

Name	Biography
<p>Jim Sandman (Facilitator)</p>	<p>James J. Sandman has been President of the Legal Services Corporation, the nation's largest funder of civil legal aid programs for low-income people, since 2011. He practiced law with Arnold & Porter LLP for 30 years and served as the firm's Managing Partner for a decade. From 2007 to 2011, he was General Counsel for the District of Columbia Public Schools.</p> <p>Sandman is a past President of the 100,000-member District of Columbia Bar. He is currently the chair of the District of Columbia Circuit Judicial Conference's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services. He is a member of the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission, chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission's District of Columbia State Advisory Committee, chairman of the board of the DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, vice chairman of the board of Washington Performing Arts, and a member of the boards of the Meyer Foundation, the College of Saint Rose, and Tahirih Justice Center.</p> <p>Sandman previously served as chairman of the board of Whitman-Walker Health and as a member of the boards of the Neighborhood Legal Services Program of the District of Columbia, Wilkes University, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Boston College and received his law degree cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Max Rosenn of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.</p>
<p>Jennie Niles (Co-chair)</p>	<p>Jennie Niles serves as Deputy Mayor for Education in Washington, DC. In this role, she is responsible for developing and implementing the Mayor's vision for academic excellence and creating a high quality education continuum from birth to 24.</p> <p>Jennie is the founder and former leader of the acclaimed and award-winning E.L. Haynes Public Charter School. The school serves a diverse population of 1200 students in PS-12th grades. In 2011, E.L. Haynes was named the first winner of the CityBridge Foundation's Strong School Award from among all DC public schools and in 2008 was the first winner of Fight for Children's Quality School Initiative Award among DC public charter schools. Jennie is a graduate of New Leaders for New Schools and also taught science and directed service-learning programs at middle and high schools in California and Massachusetts.</p> <p>She holds a BA from Brown, a master's in public and private management from the Yale, and a master's of science in public administration from Trinity (DC). In 2010, she was named a Donaldson Fellow at the Yale School of Management. Jennie is a Fellow of the third class of the Pahara-Aspen</p>

	Education Fellowship and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.
Anthony Williams (Co-chair)	<p>Tony Williams, the former Mayor of Washington, D.C. (1999 – 2007), is the current Chief Executive Officer of the Federal City Council, an organization focusing the creative and administrative talents of Washington’s business and professional leaders on major problems and opportunities facing the City. In addition, he is a Senior Consultant to the law firm Denton McKenna Long.</p> <p>Prior to this, as an Executive Director, he led the Global Government Practice at the Corporate Executive Board in Arlington, Virginia. At the Harvard Kennedy School, as the William H. Bloomberg Lecturer in Public Management, he has taught public finance and urban leadership while coordinating programs for the Municipal Innovation Program at the Ash Center.</p> <p>During his two terms as Mayor, he is widely credited with leading the comeback of Washington D.C., restoring the finances of our nation’s capital, and improving the performance of government agencies, all while lowering taxes and investing in infrastructure and human services. Before his election as Mayor, he was the independent Chief Financial Officer of the District from 1995 to 1998, working with and on behalf of local officials, the D.C. Financial Control Board, and the U.S. Congress.</p> <p>Before his service in local Washington, Tony worked in a variety of positions in federal, state, and local government, including as the first CFO for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, appointed by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. In addition to his work on company boards, Tony devotes his attention to issues of education and the environment, serving on the board of Fight for Children and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.</p> <p>Tony holds a BA from Yale, an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a J.D. from the Harvard Law School, as well as a number of awards and honorary degrees, including Governing Magazine Public Official of the Year in 1997. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and former President of the National League of Cities.</p>

