

Speaker Bios

Dr. Gregory Bernhardt

Dean of Education, Wright State University

Gregory Bernhardt, Ed.D., Dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Wright State University, is a licensed psychologist and a licensed clinical counselor in the state of Ohio, a nationally certified counselor, and, previously, a certified school counselor. Currently, Bernhardt is leading a coalition of 27 partners in the Dayton Region to establish and develop a STEM school for students in grades 6 – 12.

Frances Cox

Senior Account Manager, Fratelli Group

Frances Cox joined the Fratelli Group in February 2005, bringing with her more than eight years of government and public affairs experience. She has extensive experience in mobilizing local communities and grassroots audiences. While at General Motors, she managed the company's grassroots advocacy efforts, where she helped to orchestrate numerous legislative issues. Earlier, she worked as a federal affairs representative at Ryder System Inc. and as a consultant at Peyser Associates. Cox began her career as a legislative staffer on Capitol Hill.

Janae Crockett

Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Prince George's County

Janae Crockett, of Prince George's County, Maryland, is a 2009 graduate of Charles H. Flowers High School, where she was a student in the Academy of Finance. While in high school, Ms. Crockett interned with the Department of Commerce, served as a College Summit peer leader, and participated in the marching band, jazz band, wind ensemble, and softball team. She has just completed her freshman year at North Carolina A&T State University, where she was on the Dean's list both semesters. She is spending her summer interning with the Census Bureau.

Rashid Davis

Principal, Bronx Engineering and Technology Academy, New York City, New York

In August 2006 Rashid F. Davis became the third Principal of Bronx Engineering and Technology Academy. He appeared on Good Morning America with Sam Champion and two graduates of BETA as representatives of successful small schools. In 2009, Rashid had an on air interview for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) with the United Kingdom's Secretary of Education, Ed Balls. BETA has been recognized for its many successes including its ranking #143 on Newsweek's 1500 Top American High Schools and listing on *US News and World Report's* America's Best High Schools with Silver Medal Recognition.

Kimberly Green

Executive Director, National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium

Kimberly Green is the Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc). At NASDCTEc Green leads and manages the organization and has helped start and grow the States' Career Clusters Initiative. Green serves on a variety of boards and taskforces representing the organization including the Executive Committee of the National Career Academy Coalition and the National Center for Education Statistics Technical Review Panel on CTE data.

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She has been with NASDCTEc since 1993, previously holding the positions of Assistant Executive Director and Government Relations Assistant.

Terry Grobe

Program Director, Jobs for the Future

Terry Grobe is a program director on JFF's New Pathways to Postsecondary team. She works with city and state initiatives directed at improving outcomes for struggling students and out-of-school youth. She leads JFF's work with the U.S. Department of Labor's Multiple Education Pathways Blueprint Initiative, a seven-city venture to grow new education options and raise high school graduation rates in these communities. She is also involved in an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop new postsecondary pathways for older youth.

Carrie Hahnel

Director of Policy, The Education Trust-West

Carrie Hahnel is currently the Director of Policy at the Education Trust-West (ETW). She joined ETW after working for the KIPP Foundation as Director of Research and Evaluation. Over the course of her five years at KIPP she was instrumental in promoting the use of data for strategic decision-making in KIPP's 82 schools, launching a large-scale longitudinal study with Mathematica Policy Research, developing key school performance metrics, and managing all internal research and assessment efforts. Carrie holds a B.A. from Carleton College and an Ed.M. from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Daria Hall

Director of K-12 Policy Development, The Education Trust

Daria Hall joined The Education Trust in 2003 as a policy analyst. Since then, she has authored reports and participated in national policy conversations about accountability, high school graduation, and standards. She also leads the organization's work to identify high-poverty, high-minority, high-performing schools. Previously, Daria worked as an analyst for the Texas Legislative Council. She is a graduate of Rice University and holds a master's from the University of Wisconsin.

Erin Hart

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Alliances and Programs, National PTA

Erin Hart serves as the Director of Strategic Alliances, Partnerships and Programs for the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), where she is responsible for developing PTA's programs and partnerships that move PTA's priorities forward. She brings eight years of policy-level experience, having worked for two governors, most recently for Governor Janet Napolitano (Arizona) as the Associate Director of her P-20 Council, where she was involved in revising the state's academic standards and in raising the state's requirements for high school graduation to be college ready. During her tenure there, she concentrated on reforms in higher education, Career and Technical Education, dropout prevention, teachers, youth development, and national service. Her previous experience includes working in the public relations and marketing fields. A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Erin was the youngest in her class to earn the Phoenix Business Journal's Forty Under 40 Award and holds a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Arizona State University, where she graduated with honors.

