle school in the city, and DC Prep's Edgewood Elementary Campus is the highest-performing public elementary school east of Rock Creek Park.

Before launching DC Prep, Emily was the Vice President of Operations for Victory Schools and a member of the start-up team at the Academy of the Pacific Rim in Boston. Her business career includes three years at The Boston Consulting Group and two years at the New York private equity firm, New Mountain Capital.

Emily holds an MBA with Distinction from Harvard Business School and an MPA, with a focus on education, from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina where she was a Morehead Scholar. In May 2007, she completed the Broad Center's Associate Residency in Urban Education.

Michael Magee
Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Rhode Island Mayoral Academies

Michael Magee is co-founder and CEO of Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (RIMA). After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, he spent ten years teaching American Literature and Philosophy at Haverford College, Wheaton College and Rhode Island School of Design. In 2004 his book Emancipating Pragmatism won the Elizabeth Agree Prize in American Studies. During these years Dr. Magee was involved in non-profit advocacy and politics as a member of an active political family with a special focus on public education. In 2007, Magee left academia to help found and direct Mayor Dan McKee's innovative municipal department, the Office of Children Youth and Learning in Cumberland, Rhode Island. The following year, with the help of national education policy experts and a broad coalition of Rhode Island mayors, he and Mayor McKee

launched the mayoral academy initiative, advocating for and securing dramatic changes to Rhode Island's charter school and funding laws while launching RIMA as a statewide incubator of the mayoral academy school model. Michael lives in Cumberland, RI with his wife Susanna and their three daughters.

Trish Millines Dziko
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Technology Access Foundation

Trish Millines Dziko founded TAF in 1996 after spending 15 years as a developer, designer and manager in the high tech industry. A native of New Jersey who attended Monmouth College (now Monmouth University) on a basketball scholarship, she graduated with a B.S. in Computer Science in 1979 at a time when few people of color and few women were entering the field. Her successful career brought her to Microsoft in the mid-1980s, just as the pioneering software company was set to become a worldwide brand.

Over the next decade of tremendous growth, she saw very little change in the high tech industry: women and people of color remained grossly under-represented. After looking closely at the problem as Microsoft's first Sr. Diversity Administrator, she determined the only solution was to increase the number of qualified people graduating from college. She traced the root of the problem to the lack of access to rigorous, relevant technology training in our public schools, particularly those in traditionally underserved communities of color. Trish left Microsoft in 1996, the same year she founded TAF.

In addition to her work at TAF, Trish remains a committed, proactive leader and serves on the boards of several organizations that focus on children and education. Trish has received dozens of local and national awards for her work improving the educational opportunities for children of color.

Trish and her partner live on Vashon Island and are the proud parents of 4 children.

Vanessa Rodriguez
Chief Executive Officer, District 79 Alternative Schools and Programs, New York City Department of Education

Vanessa Rodriguez is the Chief Executive Officer of District 79 - Alternative Schools and Programs for the New York City Department of Education. This district is a unique citywide network of more than 300 alternative schools and programs serving more than 65,000 disengaged, over-aged, under-credited students. Rodriguez previously served as Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer of District 79, and led the talent development and strategic planning process of the district.

Previously, Rodriguez was the national director of recruitment and

admissions for New Leaders for New Schools, where she designed the criteria and metrics that led to the selection of more than 100 aspiring urban public school principals in six cities. She was also executive director of the New York City program, cultivating partnerships with the New York City Department of Education, and other stakeholders.

Prior to her work at New Leaders for New Schools, Rodriguez worked in various capacities for Teach For America, including leadership roles in Houston and New York City. Rodriguez began her education career as a bilingual elementary school teacher in the Bronx and as the school chapter leader for the United Federation of Teachers. She was a member of the 2009 New York City Joel Klein Chancellor's Fellowship program.

Rodriguez has bachelor's degrees in sociology and education from Boston College and received the 2012 John A. Dinneen S.J., Alumni Community Service Award.

Joel Rose
Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, New Classrooms Innovation Partners

Joel Rose is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of New Classrooms Innovation Partners. Previously, he was the Chief Executive Officer of School of One, an initiative within the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) that uses a mix of live, collaborative, and online instruction in order to provide students with instruction customized to their unique academic needs and learning styles. Prior to conceptualizing and leading School of One, Rose served as Chief Executive for Human Capital and as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Chancellor at NYCDOE. Rose has been involved in education for more than 15 years, first as a fifth grade teacher in Houston and later as a senior executive at Edison Schools where he served as the company's Associate General Counsel, Chief of Staff, General Manager, and Vice President for School Operations.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Tufts University, a law degree from the University of Miami School of Law, and is a graduate of the Broad Superintendents Academy.

Aylon Samouha
Chief Executive Officer, Lighthouse Academies

Aylon Samouha serves as the CEO of Lighthouse Academies running 21 schools in low-income communities across the Midwest and East Coast committed to preparing students for college through a rigorous arts infused program. Prior to his role at Lighthouse, he served as Chief Schools Officer at Rocketship Education; leading the highest performing network of low-income schools in the state of California, designing the academic model and blended learning approach, and growing the network from 3 to 7 schools. Aylon spent a few years as

a Senior Vice President at Teach For America leading pre-service institutes and in-service support for corps members in their 2-year teaching commitments during a period of growth from 4,000 to 8,000 corps members. After graduating Columbia University with a BA in English, he spent the first part of his career at Score Educational Centers working with families, leading centers and ultimately managing 60+ centers across the country. Aylon is a proud husband and father and an accomplished jazz guitarist with two released CDs and regular performances throughout the Midwest.