<p>Amanda Alexander</p>	<p>Dr. Amanda Alexander began her career as an early childhood teacher at Walker-Jones ES. After joining New Leaders for New Schools as an assistant principal in New York City Public Schools, Amanda returned to Washington, DC to serve as the principal of Bunker Hill ES and Ross ES.</p> <p>At these schools, she strategically rallied the support of teachers, parents and the community to dramatically improve student achievement as evidenced by double-digit gains on standardized tests. These successes in two very different school communities led then Chancellor Michelle Rhee to charge Amanda with leading a cluster of schools as an instructional superintendent. Impressed with her ability to articulate a vision of educational excellence and attain significant gains at the cluster level, Chancellor Kaya Henderson appointed Amanda to the position of Deputy Chief of Schools in 2013. In this role, she currently supports six instructional superintendents in their supervision of the district’s 79 elementary schools.</p> <p>Amanda holds a bachelors’ degree in English from Howard University, two master’s degrees, one in curriculum and instruction from Howard University and the second in administration and supervision from Baruch College; and a doctor of philosophy degree in education from American University.</p>
<p>Evelyn Boyd Simmons</p>	<p>Evelyn Boyd Simmons is a DCPS parent of two. She is a Founding Member of the Ward2EdNetwork whose aim is to strengthen and support DCPS neighborhood schools and prompted the creation of the ANC2F (Logan Circle) Standing Committee on Education, later serving as its first chair. She is the president of the Logan Circle Community Association and has received the LCCA Community Service award for her work.</p> <p>A former member of the DCPS Head Start Parent Policy Council, she has also been a PTA officer, Room Parent, LSAT member and SPED parent working group member. Evelyn served on the Gray Administration’s DME’s Advisory Committee on Boundaries, Feeders, and Student Assignment Policy and on the Bowser Administration’s Education Transition Committee. She is a certified Partnership Broker, a Parent Leadership Training Institute-trained Facilitator and a Founding Member of the National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE).</p> <p>Evelyn began her career as a volunteer with Africare in Dakar, Senegal. She has worked for the U.S. Senate, U.S. Department of State and for Fortune 100 corporations in the telecommunications and pharmaceutical industries. In addition, she has done consulting work, providing strategic</p>

	<p>advice, coaching, and facilitation services to help organizations and individuals build capacity for robust and productive collaborations. More recently, Ms. Simmons' career took her back to Africare, where she is the Chief of External Relations & Partnerships. Evelyn is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.</p>
<p>Shanita Burney</p>	<p>Shanita Burney is the Deputy Chief of Community Engagement in the Office of Family and Public Engagement. There, she is responsible for planning and executing the division's strategies to ensure consistent district level and targeted school and community engagement on DCPS priorities and initiatives, mechanisms to support information gathering and integration into district goals, and authentic relationship building with DCPS stakeholders.</p> <p>Prior to leading this work, she led the after school programs across DCPS in the Office of Out-of-School Time Programs where she was responsible for overall strategic planning and implementation for the program. For 12 years, Shanita led out of school time programs in DC's nonprofit sector, most notably with the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation and Covenant House Washington. At these organizations, she worked to build and deliver an integrated and coordinated out of school time system that assured high quality opportunities for DC students so that they would engage fully in their development and learning, and enter high school, college, and beyond, better prepared for success.</p> <p>Shanita received her B.A. in Psychology from Winthrop University, her M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Bowie State University, and an Executive Masters in Leadership from Georgetown University.</p>

<p>Angela Copeland</p>	<p>Angela M. Copeland is an award-winning writer and accomplished program manager with proven commitment to helping organizations put their best words and works forward.</p> <p>Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Copeland is a published writer whose work has been published nationally, in scholarly journals, industry publications, and local newspapers and proven project manager, having forwarded the programmatic objectives of public sector, nonprofit, and community-based organizations. In addition, Angela has managed technical assistance to counter children’s exposure to violence in urban, rural, and tribal communities and overseen programs that heightened awareness of arts and environmental education programs for District school students. Moreover, she has connected people and programs in community-building efforts in east of the river neighborhoods of Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Angela presently serves as public affairs specialist for the D.C. Lottery, promoting the products, people, and programs that have realized a 100% increase in sales during her tenure. She has produced news releases that garnered TV and print coverage; executive scripts and talking points for on-air and public appearances; newsletters and annual reports that showcased agency achievements; and events that have elevated the agency’s position as a sought-after community partner and gaming entity.</p> <p>Angela M. Copeland holds a Master of Human Services degree from Lincoln University. Her master’s thesis, entitled <i>Write of Inclusion</i>, examined the impact of literacy on civic participation among public housing residents in Washington, D.C.</p>
<p>John Davis</p>	<p>John Davis is the Interim Chancellor with the District of Columbia Public Schools as of October 1, 2016.</p> <p>Mr. Davis began his educational career as a teacher in Baltimore City, teaching middle school math and earning a Teacher of the Year Award in 1997. After six years there, he spent two years at the Laikipia Baraka School in Nanyuki, Kenya, as teacher and Head of School. The Baraka School took rising Baltimore seventh graders and taught them for two years in the bush of Kenya.</p> <p>Upon returning to the States, Mr. Davis continued teaching for two years before becoming principal of New Era Academy. A key component in Baltimore City’s High School Transformation effort was the establishment of Innovation High Schools. New Era was one of the first two Innovation</p>