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Thomas Lasley

Executive Director, EDvention

Tom Lasley serves as executive director of EDvention and teaches classes at the University of Dayton. EDvention is a collaborative dedicated to accelerating science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) talent to grow the Dayton region. He's also been tapped as the executive director of the Ohio Early College Association and vice chair of the Ohio College Access Network, both volunteer roles. Lasley also held the position of dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions at the University of Dayton.

Teresa Lubbers

Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

In 2009, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education unanimously voted to name Teresa Lubbers as its new commissioner. Prior to this work, Lubbers served 16 years in the Indiana Senate. While in the Senate she chaired the Education Committee, leading efforts to improve K-12 and higher education. She has been a member of Indiana's Education Roundtable, a MHEC commissioner, past chair of MHEC, commissioner of the Education Commission of the States, member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education - National Conference of State Legislatures, and on the advisory board for the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality. Lubbers received her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and her Master of Public Administration from Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government.

Amy Mast

Director, Georgia's Alliance of Education Agency Heads

For the past two years, Amy Mast has been the Director of Georgia's Alliance of Education Agency Heads. Prior to holding this position, Mast worked for the University System of Georgia as the K-12 Director for Partnerships, responsible for overseeing a \$35 million-grant focused reforms in mathematics and science. Before joining USG, Mast spent five years at the Council of Chief State School Officers. Mast received her master's from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she studied education policy.

Linda Murray

Superintendent in Residence, The Education Trust-West

Linda Murray is the Superintendent in Residence for The Education Trust-West (ETW). Prior to joining ETW, Murray served as the Superintendent of San Jose Unified School District for 11 years. Dr. Murray's commitment to strong student achievement drove successful efforts at San Jose Unified to provide a more rigorous academic program and improve student performance by increasing graduation requirements. Dr. Murray actively participates on a number of leadership boards that have broad impact on public education in the Silicon Valley. She also serves on the statewide P-16 Council, recently formed by State Superintendent of Schools, Jack O'Connell.

Neil Newhouse

Partner and Co-Founder, Public Opinion Strategies

Neil Newhouse is a partner and co-founder of Public Opinion Strategies, a national political and public affairs research firm which has been described by *The New York Times* as the leading Republican polling

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company in the country. Neil was recently named “Pollster of the Year” by the American Association of Political Consultants for his work on Scott Brown’s winning Senate campaign in Massachusetts.

Donna Pearson

Associate Director, National Research Center for Career and Technical Education

Will Pinkston

Managing Director of Advocacy and Communications, Tennessee SCORE

Will Pinkston is managing director of the State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) in Nashville, Tenn. In that role, he oversees advocacy for the nonprofit, nonpartisan reform group chaired by former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. SCORE, based at Vanderbilt University’s John Seigenthaler Center, works with state and local governments to encourage sound policy decisions in public education and to advance innovative reform initiatives on a statewide basis.

Previously, Pinkston served as senior advisor to Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, who co-chairs Achieve’s Board of Directors. Working for Bredesen, he helped steer the state’s agenda on key issues including education and energy policy. He ran communications in Tennessee’s successful bid in the federal Race to the Top competition, leading to passage of the Tennessee First to the Top Act. Before getting involved in policy and politics, Pinkston worked as a staff reporter for The Wall Street Journal in Atlanta. Pinkston is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Lyndsay Pinkus

Policy Manager, Data Quality Campaign

Lyndsay M. Pinkus is the Policy Manager at Data Quality Campaign (DQC). Before her work with DQC, Pinkus worked at the Alliance for Excellent Education, where she most recently served as Director of Strategic Initiatives. Since January 2002, Ms. Pinkus served the Alliance in a variety of strategic, policy, coordination, legislative, and advocacy roles, focusing on a range of issues including graduation rates, data, secondary school accountability, and secondary school improvement. Previously, Ms. Pinkus served as a legislative associate at Washington Partners, LLC, providing government relations and policy research and analysis for a variety of clients. She is a graduate of the School of Public Affairs at American University as a presidential scholar; the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute at the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies; and the Institute for Educational Leadership’s Education Policy Fellowship program.

