



## Press Kit

# “Preparing Education and Workforce Leaders to Rise Up for Equity in the 21st Century”

### Event MC, Welcome Remarks



#### JOLINE COLLINS

Family Community Engagement Program Associate  
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Joline is a program associate for IEL’s [Family and Community Engagement \(FCE\)](#) team. In this role she provides logistical and programmatic support for the annual Family and Community Engagement National Conference as well as co-manage IEL’s District Leaders Network. In addition, she oversees communication for the FCE team and supports IEL on special initiatives.

Prior to joining IEL, Joline worked as a training account executive for Spitfire Strategies, a national communications firm that works with nonprofits and foundations to provide strategic communication counsel, develop winning campaigns, and increase the capacity of staff through training and technical assistance. While there, she was responsible for creating tailored training collateral and coordinating logistics for trainings in Washington, D.C. and abroad.

### Recognition of the Land and Indigenous Peoples of Washington D.C.



#### LYNDA TREDWAY

Senior Associate  
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Lynda Tredway is Senior Associate for the Leaders for Today and Tomorrow Project, a catalyst for engaging IHEs, school districts, and nonprofits in uncovering and coordinating their efforts in social justice preparation and support of urban and rural leaders in our most vulnerable schools. Prior to her role at IEL, she was the founding coordinator of the Principal Leadership Institute (PLI) at UC Berkeley’s Graduate School of Education (2000-2012) where she designed the course of study, taught multiple courses and



provided professional development to principals and assistant principals in urban districts. Her recent publications include "Actions Matter: How School Leaders Enact Equity Principles" in the *Handbook of Urban School Leadership*, co-authored with Jessica Rigby and *Leading from the Inside Out: Expanded Roles of Teachers in Equitable Schools*, co-authored with W. Norton Grubb.

### Spoken Word Performance



#### NAIM OWENS

Spoken Word Performer

Malik Naim (May 27th, 1994) is an American rapper, singer, songwriter and spoken word artist who uses art as a platform to discuss and evoke thought around identity, pain, inner conflict and faith in Allah (SWT). Malik believes that art can serve as a bridge and guide in the human experience. He has toured and collaborated in places such as the United Kingdom, Canada and his home, America. He has performed for diverse crowds of different faiths and walks of life. With diligent work and humble efforts, Malik has accumulated over 3 million plays on SoundCloud, and has a social following of over 30 thousand. He has worked and performed alongside the likes of Dawud Wharnsby, Raef of Awakening Records, Omar Esa, Kamal Saleh, Khaled Siddiq, and many others. Changing the world is no small feat, but Malik believes art and expression play a big role in positive change and growth.

### Welcome Remarks



#### ALISE MARSHALL

Director of Strategy and New Ventures

Public Welfare Foundation

Alise Marshall is the Director of Strategy and New Ventures at the Public Welfare Foundation. She comes to the Foundation with a strong history of advocating for justice and opportunity for people in need, and a proven track record of leading system reform for transformative change. In this role, Alise works with foundation leadership and programmatic staff to identify new levers for impact and build cross-sector collaborations for social change.

Prior to joining Public Welfare Foundation, Alise served as Senior Manager for Economic Opportunity at Walmart Foundation where she oversaw the Foundation's Inclusive Economies portfolio, a combined \$10 million philanthropic portfolio designed to accelerate impact for new majority communities.



Before joining Walmart Foundation, Alise spent six years in the Obama administration where she served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Education. Alise managed the development of the Department's strategic plan and led efforts to create transformative impact in low-income communities. Alise was on the launch team for the President's My Brother's Keeper Federal Task Force and managed its policy apparatus, designing solutions to expand access to opportunity for and address barriers experienced by boys and young men of color. Alise is a graduate of the University of Kentucky.

