



ASPEN INSTITUTE POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS FOR PARENTS INITIATIVE

ADVISORY GROUPS

ASCEND POSTSECONDARY ADVISORY GROUPS

The [Aspen Postsecondary Success for Parents \(PSP\) Initiative](#) is a partnership with Imaginable Futures and the ECMC Foundation to raise awareness about and share recommendations to better support students who are parents.

The PSP Initiative is informed by three groups of experts from across the United States: Parent Advisors, National Advisors, and the Postsecondary Leadership Circle for Parents.

The **Parent Advisors** are a group of 11 students who are parents who share the challenges they face navigating their postsecondary journey with children. They attend two to four-year institutions and workforce development programs. In addition to participating in convenings and speaking engagements, the Parent Advisors will help design the Ascend Parent Powered Solutions Fund, a grant that will support nonprofit, community-based organizations working to guide students who are parents to obtain a postsecondary degree or credential.

The **National Advisors** are 23 policy and practice experts from postsecondary institutions and nonprofit organizations who are creating supports and partnerships for students who are parents. The role of the National Advisors will be to provide guidance and help leverage the Ascend Innovation Challenge, an opportunity for five to seven localities to coalesce around postsecondary goals in support of students who are parents and determine what policy changes and related actions are needed. The National Advisors will also provide ongoing feedback and strategic review of publications, collaborate with one another, and provide tools to inform the PSP Initiative.

The **Postsecondary Leadership Circle for Parents (Leadership Circle)** is a cohort of 23 college presidents and chancellors from diverse institutional backgrounds that are spearheading work that supports students who are parents. They offer bold ideas and concrete pathways towards completion and success for parents and their families. The Leadership Circle will also lead the implementation of several strategies developed by Ascend from recommendations of practitioners, researchers, and other postsecondary experts.

ABOUT ASCEND AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Ascend is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children and their parents toward educational success and economic security. We embrace a two-generation approach and a commitment to racial equity and a gender lens.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ascend at the Aspen Institute is grateful to the following institutions for their ongoing support and partnership on the Aspen Postsecondary Success for Parents Initiative:

[Imaginable Futures](#)

[ECMC Foundation](#)

ASCEND PARENT ADVISORS

The Parent Advisors are a group of 11 students who are parents who share the challenges they face navigating their postsecondary journey with children. They attend two to four-year institutions and workforce development programs. In addition to participating in convenings and speaking engagements, the Parent Advisors will help design the Ascend Parent Powered Solutions Fund, a grant that will support nonprofit, community-based organizations working to guide students who are parents to obtain a postsecondary degree or credential.



Yoslin Amaya Hernandez
Generation Hope
Montgomery College, MD

Amaya Hernandez is the mother of two sons. She is also a full-time student at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she majors in Government & Politics. Motivated to break

her family's cycle of poverty following the birth of her first son, she joined Generation Hope, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that provides mentoring and resources to help teen parents become college graduates and help their children prepare for kindergarten.



Amber Angel
Los Angeles Valley College
Family Resource Center, CA

Angel is the mother of two daughters and is a student at California State University at Northridge. She majors in Family & Consumer Sciences. As the program coordinator for the

LAVC Family Resource Center, Angel supports parents in both academic and workforce pathways. She oversees on-campus partnerships and streamlines academic, workforce, career and technical education, and child care resources for students. She also partners with off-campus community agencies that offer two-generation supports,



Jesus Benitez
City University of New York, NY
(CUNY)

Benitez is graduated from CUNY in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy. He became the father of one son at age 17 and dropped out of high school to support his family. He joined

the CUNY Fatherhood Academy to obtain his High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma. Benitez currently works as the Mentor Coordinator for the CUNY Fatherhood Academy, where he focuses on helping young fathers pursue an HSE diploma and enroll in college. He also works as an Educational Case Manager for the Center for Immigrant Education, which supports immigrant families with low incomes to become lifelong learners and independent citizens of New York City.



Lynnette Coney
Community Foundation of
Sarasota County, FL

Coney is the mother of three boys. She received a Patient Care Technician certification from Manatee Technical College in 2014 and graduated from nursing school at Suncoast

Technical College in 2018. Coney passed the National Council Licensure Examination in 2019 and works as a housing monitor at the Salvation Army of Sarasota County.



Lesley Del Rio
Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver
PelotonU, CO

Del Rio is the mother of one son. She graduated from Florence Crittenton High School in 2013 and is working toward her bachelor's degree in Business

Administration through an online partnership program between PelotonU and Southern New Hampshire University. Del Rio serves as the program manager for the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver, where she works with middle school students who need social and emotional support.



Drayton Jackson
Washington State DHHS, WA

Jackson is the father of six daughters and two sons. He is a student at Olympic College and the founder of the Family Day Foundation, which provides families with low incomes or that are experiencing homelessness

with an opportunity to attend family-oriented events. Currently, he serves on the Central Kitsap School District Board of Directors. He also serves as vice-chair of the Steering Committee for Governor Jay Inslee's Poverty Reduction Workgroup. Prior to this role, Jackson served as the vice-chair of the Head Start Association's parent-led Policy Council and the Parent Ambassador with the Washington State Association of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.