Arun Ramanathan

Executive Director, The Education Trust-West

Before coming to The Education Trust-West as Executive director, Arun was the chief student services officer for the San Diego Unified School District, with responsibility for eight departments and a budget of \$350 million. During his tenure, he reorganized and streamlined both student services and special education services while producing significant gains in student achievement and closing the achievement gap between disabled and non-disabled students. Prior to this position, Arun served as special assistant to three superintendents. He has worked as a general and special education teacher and paraprofessional in New England and California and as a Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) in rural Appalachia. Arun received his bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College, his M.Ed. from Boston College, and his Ed.D. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

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Dominique Raymond

Director, Alliance State Relations

Dominique leads Complete College America's outreach, advocacy and communications with the Alliance of States, serving as a primary point of contact for state leadership teams. Across her career, she has developed expertise in implementing statewide education policy initiatives that increase academic achievement, particularly among underserved students.

Jon Schnur

CEO and Co-Founder, New Leaders for New Schools

Since co-founding New Leaders for New Schools, Jon Schnur has led the development of the organization's strategy, management team and board, core values, performance metrics, partnerships, and fundraising. He has developed national education policies from preschool to higher education – with special focus on teacher and educator quality, reforming urban school systems, charter schools, after-school programs, and early learning and preschools. Jon graduated from Princeton University with honors, took graduate coursework at Harvard's Business School, Graduate School of Education, and Kennedy School. He is a Wisconsin public high school graduate.

J.B. Schramm

Founder and CEO, College Summit

J.B. founded College Summit in 1993 while directing a teen center in the basement of a low-income housing project in Washington, D.C. This year, the organization will work with 160 high schools with 17,000 seniors and 80,000 total students, in 12 states. In recognition of the organization's impact, College Summit was honored at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in 2008 as the United States Social Entrepreneur of the Year by the Schwab Foundation. He is a graduate of Denver Public Schools, Yale University and Harvard Divinity School; and lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Lauren, and three children.

Brian Shumate

High School Liaison, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, KY

Brian Shumate is currently the High School Liaison in the Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky. He works directly with the Assistant Superintendent for high schools and assists him with administering programs and evaluating and assessing the efforts of 28 high schools in Jefferson County. Dr. Shumate began his career in JCPS in 1987 as a mathematics teacher and coach at Western High School. He then moved to Shawnee High School as an Assistant Principal and worked closely with the NJROTC Career Academy and the Aviation Programs. Dr. Shumate moved to Southern High School in 1996 as an Assistant Principal. In 2001, he was named Principal at Iroquois High School where he worked on creating and instituting a Smaller Learning Communities initiative which emphasized the Career and Technical Construction programs. In 2007, Dr. Shumate was named the High School Liaison and is now working closely with the high school redesign effort that is focused on Career and Technical Education. He has received a BA, MEd, and a PhD, all from the University of Louisville.

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Miranda Smalls

College Advisor and College Summit Coordinator, Humanities and the Arts High School, New York City, New York

Miranda Smalls is a College Advisor/Educator at the Humanities and the Arts High School on the Campus Magnet Complex in Cambria Heights, Queens, New York. Ms. Smalls earned her B.B.A in Business Administration and Management and her M.S.E. in Educational Supervision and Administration from Baruch College (City University of New York). She currently holds three licenses--Special Education, Guidance and Administrative. During her 10 years in education, Ms. Smalls has worked as a Senior Seminar English Teacher, College Summit Coordinator, AVID Counselor, Yearbook, Poetry Club and Newspaper Club Faculty Advisor and Grant Writer. Previously, she worked at the United Nations (UNICEF) for 10 years in the Office of Special Events. Ms. Smalls is also the Director of Youth and Children at the Antioch Baptist Church of Corona and Senior Director of the church's summer day camp program. Ms. Smalls believes she has had the best of many worlds, but the job of educating, motivating and molding children shines above the rest.

Henry Stewart

Director of Policy and Outreach, Campaign for High School Equity

Henry Stewart serves as Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE)'s director of policy and outreach. In this role he helps to shape the organization's policy education efforts, assists partner organizations in communicating their policy priorities, and leads CHSE efforts to build awareness and support for the goals of comprehensive high school policy reform. Henry has had an extensive career in legislative and public affairs.