### [Welcome Video](#)



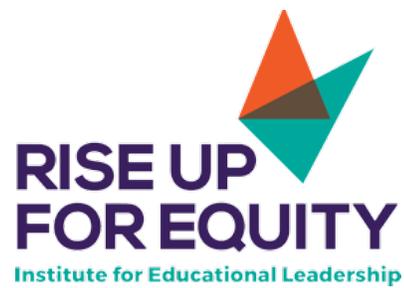
#### [DR. KAREN MAPP](#)

Chair  
Board of Directors  
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Dr. Karen L. Mapp, EdD, is a Senior Lecturer on Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and the Faculty Director of the Education Policy and Management Master's Program. Over the past twenty years, Dr. Mapp's research and practice focus has been on the cultivation of partnerships among families, community members and educators that support student achievement and school improvement. She served as the co-coordinator with Professor Mark Warren of the Community Organizing and School Reform Research Project and as a core faculty member in the Doctorate

in Educational Leadership (EDLD) program at HGSE. She is a founding member of the District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement as well as the National Family and Community Engagement Working Group, is a trustee of the Hyams Foundation in Boston, MA, and is also on the board of the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) and the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) in Washington, DC. From 2011 to 2013, Dr. Mapp served as a consultant on family engagement to the United States Department of Education in the Office of Innovation and Improvement.

Dr. Mapp joined HGSE in January of 2005 after serving for eighteen months as the Deputy Superintendent for Family and Community Engagement for the Boston Public Schools (BPS). While working with the BPS, she continued to fulfill her duties as president of the Institute for Responsive Education (IRE). She joined IRE in 1997 as Project Director, was appointed vice-president of IRE in May of 1998 and served as president from September 1998 to December 2004. Dr. Mapp holds a Doctorate and Master's of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, a Master's in Education from Southern Connecticut State University, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Trinity College in Hartford, CT.



Dr. Mapp is the author and co-author of several articles and books about the role of families and community members in the work of student achievement and school improvement including: *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family and Community Connections on Student Achievement* (2002); "Having Their Say: Parents Describe How and Why They are Engaged in Their Children's Learning" (2003); *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships* (2010); "Debunking the Myth of the Hard to Reach Parent" (2010); "Title I and Parent Involvement: Lessons from the Past, Recommendations for the Future" (2011); *A Match on Dry Grass: Community Organizing as a Catalyst for School Reform* (2011), "Partners in Education: A Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships" (2014), and "From Private Citizens to Public Actors: The Development of Parent Leaders through Community Organizing" (2015) and "Powerful Partnerships: A Teacher's Guide to Engaging Families for Student Success" (2017).



### [DR. JOHAN E. UVIN](#)

President

Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Dr. Johan E. Uvin (National), the President of the Institute for Educational Leadership, is a collaborative leader with a background in education and workforce development. At the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE), Johan served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Strategic Initiatives as the Acting Assistant Secretary and the acting director of the

Policy Research and Evaluation Services. Johan led Rhode Island's state office overseeing adult education, career and technical education, and GED testing. He has a doctorate in administration, planning and social policy and an Ed.M. from Harvard University and a Master's of Arts in teaching English to speakers of other languages from the School of International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont.

### Introduction to the Keynote Speaker



### [SABRINA SHEIKH](#)

Executive Assistant to the President

Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Sabrina joined IEL in February 2018 as the executive assistant to IEL's president, Dr. Johan E. Uvin. She provides administrative, logistical, and research support to the president, as well as other programs at IEL, including



the [Education Policy Fellowship Program](#) and [Career Pathways Challenge](#).

Prior to joining IEL, Sabrina worked as a family and youth engagement specialist for Immigrant and Refugee Community Organizing in Portland, Ore. While there, she was responsible for 40 African youth in middle and high school, and their families. She provided academic, social, and emotional, learning, and career exploration support for youth. Her work with families included support with translations, and helping them to become engaged with their children's schools. She also co-coached an African youth and immigrant soccer team during summertime.

Sabrina holds BA in Communications and Public Policy from Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She speaks fluent Somali.

### Keynote Speaker



#### [DR. TALISA DIXON](#)

Superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, and Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) Alumna

Dr. Talisa Dixon is in her fifth year leading the Cleveland Heights- University Heights City School District, after joining the community from the Saginaw Public School District in Michigan and having previously worked in Akron and Columbus schools.

Since taking over as Superintendent, Dr. Dixon has launched forward-thinking initiatives and efforts, all designed to better align District practices with the needs and expectations of our community and to serve all our students.