	<p>High Schools, and Mr. Davis saw their first graduating class in 2007. In June of the same year, he began working as Director of School Leadership Strategy on the Human Capital team of DCPS. He moved to the Instructional Superintendent role in August of 2008 before becoming Chief of Schools in July 2011.</p> <p>Mr. Davis earned a bachelor’s degree in welding engineering from The Ohio State University and a master’s degree in educational administration and supervision from Johns Hopkins University. He is the father of three children who attend DCPS.</p>
<p>Charlene Drew-Jarvis</p>	<p>In her long and distinguished career, Charlene Drew Jarvis has held positions as a neuroscientist, legislator and university president.</p> <p>Dr. Jarvis’ educational background led to a career as a neuroscientist at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Md. (1971-1978). She received a BS from Oberlin College (1962), an MS from Howard University (1964), and a PhD in Neuropsychology (1971) from the University of Maryland, all the while balancing the demands of a wife and mother of two active young boys, Ernie and Peter. Her research with co-investigators appeared in scientific publications such as the Annals of Neurology; Neuroscience Abstracts; Brain Research, the Journal of Neurophysiology, and Brain, Behavior and Evolution.</p> <p>Responding to the need to help re-build the economy of Washington, DC after the riots following the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., Councilmember Jarvis ran for public office and was elected 6 times to the Council of the District of Columbia (1979-2000). Her work as Chair of the Committee on Economic Development for more than 20 years was pioneering. The Washington Convention Center, the Verizon Center, Business Improvement Districts, Tax Increment Financing, and legislative initiatives designed to prevent red-lining by commercial banks stand as important and collaborative contributions.</p> <p>Dr. Jarvis was appointed in 1996 as president of Southeastern University, founded by the YMCA in 1879. True to the mission of the YMCA, her goal was to give students both theoretical and practical applications of knowledge. Thirteen years later, in 2009, she orchestrated a unique merger of the University with the USDA Graduate School in Washington, DC. The Honorable Charlene Drew Jarvis was named one of the most powerful women in Washington by "Washingtonian Magazine" in 1989, 1994, and 2007 and by "The Washington Business Journal" in 1985.</p> <p>Jarvis’ legacy as the daughter of Dr. Charles R. Drew, the blood bank pioneer, has given her a special perspective as an advocate for science and</p>

health education. In her association with the American Red Cross, Dr. Jarvis has traveled to many Red Cross and Bone Marrow sites around the nation to speak about her father's accomplishments and to encourage the participation of minority blood and marrow donors. In 2014, Dr. Jarvis was given an award for her service from the Washington, DC Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Dr. Jarvis is the recipient of more than 100 awards for her leadership, including honorary doctorates from Amherst College, George Washington University, Oberlin College, and a Distinguished Alumni Award from Howard University.

Charlene Drew Jarvis is valued for her analytical skills, intellectual rigor, probing questions, and pragmatic approach to problem solving. These traits have made her advisory contributions much in demand by dozens of major organizations and commissions.

Describing herself now as the "working" retired, Dr. Jarvis serves on the Executive Committee of the Federal City Council with its Executive Director, former Mayor Anthony Williams; as an appointee of Mayor Vincent C. Gray to the St. Elizabeth's Advisory Committee for redevelopment of that site; on the Advisory Committee of the Newseum; on the President's Advisory Committee at Oberlin College and is now on the Board of Directors of Oberlin College. Ms. Drew Jarvis was formerly on the local board and is now a Senior Advisor to, KIPP DC, a charter school organization with high performing students. In addition, she served on the Transition Committee of Mayor Muriel Bowser and is on the Board of Directors of Edmund Burke School, an independent school in Washington, DC.