Cathey Tooley

Director of ICE, Decatur Central High School, IN

Cathy Tooley received her B.A. from Marian College in 1984, her M.S. from Indiana University in 1991, and her Administrative License from Indiana University in 2004. She began her teaching career by student teaching at Decatur Central High School in the spring of 1984. She was hired the following school year and taught Spanish for 20 years. In the fall of 2004, after finishing her administrative license, she was hired as an Assistant Principal at Decatur. In the fall of 2006, she became the director of the ICE (Imagine Create and Express) Small Learning Community at Decatur Central High School and remains in that position today.

Joel Vargas

Program Director, Jobs for the Future

Joel Vargas studies and advises on state policies to promote improved rates of high school and postsecondary success for underserved students. He focuses on new education pathways that blend high school and college, such as early college high schools and comprehensive dual enrollment programs. He also has been a teacher, editor, and research assistant for the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University, and coeditor of *Double the Numbers: Increasing Postsecondary Credentials for Underrepresented Youth* (Harvard Education Press) and *Minding the Gap: Why Integrating High School with College Makes Sense and How to Do It* (Harvard Education Press). He was featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of "Higher Education's Next Generation of Thinkers."

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Dave Walker

Vice President, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

David Walker advises issue campaigns and domestic political campaigns for Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research. In 2006 he played a key role in the election of Senator Amy Klobuchar in Minnesota and polled extensively for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. He directs Greenberg Quinlan Rosner's work for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and advises the League of Conservation Voters (LCV).

Walker began his career as a junior analyst at Cooper & Secrest Associates, a national political polling firm, and quickly worked up to the top staff position in that firm. In 1998, he was named a Rising Political Star by Campaigns and Elections magazine and has been published in a variety of public opinion and trade journals, including *Campaigns & Elections* magazine, *Polling Report* and *Bill Shipp's Georgia*. David Walker graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in history

Senator Jamie Woodson

President Pro Tempore, Tennessee State Legislature

Jamie Woodson was elected to represent the 6th Senatorial District in the Tennessee State Senate in 2004 and was appointed as Chairman of the Senate Education Committee in her first year. In her role as Education Chairman, Senator Woodson earned the respect of teachers, students and education advocates statewide for her diligent efforts to provide both K-12 students and those enrolled in the state's colleges and universities with a world-class education. Those efforts have been recognized with numerous accolades and awards such as the coveted Tennessee Parent-Teacher Association Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2009, Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey appointed Senator Woodson to be the Speaker Pro Tempore for the State Senate.

Bi Vuong

Senior Associate, Data Quality Campaign

Bi Vuong is a Senior Associate for the Data Quality Campaign. At the DQC, Bi leads the Campaign's work in the area of postsecondary education and workforce data links and administers the DQC's Annual Survey on P-20 /Workforce data systems. She also reviews and analyzes state and federal data legislation and supports states' efforts to develop and use statewide longitudinal data systems. Prior to joining the DQC, Bi worked with EducationCounsel LLC, on a number of projects covering a variety of policy areas including: assessments and accountability, high school reform, and statewide systems of supports and interventions. Among her projects, Bi helped design, develop, and manage the daily operations of a knowledge management tool that houses information on 50 states' college-ready policies.

Bi, a native of Hawaii, holds a Master's in Public Administration and a Certificate in Demography from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. She completed her undergraduate study at Kenyon College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

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Richard Wells

Vice President, America's Promise Alliance

Richard Wells is the Vice President of State and Community Dropout Prevention Summits for America's Promise Alliance. In this role he leads America's Promise Alliance national dropout prevention initiative. Other national initiatives Richard directed at America's Promise Alliance include the *100 Best Communities for Young People* competition, highlighted by *Newsweek*, *USA Today* and the *Today Show* and the Katrina's Kids project, featured as a best practice in community mobilization by the Bridgespan Group. Richard served as a member of the National Governor's Association Advisory Committee On Dropout Prevention and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America High School Graduation Task Force. Prior to joining the staff of America's Promise, Richard led community mobilization projects for the Charleston Mayor's Office for Children, Youth and Families and also served as an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow in Charleston, South Carolina. Richard earned a teaching degree from Saint Cloud State University and holds post-baccalaureate certificates in Community and Economic Development from Pennsylvania State University and Strategic Organizational Leadership from Villanova University.

Brad Weston

Assistant Principal, Fairdale High School, KY