Among her first major steps was leading students, parents, staff, the Board of Education and community leaders, on a year-long process to develop a comprehensive strategic plan. The ultimate goal of this plan is to ensure that students are prepared for educational and career pursuits upon graduation. It demands accountability and sets high expectations for everyone connected with the schools, from teachers and staff to students, parents, and community members.

Under Dr. Dixon's leadership, CH-UH has been at the forefront in striving for educational equity and ensuring an inclusive environment and opportunities for all students. The District was the first in Northeast Ohio to adopt an official Board of Education policy on educational equity, which includes systems to implement and evaluate the equity work happening in CH-UH.

Dr. Dixon was among 25 women leaders from the non-profit community who were selected to participate in the 2018 AASA National Women's Leadership Consortium. She is a member of the



10th class of the Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP), and out of 700 graduates, was selected as a recipient of the Educator Inspired to Lead Award. She has also been honored by Dress for Success Cleveland with the organization's Walking in Success honors in 2015.

Dr. Dixon serves on the Cleveland Metro American Heart Association Board of Directors, the Governing Board and Executive Committee for MSAN (Minority Student Achievement Network), and the Board of Directors for the Positive Education Program (PEP) of Cleveland.

A native of Oxford, Mississippi, Dr. Dixon received her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Mississippi Valley State University. She earned three Master's of Arts degrees (Sociology, Educational Administration, and Secondary Education) and a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration from the University of Akron.

### Moderator, Panel One, "Preparing and Mobilizing Leaders"

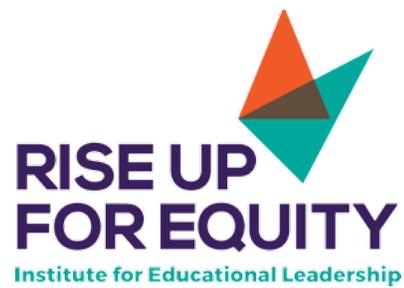


#### [DE'RELL BONNER](#)

Education Program Manager  
Corporate Citizenship  
IBM

From the start of his professional career, De'Rell has always wanted to use his experiences and expertise to respond to the longstanding achievement, learning, and gap in opportunity for students, especially those from underrepresented populations. Currently, De'Rell is Education Program Manager for IBM Corporate Citizenship. In this role he manages, promotes, and implements IBM's portfolio of education programs in Maryland, including leading the company's Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH) at P-TECH at Carver High School in Baltimore, Maryland. Before this role, De'Rell managed IBM's education programs in his hometown, Chicago, IL.

De'Rell graduated from Howard University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and then a Master's in Educational Leadership and School Administration. Previously, De'Rell served as a political appointee in the Obama Administration, where he led former Secretaries Arne Duncan and John King's Youth Engagement team at the U.S. Department of Education, served as a special advisor to the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, directed the agency's Student Volunteer Internship Program and supported a wide range of special projects. He also taught 10th grade Honors English for Prince George's County Public Schools.



## Panelists, Panel One, “Preparing and Mobilizing Leaders”



### MARY KINGSTON ROCHE

Director of Public Policy  
Coalition for Community Schools  
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Mary is Director of Public Policy for IEL's [Coalition for Community Schools](#). She leads policy and advocacy efforts to promote the community schools' approach at the federal and state levels. Before coming to IEL, Mary was Manager of Government Relations for the National Association of Secondary School Principals, where she represented our nation's secondary school leaders. Mary began her career teaching 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade English for three years in Oakland, California, and recently served for 2.5 years on the Board of Education for Prince George's County, Maryland, where she helped to lead unanimous passage of a community school's policy.

Mary received her Master of Public Policy from Duke University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Boston University, where she also competed on Division I of women's track and cross-country teams. Mary is a proud alumna of IEL's [Education Policy Fellowship Program](#), class of 2011.



### DR. NANCY LEWIN

Executive Director  
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS)

Dr. Nancy Lewin is the Executive Director of the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS). Her 23 years as a professional educator and her life experiences as a migrant worker drive her purpose and passion in this Chief Executive role at the nation's largest Latinx-focused education leadership organization. Her experiences in bringing about systemic change and uniting collective efforts is vital to this role.