<p>Caryn Ernst</p>	<p>Caryn Ernst is an independent consultant, working with nonprofits in organizational development and management, strategic planning, and targeted research and writing. Caryn’s expertise is in board development and leadership, public engagement and consensus building, facilitation, and conference and workshop planning; her recent clients have included the City Parks Alliance, Trust for Public land, Michigan Recreation and Park Association, and KaBOOM! Caryn has served in leadership positions for nonprofits in urban parks and playgrounds, land conservation, watershed protection and community development.</p> <p>As PTA President for the Capitol Hill Cluster School from 2011 to 2013, Caryn led the restructuring and diversifying of the CHCS PTA to improve parent and teacher engagement and representation at CHCS’ three campuses. She helped lead the advocacy effort to have Stuart Hobson Middle School fully modernized and led the community design process for a new playground at Watkins Elementary School. During her tenure as PTA President, the Board more than doubled its revenue and established fundraising and parent engagement strategies that continue to be used today.</p>
<p>Carlie Fisherow</p>	<p>Caroline Fisherow joined the Scholar Academies team in 2010 as principal of DC Scholars Stanton Elementary. Under Carlie’s leadership and in collaboration with DC Public Schools, Stanton’s academic achievement and school culture dramatically improved. In 2012, Carlie received the Rubenstein award for Highly Effective Leadership and Teaching as a result of her contributions to long-term academic plans, assessments, and the launching of family and community engagement plans at Stanton. Carlie began her education career as a middle school teacher in the DC Public Schools before becoming a founding teacher at KIPP AIM Academy. She then went on to serve as the founding principal for Excel Academy, DC’s first public charter school for girls. In the fall of 2013, Carlie became the Chief Academic Officer to the DC Region of Scholar Academies. Since 2013, Carlie has managed and developed the School Directors of DC Scholars PCS and DC Scholars Stanton. In 2016, Carlie became the founding Executive Director of DC Scholars Community Schools. Carlie has seen firsthand what a committed team of parents, faculty, staff, and leaders can do for a school community. Carlie holds a Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University and a Master’s degree in Teaching from American University.</p>
<p>Faith Gibson Hubbard</p>	<p>Faith Gibson Hubbard was appointed as the Chief Student Advocate, for the Office of the Student Advocate, in May 2015. Faith, a former public school teacher, is a passionate education advocate who has served in many capacities including: as the former President of the Ward Five Council on</p>

	<p>Education; a member of the Advisory Committee for the Student Assignment and DCPS School Boundaries Review process; and currently serves as a board member for the DC Public Library Board of Library Trustees.</p> <p>Faith is currently pursuing her PhD in public policy from the Center of Public Administration & Policy at Virginia Tech – through the case study lens of the student assignment review process for DCPS, Faith’s dissertation focuses on the disconnect between the reflections of public sentiment and government action in public education decision-making processes. Faith also holds a Masters of Public Administration from Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA) and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications/Public Relations from Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA).</p> <p>Faith is a proud wife, mother, and DC resident; she lives in the Woodridge neighborhood, which is located in Ward 5, with her husband, Drew, and son, Colton.</p>
<p>Erika Harrell</p>	<p>Erika Harrell is a Ward 7 mother of two amazing school age children who currently attend a DC public charter school in Ward 5.</p> <p>Mrs. Harrell keeps her ear to the ground in the world of education through her work as a Parent Advocate with DC School Reform Now, an organization which offers free support to families who are interested in applying to high-quality DC schools. Through this role, she has worked with hundreds of DC families since the first day of the DC Common Lottery in 2013, empowering them to learn about and apply to both neighborhood and charter schools.</p> <p>She also serves as a member of the Parent and Alumni Leadership Council of the Public Charter School Board, where she takes a special interest in cross-sector communication between schools. Finally, for the third year, Mrs. Harrell is a member of My School DC’s Parents Advisory Committee, where she maintains an active voice for the families she represents in Ward 7.</p> <p>Erika is passionate about empowering parents to make informed decisions about their children’s education and is convinced that DC families can be best empowered when educational factions work together. She knows that the best possible future for all DC children is for them to inherit a cohesive educational system they would be happy to enroll their own children in someday.</p>