Brian Sims
Managing Director for Training Academies and Teacher Development, Academy for Urban School Leadership

Brian Sims is Managing Director for Training Academies and Teacher Development at the Academy for Urban School Leadership (AUSL) in Chicago. AUSL is a non-profit that partners with Chicago Public Schools to turn around chronically under-performing schools through a comprehensive transformation process built on a foundation of specially-trained AUSL teachers. AUSL has been training new teachers in its innovative Urban Teacher Residency Program since 2002 and has 190 residents in the program in 2012-13. In 2006 AUSL opened the first AUSL-managed "turnaround" school in Chicago. Since then the organization has taken over a total of nineteen turnaround schools, which are averaging annual student achievement gains that are three-times greater than the district average. AUSL currently manages twenty-five schools with over 14,000 students, and it plans to continue expanding its impact in the coming years.

Brian joined AUSL in 2003 with responsibility for designing and launching AUSL's first teacher training high school, which opened in the fall of 2004. He served as principal of the Chicago Academy High School from 2004-2007. Prior to joining AUSL, Brian was an assistant principal at an award-winning charter high school in San Francisco. Brian began his career in education as a middle and high school Social Studies and English teacher in Lafayette, Louisiana and Newark, New Jersey. He has Master's degrees in History and Education from Stanford University and a B.A. from Dartmouth College. Brian received his Principal Certification from National-Louis University and is a graduate of New Leaders for New Schools.

Kimberly Ann Smith
President, K12 digimedia

Kimberly A. Smith is President of K12 digimedia, a digital education strategy and development company focused on helping organizations create engaging digital services for PreK-20 states, teachers and students.

Ms. Smith was Vice President of Education at PBS where she directed the strategy and execution of web-based initiatives, including the creation of a national public broadcasting PreK-12 digital service delivered by local public television stations, and the development of early childhood and professional development offerings.

Prior to PBS, Ms. Smith was Vice-President of Product Development for Discovery Education. In her role, Ms. Smith directed the strategy and production of a portfolio of broadband, DVD and CD-ROM products for K-12 schools, including Discovery Streaming – the flagship video-on-demand service in 60% of K-12 schools – and a line of curriculum-based digital products.

Prior to joining Discovery Education, Ms. Smith worked at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting with the Annenberg Project where she oversaw the launch of the online distribution channel, Learner Online, and pioneered delivering interactive educational content.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Ms. Smith is Board Chair of the Arts and Technology Academy Public Charter School and Board Secretary for the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO). She is a member of the Greater Washington Urban League and the Executive Leadership Council's NextGen Network. She is also a former board member of the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC), an organization promoting diversity in media organizations, and Founder of the Multicultural Alliance at Discovery Communications.

Ms. Smith received her M.B.A from Johns Hopkins University and her Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Diane Tavenner
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Summit Public Schools

Diane Tavenner is the Founder and CEO of Summit Public Schools (SPS), a leading charter management organization serving Silicon Valley's diverse communities. Summit currently operates four schools serving 1,200 students. With the mission to ensure all students have the opportunity to not only attend, but succeed in, a four-year college or university, Summit will grow to serve 6,000 students from across Silicon Valley through 14 schools,

creating the nation's first *College Ready Corridor*.

Employing a model that leverages technology, world-class teaching and a rigorous, college, career and life prep curriculum, Summit's graduates are completing four-year college degrees at three times the national average and eight times the national average for students of color.

Diane founded Summit's flagship school, Summit Preparatory Charter High School, in 2003, quickly earning the reputation as one of the best public high schools in the nation, according to national rankings by Newsweek and US News & World Report. The overwhelming community demand for more Summit schools was featured in the acclaimed 2009 documentary film, *Waiting for Superman*.

Diane serves as the Board Chair of the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) Board of Directors representing the majority of California's 1,000+ charter schools. Diane has been honored as the Hart Vision Leader of the Year by the CCSA, and the Dreamer of the Year by the Young Dreamers Network.

Prior to Summit, Diane was a public school teacher, administrator and leader in traditional urban and suburban public schools throughout California. She holds degrees from the University of Southern California and Stanford University.

Gregory White
President & Chief Executive Officer, LEARN Charter School Network

Gregory White is President & CEO of LEARN Charter School Network, a nationally recognized, network of high performing, college prep, elementary schools serving low-income communities in Chicago. At LEARN, White is leading an entrepreneurial effort to grow the network from six schools serving 2,400 students to 13 schools serving 8,000 students. LEARN was recently chosen by Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network to be a recipient of a $1 million grant as one of six charter school networks in the nation that are "doing it right."

Prior to LEARN, White was the Vice President of Strategy & Operations for the Chicago Community Trust—a $1.8 billion community foundation that granted over $115 million annually. White has over 15 years of investment, entrepreneurial and finance experience. He was a Co-Founder and Partner of a private equity firm, Chicago Venture Partners, L.P. (CVP), where he identified, evaluated and structured investments in rapidly growing companies and provided assistance to the fund's portfolio companies. Prior to CVP, he gained investment experience working at Salomon Brothers, Continental Bank and Shorebank. At Shorebank, he conceived, designed and managed an advanced entrepreneurial development program, The Runners' Club, which trained 84 entrepreneurs who raised $14 million in capital and created 350 new jobs.

He currently serves on the board of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, a $75 billion wholesale bank, National Louis University and Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School.

White graduated with academic honors from Brown University with Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Economics and Development Studies. He earned a Master's in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School. He is a Lecturer at Kellogg where he teaches a course entitled "Entrepreneurship and New Venture Formation" and also teaches in the Executive Education program. He has been nominated for "Professor of the Year" on two occasions.