Her personal education achievements include completion of a Fellowship from Rice University's Educators Entrepreneurial Program, a doctorate in Professional Leadership and Master of Education degree from the University of Houston, and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Texas Southern University.



Since taking on the role of Executive Director for ALAS, Dr. Lewin has significantly expanded the organization's national presence, created a legislative agenda platform to advocate for critical issues impacting the Latinx education community, and implemented an annual national Legislative Assembly that unites Latinx educators in advocacy on Capitol Hill. Some of her other inaugural initiatives include expanding leadership of Latina women through the Linking Latina Leaders (L3) Network, a blog that addresses issues that impact the Latinx Education community, and the Latinx Leadership Matters Campaign. In her role as Executive Director, she represents the ALAS organization in the National English Learner Roundtable, is a member of the ISTE Equity panel, and part of the Steering Committee for AASA Aspiring Urban Superintendent Program. She also collaborates with various national organizations in Washington DC which include IEL, CAL and NABE.

Prior to joining ALAS, Dr. Lewin served in a variety of education leadership roles, including Chief Academic Officer, Special Education Director, and Adjunct Professor with the University of St. Thomas in Houston. Dr. Lewin also served as a Principal, Assistant Principal, and Bilingual teacher in Texas. She has vast experience with Professional Leadership, Adult Education, ESL, Bilingual, Dual Language, STEM, and Special Education programs.

She has served as a presenter and speaker for various conferences, workshops and professional development programs that include: National School Board Association's Equity Conference, Teach for America's National School Leaders of Color Summit, and the 50th Anniversary of the Mexican American Civil Rights Hearings in San Antonio, Texas in 2018, where she discussed the need for equity and expectations for Latinx students with regard to technology access. Her vast experience also includes Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), Strategic Goal Setting, Leadership Development, and Community Engagement & Equity in Education.

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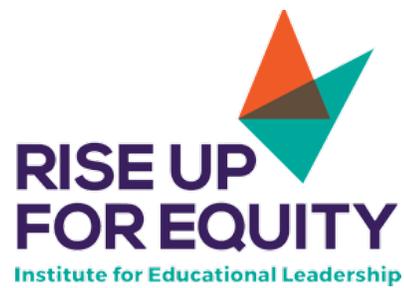


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In 2016, Dr. Lewin led an initiative that resulted in her school district being recognized with a Trailblazer Award from the Virginia State Superintendent of Education for implementing the Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program, and the Virginia Tiered System of Supports. Dr. Lewin provided leadership training for three aspiring superintendents' cohort groups in Puerto Rico in the area of Community Engagement and Public Relations Strategic Planning in 2017 and 2018. She has also provided training in Cultural Competence and Establishing Climate and Culture for school district leadership teams. Dr. Lewin has a great passion for improving student performance through purposeful leadership, with a focus on diverse student demographics, developing systemic change and expanding community engagement.



**NATALIE GORDON**

Instructional Superintendent  
DC Public Schools

Natalie Gordon serves as an Instructional Superintendent with DC Public Schools, where she oversees 12 middle school principals. She has over 20 years of experience in urban education, with a particular expertise in school start-up. Her school leadership experience includes founding Friendship Tech Prep as well as assuming both the principal and assistant principal positions at DC Prep's Edgewood Campus. Most recently, Natalie was the founding principal of Jefferson Middle School Academy in DC Public Schools. During her tenure, she spearheaded dramatic academic gains in reading and math as well as significant overall improvements in school culture.

Natalie began her education career in New York City as a middle school teacher with Teach for America. She was also a New Leaders for New Schools principal fellow. She has worked with TFA as an advisor to corps members, a summer institute faculty director, and a regional recruiter. She also has experience in the non-profit sector as both the Education Director and Executive Director of DC SCORES and manager of the DC Teaching Fellows Program.

Natalie holds an Executive MBA from Georgetown University, an M.S.A. Educational Administration from Trinity College, and a B.A. in History from Washington University in St. Louis.