<p>Kemba Hendrix</p>	<p>Kemba Hendrix is an Attorney-Advisor in the Department of State’s Office of Civil Rights. She serves as a member of the legal team and conducts investigations/inquiries pursuant to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) laws and claims and allegations of harassment at the Department. In addition, she also conducts training on EEO laws and best practices and provides legal advice for Office staff.</p> <p>Prior to joining the Office of Civil Rights in 2012, Mrs. Hendrix served as Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Beverly J. Woodard, Associate Judge in Prince George’s County Circuit Court. She worked as an Associate at O’Malley, Miles, Nysten & Gilmore, P.A., as a member of the Firm’s Litigation Practice Group. Before attending law school, Mrs. Hendrix began her teaching career as a Teach For America Corps Member in the Rio Grande Valley, where she taught elementary school.</p> <p>Mrs. Hendrix is originally from New Jersey and a graduate of Howard University School of Law.</p>
<p>Irene Holtzman</p>	<p>Irene Holtzman is the Executive Director of Friends of Choice in Urban Schools (FOCUS), a local non-profit that supports the diverse set of public charter schools in D.C. by advocating for and supporting autonomy, equity, and quality.</p> <p>Prior to joining FOCUS, Irene was Policy Director and Senior Advisor at KIPP DC. Previous to her work with KIPP DC’s central office, Irene was a 6th grade teacher at Gage-Eckington Elementary School in DCPS and a 5th grade science teacher at KIPP DC KEY Academy.</p> <p>She holds a B.A. Psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and is a current Educational Policy Fellow with the Institute for Educational Leadership.</p>
<p>Hanseul Kang</p>	<p>Hanseul Kang became DC’s state superintendent of education in March 2015. She previously served as chief of staff for the state of Tennessee’s Department of Education.</p> <p>A seasoned leader and former high school teacher, she reorganized and restructured the department to reflect strategic priorities, and created a more streamlined budget process that allowed for improved personnel decision-making and better use of resources. Kang was part of the team that implemented policies and offered support to districts and schools that resulted in Tennessee becoming one of the fastest improving states in the nation in student achievement outcomes.</p>

	<p>Prior to joining Tennessee’s education department, Kang worked for Teach For America, where she was a managing director of program for the organization’s regional office in the District. She led a team of program directors supporting middle and high school teachers in schools across the District and Prince George’s County.</p> <p>Kang holds a Bachelor’s Degree in international politics from Georgetown University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and was a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholar. She is a member of Chiefs for Change and serves on the Governing Board of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).</p>
<p>Melissa Kim</p>	<p>Melissa Kim most recently served as a Partner at NewSchools Venture Fund and led the work for investing in school growth and instructional leadership for the D.C. Schools Fund. In her role with NewSchools, Melissa served on the board of directors for the DC International School, Achievement Prep Academy, and Paul Public Charter School.</p> <p>Prior to joining the NewSchools team, Melissa served as the principal of Alice Deal Middle School, in the District of Columbia. During her seven years as principal, Melissa transitioned the school from a traditional junior high serving 700 students in grades 7-9 to a team-based middle school serving more than 1,000 students in grades 6-8. During this time, classrooms were desegregated and detracked and math standards were raised to ensure that all 8th graders entered high school with at least an Algebra and or Geometry credit. She also led the successful effort by Alice Deal to become certified as the first International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program in D.C. Public Schools. She was able to lead these changes while managing a \$60 million in situ modernization of the historic school facility.</p> <p>Melissa came to the District of Columbia as a Teach for America Corps member and taught for six years in Northeast and Southeast DC. After receiving her Masters in school leadership, she joined the inaugural cohort of NewLeaders in Washington, D.C. She has served as an assistant principal in Washington, D.C., as well as in Arlington, VA. Melissa holds a B.S. from Colby College, an M.S. from Trinity College, and an Ed.D from the University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation focused on practices to integrate within schools to close both the academic achievement gap as well as the social engagement gap.</p>
<p>Anjali Kulkarni</p>	<p>Anjali Kulkarni is the Deputy Chief of Strategic School Planning at DC Public Schools. In her role, she leads student enrollment, school funding, and</p>

	<p>strategic planning efforts for the district’s portfolio of schools. Her team supports the enrollment audit, student recruitment efforts, budget support, and new school design at DCPS.</p> <p>Previously, Anjali served on the New Jersey Department of Education’s Regional Achievement Center staff, managing special projects in Camden Public Schools. Anjali was also Special Assistant to the Superintendent in the New York City Department of Education’s Alternative Schools district. She began her career as a fifth- and sixth-grade Special Education teacher in Brooklyn, New York, and subsequently served as a Program Director at Teach for America, coaching and supporting first- and second-year teachers in Harlem and the Bronx.</p> <p>Anjali earned a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master’s in Education at Pace University, and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.</p>
<p>Emily Lawson</p>	<p>Emily Lawson is the Founder and former CEO of DC Prep Public Charter Schools. From DC Prep’s launch in 2003, she has led the establishment and growth of DC Prep from a single middle school to the highest-performing charter network in the nation’s capital. DC Prep currently enrolls 1,500 Preschool – 8th grade students at five campuses in some of the city’s most underserved areas.</p> <p>Emily holds a MBA with Distinction from Harvard Business School and a MPA, with a focus on education, from the 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 Foundation's Associate Residency in Urban Education, and in 2014 completed the Aspen-Pahara Fellowship.</p> <p>Emily is a native Washingtonian and has lived in the DC area for thirty years. She and her husband, Tom, have three children, Jacqueline, Charlotte and James.</p>
<p>Bethany Little</p>	<p>Bethany Little is a Senior Policy Advisor at EducationCounsel and a national expert in education policy who has served on Capitol Hill, in the U.S. Department of Education, and on the White House Domestic Policy Council.</p> <p>Bethany currently provides policy and strategy support to education nonprofit organizations and foundations through EducationCounsel. Before joining EducationCounsel, she was a Managing Partner at America Achieves, where she led a number of the organization's initiatives,</p>