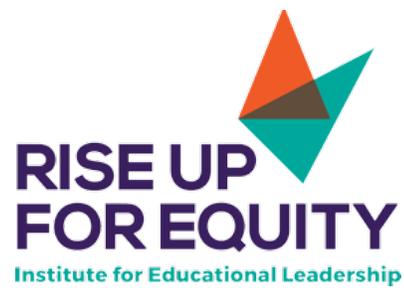


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### Moderator, Panel Two, "Innovation"



#### DON YU

Chief Operating Officer  
Reach Higher

Don Yu is a former teacher and school district attorney. He served in several different Education roles in the Obama Administration prior to joining Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Initiative. Since leaving the White House, Reach Higher is now housed at the Common Application, an organization of more than 800 colleges and universities in the United States and around the world that is committed to the pursuit of access, equity, and integrity in the college admission process.

### Panelists, Panel Two, "Innovation"

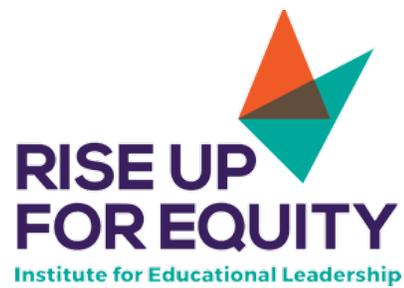


#### ADAM STRONG

Advocate  
National Council of Young Leaders

Adam Strong is a Research Impact Fellow at the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) based in the DC area, where he focuses on building and maintaining relationships that deepen and strengthen research to practice. He is particularly interested in pathways that increase economic mobility and diminish avoidable and remediable disparities with an acute focus on the role that civic participation plays in mediating policy and societal norms that influence these pathways. He is guided by his own humble upbringings in rural Appalachian Kentucky and his journey up the socioeconomic ladder.

Before joining CIRCLE, Adam was a Civic Engagement Liaison for Opportunity Youth United's youth-led Community Action Teams in California providing guidance and support in their efforts to bring out the vote during their nonpartisan Midterm Voter Engagement Campaigns in 2018.



He has long been a solutions-based advocate, acting as co-founder of Opportunity Youth United, a national grassroots movement of current and former opportunity youth who address local issues in their communities while also advocating on a broader policy platform to increase opportunity, and decrease poverty in America.

He is currently finishing his Master's of Public Policy at the University Of New Hampshire Carsey School of Public Policy, focusing on strategy and communication, and statistics and data analysis. He brings a wealth of diverse experiences into the position, working with local practitioner organizations, stakeholders, direct service providers, and nontraditional educational institutions over the past six years in his national policy advocacy efforts.



### [ALICIA BOLTON](#)

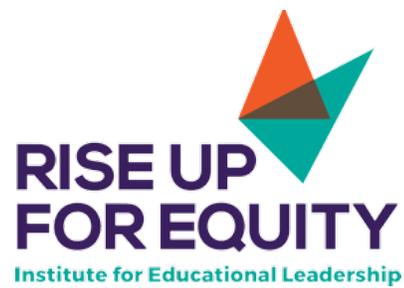
Director

Adult Career Pathway Design Challenge  
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

With over 15 years of diversified experience, Alicia is passionate about connecting the dots between data and trends to develop and implement strategies and programming. Spanning K-12 education, real estate, and banking institutions, she brings a unique blend of skills and experiences that all map to her passion for building solutions that drive impact for youth and adult learners.

Alicia currently serves as the Director of the Institute for Educational Leadership's Adult Career Pathway Design Challenge, which is part of the organization's [Minds that Move Us Initiative](#). Through this challenge, ten cross-sector teams of educators, employers, community organizations and adult learners from around the country were selected to design innovative career pathway programs for adults 26 and over who do not have any formal postsecondary training or education and lack the skills necessary to put them on a career path. Over the course of the project, teams will partake in a Design Camp, ongoing coaching, and a Career Pathways Festival to pitch their proposed solutions with a chance to win prize money for their creativity.

Alicia is a thoughtful leader with a track record of strengthening policies and educational programs on both the national (U.S. Department of Education) and district (D.C. Public Schools) level. In addition, she has a variety of experiences successfully managing complex projects, designing older youth and adult career programming, overseeing intricate budgets and grants, leading and developing teams, and partnering with a variety of stakeholders to build buy in and diversify funding sources.



[DE'RELL BONNER](#)

Education Program Manager  
Corporate Citizenship  
IBM

From the start of his professional career, De'Rell has always wanted to use his experiences and expertise to respond to the longstanding achievement, learning, and gap in opportunity for students, especially those for underrepresented populations. Currently, De'Rell is Education Program Manager for IBM Corporate Citizenship. In this role, he manages, promotes, and implements IBM's portfolio of education programs in Maryland, including leading the company's Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH) at P-TECH at Carver High School in Baltimore, Maryland. Before this role, De'Rell managed IBM's education programs in his hometown, Chicago, IL.

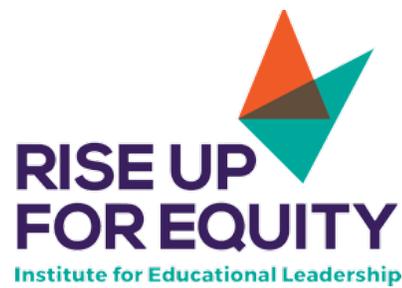
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[MICHAEL K. YUDIN](#)

Principal  
The Raben Group

Michael K. Yudin currently serves as a Principal at The Raben Group, a national public affairs and communications firm in Washington, DC, where he helps lead the government affairs practice group, specializing in issues related to education, workforce development, disabilities, and health care. He is also a Member of the Board of the Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD), a national advocacy network established to bring significant reform to the federal adult system of services and supports for Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



He previously worked for the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Education, serving the Secretary in a number of capacities, including Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education. In these roles, Yudin worked to ensure academic excellence and equitable opportunities for educationally disadvantaged children and youth.

Prior to joining the Department, Yudin served as a U.S. Senate staffer, performing the duties of legislative director for Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, senior counsel to Sen. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, and HELP Committee counsel to Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont. Working for senior members of the HELP Committee, Yudin helped draft, negotiate, and pass various pieces of legislation, including the No Child Left Behind Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, and reauthorization of the Head Start Act.

Before joining the Senate, Yudin served as an attorney at the Social Security Administration and at the U.S. Department of Labor for nearly 10 years.



### [RONALD MARLOW](#)

Vice President for Workforce Development  
National Urban League

Ronald G. Marlow has a career that spans both the public and not for profit sectors.

Presently, Ron serves as Vice President for Workforce Development with the National Urban League. In this role, Ron is responsible for the development, delivery and oversight of workforce development programs for which the National Urban League receives funding, and which are delivered by Urban League Affiliates at the local community level.

Prior to joining the National Urban League, Ron served as Undersecretary for Workforce Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He has also served in the following roles: Director of Diversity and Inclusion at the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, Assistant Secretary for Access and Opportunity for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Director of the Development Cabinet in the Executive Office of the Governor, and Chief Operating Officer at Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation.

Committed to community service, Ron has served on the Board of Directors of Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, the Center for Women Enterprise, the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation, the Massachusetts Community Development Finance Corporation, and others.



Ron has been recognized for his outstanding leadership and accomplishments. His awards include the NAACP’s distinguished “Keeper of the Flame” award, the Small Business Administration’s Minority Business Champion award (for both the state of Massachusetts and the New England Region), and a host of other awards and recognitions.

Ron earned his MS in Law, Policy and Society from Northeastern University, and his Bachelor’s degree from Pennsylvania State University.

### Closing Remarks



#### [CHIKE AGUH](#)

Member  
Board of Directors  
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Chike Aguh (Chee-Kay Ah-Goo) serves as a principal at the McChrystal Group, founded by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, which focuses on transforming clients into adaptable and agile organizations built to succeed in the 21st century economy. Clients include Cisco, Intuit, Under Armour and renowned cancer center MD Anderson. Chike focuses on growth strategy for the firm and its clients. He is also a partner at Inncuvate, a Maryland-based firm growing innovation businesses and ecosystems, particularly in communities that need them most. Additionally, as a current term member at the Council of Foreign Relations and member of their Taskforce on the Future of the US Workforce, Chike writes and speaks on the future of work.