	<p>including the launch of the OECD Test for Schools and the Global Learning network. Bethany also served as Chief Education Counsel to the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. As the top staffer in the U.S. Senate responsible for education policy under Senators Ted Kennedy and Tom Harkin, Bethany led legislative efforts on early childhood programs, elementary and secondary education, higher education, and workforce training.</p> <p>Her other national policy experience includes work as an education advisor to President Clinton and Vice President Gore on the White House Domestic Policy Council, as staff in the Office of the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, and as a legislative aide to Senator Patty Murray. Bethany has also served as an advocate for disadvantaged children as the Vice President for Policy and Advocacy at the Alliance for Excellent Education and the Director of Government Relations for the Children’s Defense Fund.</p> <p>Ms. Little holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.</p>
<p>Scott Pearson</p>	<p>A national leader in education policy and charter school oversight, Scott Pearson is the Executive Director of the Public Charter School Board. Since joining PCSB in 2012, Mr. Pearson has implemented significant reforms in how the Board approves and oversees charter schools, making it a national model for charter school authorizing. Under Mr. Pearson’s leadership, PCSB has pioneered new strategies, tough and rigorous oversight and best practices that other authorizers around the nation are adopting.</p> <p>Previously, Mr. Pearson served in the Obama Administration as the Deputy of the Office of Innovation and Improvement for the U.S. Department of Education. Also, he co-founded Leadership Public Schools, a network of college-prep charter high schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. Mr. Pearson has a long career in business. At America Online, he was responsible for acquisitions and strategic planning as the company’s Vice President for Corporate Development. At Bain and Company, Mr. Pearson provided strategic management consulting services to clients in education, healthcare, media, and aviation.</p> <p>Mr. Pearson holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Wesleyan University, a Master’s in Public Administration from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and a Master’s in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School.</p>
<p>Ariana Quiñones</p>	<p>Ariana Quiñones is Vice President of Otero Strategy Group, LLC, a public</p>

	<p>policy consulting firm focusing on education, health, human services and community development. From 2011 to 2015, Ariana served as the chief of staff to the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services for the Government of the District of Columbia.</p> <p>Ariana has spent her career doing policy and advocacy work focusing on at-risk youth, English language learner (ELL) students, and vulnerable District residents. She has been closely involved with education reform efforts in the District of Columbia since the early 1990s when, as a law student, she began working with adjudicated youth and those in the child welfare system. Her interest in education and advocacy deepened after she and her husband became foster parents for the first time in 1995.</p> <p>Ariana served as an AmeriCorps member with Public Allies DC and has worked for the Latino Civil Rights Task Force, the National Council of La Raza, the DC Public Charter School Association, Fight For Children, and Friends of Choice in Urban Schools – better known as FOCUS. She has served on numerous boards and committees, including the DC Public Charter School Board, Children’s National Medical Center Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, the Time Dollar Institute, DC VOICE, and the DC Public Schools Joint Advisory Council for the Education of ELLs.</p> <p>Ariana holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland, College Park in graphic design and mass communication and a J.D. from the District of Columbia School of Law. Ariana lives in DC with her husband, daughter, and foster son.</p>
<p>Alejandra Vallejo</p>	<p>Mrs. M. Alejandra Vallejo has worked at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for 17 years, during which time she has held several positions: Chief of the Corporate Affairs Unit responsible for managing the Human Resources, Administration, General Services, External Relations, and Institutional Administrative Matters at the Private Sector Branch of the IDB Group (IIC). Prior to her joining the IIC, Ms. Vallejo was a consultant in the Microenterprise Unit and in the Executive Vice-President Office at the IDB where she had the opportunity to work in 20 countries in the region.</p> <p>Before joining the IDB, Mrs. Vallejo worked at the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce as a commercial attaché and liaison for trade missions in Central America. Previously, she also worked in the Privatization Unit of the Ministry of Finance (Secretaria de Hacienda) in Mexico.</p> <p>Ms. Vallejo is a PhD candidate in Political Science and has a master’s in Political Science, both from Tulane University. She received her B.A. in Political Science and Public Administration from the UNAM in Mexico. Ms.</p>