Before that, Chike served as CEO of EveryoneOn, a social enterprise that has connected over 500,000 low-income Americans in 48 states to affordable internet, computers and digital skills. Previously, he worked as an education policy official under Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a 2nd grade teacher and Teach for America corps member, a Fulbright Scholar in Thailand, and a Director of Corporate Strategy at the Advisory Board Company.

Chike holds degrees from Tufts University (B.A.), the Harvard Graduate School of Education (Ed.M.), the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (MPA), and the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School (MBA). He is a Washington Business Journal 40 under 40 honoree, Presidential Leadership Scholar, Wharton 40 under 40 honoree, Prince George’s County 40 under 40 honoree. He serves and/or has served as a board member for the Harvard Kennedy School of Government’s Alumni Board, Tufts University Alumni Council, Teach for America DC and Institute for Educational Leadership. He has spoken at, written for and/or been featured by the White House, Harvard University, CNNMoney, Aspen Institute, Wired, VentureBeat and Fast Company. Chike lives in Beltsville, MD with his wife, Crystal and son, Kelechi. They are members of Zion Church in Landover, MD.



**JESSICA FUENTES-DIAZ**

Program Associate  
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Jessica joined IEL in December 2017. As Program Associate, she supports the Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Technical Assistance Center, a groundbreaking initiative that provides state vocational rehabilitation programs and related professionals with technical assistance and training to help more effectively serve youth with disabilities.

Prior to joining IEL, Jessica interned as a Law Clerk for the U.S Department of Justice. Under the Environment and Natural Resources Division, she did extensive research on prior legislation as well as writing about findings and supported attorneys in organizing paperwork and information in preparation for trials, hearings, and depositions. Jessica was also a Refugee and Migration Intern at Save the Children, an international non-governmental organization that promotes children’s rights, provides relief and helps support children in developing countries. There, Jessica reviewed and edited proposals and reports prior to submission to donors, including the US State Department and the UN Refugee Agency.

She volunteers her time as a Child Advocate with The Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights, a human rights organization that serves as trusted allies for children while they are in deportation proceedings, advocating for their best interests, and standing for the creation of a dedicated children’s immigrant justice system that ensures the safety and well-being of every child.

Jessica graduated from George Mason University with a major in International Affairs concentrating in Global Economy and Management and a minor in Cultural Anthropology. While at Mason, she studied Arabic language in Rabat, Morocco and took classes on foreign investment and global development at the University of Havana in Cuba. Jessica speaks English, Spanish, and is currently learning Arabic.



**JOSÉ MUÑOZ**

Vice President for Equity and Impact  
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

José Muñoz joined IEL as the director of its Coalition for Community Schools initiative in 2017. He is now the Vice President for Equity and Impact. José brings over 25 years of cross-sector partnership experience for youth, family, and community development across the United States. Before IEL, he was the ABC



Community School Partnership executive director, which is a unique cross-sector joint partnership agreement between Albuquerque Public Schools, the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of

Central New Mexico, and the University of New Mexico. During his time at the ABC Community School Partnership, he served the children in Albuquerque and across New Mexico. José strategically scaled up the community schools' strategy from four to 26 schools in five years, securing over three million dollars through successful policy advocacy and developing key partnerships for community schools with state and local governments, school districts, teachers' unions, and local businesses. In 2014, José won the first Community Schools Initiative Leadership Award.

Before ABC Community School Partnership, he served three states, four counties, and nine cities through the Boys & Girls Clubs. José developed high-quality, out-of-school time activities and led gang prevention, intervention, and re-entry programs, earning a national legacy award. He developed full-service Clubs that met the needs of every child and family. He is a founding member of the Southern Nevada Community Gang Task Force and is responsible for establishing a youth-run business. José expanded his service in Bernalillo County, New Mexico as the Coordinator of a national model site for the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

José is married to the lovely Leslie Muñoz, and they have a blended family of two sons and three daughters. In their free time, the Muñozes like to serve their community through their church and by leading community groups.

#### Media Contact

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