	<p>Vallejo also has a certificate in Public Policy at CIDE in Mexico.</p> <p>Mrs. Vallejo was awarded a Mellon Foundation Fellowship to conduct research in Peru and a Tinker Foundation Fellowship to conduct research in Mexico. She was also awarded a fellowship at the UNAM.</p> <p>Mrs. Vallejo’s areas of expertise concern transparency and accountability issues, as well as the institutionalization of budgetary processes in Latin America.</p>
<p>Karen Williams</p>	<p>Karen Lee Williams is a 5th generation native Washingtonian. She attended DC Public Schools from elementary school and graduated as class president from Ballou Senior High. After leaving Ballou, she attended the University of Maryland for a year, then transferred to George Washington University; Ms. Williams graduated from GW with a degree in elementary special education.</p> <p>Her first job after leaving college was as a special education teacher at St. John’s Child Development Center. After teaching for a few years, her career took a dramatic change as she was selected to be one of the first female officers appointed to the United States Park Police (USPP). While working for the USPP, she served as patrol officer and communications dispatcher, established the Community Relations Unit, and ended her career as a course developer and instructor in the training branch.</p> <p>While working in the Community Relations Unit, she facilitated a partnership with D.C. Special Olympics. Because working with children with special needs has always been her passion, she continued her volunteer relationship with the organization, moving on to become Winter Games director, program then director, and finally serving on their Board of Directors as the vice president.</p> <p>After leaving the USPP, she worked for the Washington Parent Group Fund (WPGF), where her chief responsibility was approving and administering grants to DC Parent Student Associations (PTA) to finance special programs in their schools. While working with these parents, she saw a need for a series of parent training workshops, which she developed with the insight of her parents, and became the primary instructor. After leaving WPGF, she was recruited by their parent organization, the Washington Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (WLCCRUA). While her main responsibilities were as an executive assistant, she worked with WLCCRUA Education Program to establish law firm partnerships with many DCPS schools. After leaving WLCCRUA, Ms. Williams returned to DCPS to serve as an elementary special education teacher.</p>

	<p>Karen was recruited by a lifelong friend to leave DCPS and become director of an early childhood education center and to lead them through the process of achieving their National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation; since then, the center has maintained its certification for the past nine years. While leading the center through the accreditation process numerous times, she also served as president of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association.</p> <p>In November of 2012, Ms. Williams was elected to serve as the Ward 7 Representative to the D.C. State Board of Education (SBOE). She is currently serving as the vice-president of the SBOE.</p>
<p>Darren Woodruff</p>	<p>Darren Woodruff is Chair of the DC Public Charter School Board and a founding director at ThinkShift, a research and innovation collaborative in Washington, DC.</p> <p>Over the past three decades, Dr. Woodruff has taught at the high school and college levels and has conducted research on academic and behavioral supports for underserved students, addressing disproportionality in special education, and eliminating the achievement gap. He previously served as principal researcher at the American Institutes for Research and was a research scientist with the School Development Program at Yale University.</p> <p>Dr. Woodruff received his bachelor’s degree in psychology and communication from Stanford University, a master’s degree in education from Harvard University, and a doctorate in educational psychology from Howard University. He is married and has two children.</p>
<p>Shantelle Wright</p>	<p>Shantelle Wright founded Achievement Prep in 2007 as a Building Excellent Schools Fellow and has led the school to be one of the top performing schools in DC since its inception. Shantelle is a well-respected school leader and has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work in urban education.</p> <p>Prior to founding Achievement Prep, Shantelle practiced commercial real estate law for several years at a large, well-respected Washington, D.C. law firm. She is a proud “Hamptonian” and obtained her B.A. in Sociology from Hampton University. Shantelle is also a licensed attorney, having received a Juris Doctorate from The George Washington University School of Law.</p>