Savannah Steiger
Community Caring Collaborative, ME

Steiger is the mother of a daughter and son. She received an associate's degree in Art Studies from Gulf Coast State College in 2014. She became involved with Family Futures Downeast and the Caring

Community Collaborative in 2017 when she returned to college. She is currently attends the University of Maine at Machias, where she majors in Psychology and Community Studies and aims to become a counselor.



Rashika Lee
West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology, MI

Lee is the grandmother of three and the mother of one son, whom she raised as a single parent. She received a certification in Medical Coding and Health Information

Management from the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology in 2016. Lee currently works for Spectrum Health on the Patient Liability Support Team, where she helps patients understand billing and insurance.



Ariel Ventura-Lazo
Generation Hope
Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), VA

Ventura-Lazo is a first-generation American and the first in his family to attend college. He is the father of a son and a daughter and studies Business Management

and Psychology at George Mason University. Prior to this, he received his associate's in Business Administration from NOVA in 2017 after a five-year academic hiatus to focus on providing for his family.



Michaela Martin
Oregon State University, OR

Martin is the mother of one son. She is also a full-time student at the University of La Verne pursuing a juris doctor to strengthen her ability to engage in public interest work. Martin dropped out of high school upon becoming

a single mother. She graduated from Oregon State University (OSU) with a B.S. in Speech Communication and a minor in Psychology in 2018. While enrolled, she served as the Assistant Director of Advocacy Programs, was appointed as vice-chair of the OSU Family Services Board, and was awarded the Ford Opportunity Scholarship. Her efforts culminated in the OR Senate Bill 794 — a bill she introduced during the 2019 legislative session that would require colleges and universities to collect and report on the enrollment and graduation rates of students who are parents.



Waukecha Wilkerson
Project Self-Sufficiency, CA

Wilkerson is a single mother of two sons and a daughter. She graduated from Coastline Community College in 2020 with two associate's degrees in Psychology and Social and Behavioral Science. Wilkerson

transferred to Sacramento State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She runs a life coaching business called, Won't She Do It, where she encourages others to identify their goals and create actionable steps to creating their best life. She also works full-time as a Customer Service Supervisor at Dermalogica. Wilkerson participates in Project Self-Sufficiency, an organization that helps single parents with low incomes graduate from college and achieve economic independence.

ASCEND NATIONAL ADVISORS

The National Advisors are 23 policy and practice experts from postsecondary institutions and nonprofit organizations who are creating supports and partnerships for students who are parents. Their role is to provide guidance and help leverage the Ascend Innovation Challenge, an opportunity for five to seven localities to coalesce around postsecondary goals in support of students who are parents and determine what policy changes and related actions are needed. The National Advisors will also provide ongoing feedback and strategic review of publications, collaborate with one another, and provide tools to inform the PSP Initiative.



Derek Dabrowiak
Executive Director of Student Affairs
Technical College System of Georgia

Dabrowiak joined the Technical College System of Georgia in 2015. Prior to that, he served as the Director of Admissions for two regions of Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana and as

Enrollment Manager at Indiana Tech's College of Professional Studies. Dabrowiak earned his B.S. from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, IN and his M.S. from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in IN. He has been employed in student affairs in community colleges since 2009. He has also served on boards in the areas of adult education, state National Associate for College Admission Counseling chapters, and the St. Joseph's Alumni Board.



Cathe Dykstra
President & CEO
Family Scholar House (FSH)

As the President and CEO of FSH, Dykstra is committed to promoting the importance of education as an asset that appreciates over time and provides long-term

self-sufficiency through career-track employment. She sees her role as changing the paradigm from short-term support to long-term solutions. Under Dykstra's leadership, FSH was born from Project Women, with a bigger, broader mission as well as comprehensive, holistic services and programs that now serve over 4,000 families annually. She led FSH's geographic expansion to serve other communities in the Louisville, KY region, developed and launched the affiliate program to replicate the FSH model, added the Foster Alumni

pre-parent residential program, and completed over \$58M in construction of five campuses in Louisville and \$78M for KY, all of which provide affordable housing for families with low incomes.



Barbara Gault, PhD
President
Social Equity Strategies (SES)

Dr. Gault is the president of SES, which provides research, planning, outreach, and media consulting to promote equity in education and employment. She is an expert on gender, racial/ethnic, and economic equity in

the U.S. having published more than 100 articles and reports on issues including college access and affordability, entrepreneurship, job quality, paid leave, poverty, political engagement, and the need for accessible, high-quality early care and education. Dr. Gault served in leadership roles at the Institute for Women's Policy Research for two decades, where she founded the Student Parent Success Initiative, held appointments at George Washington University and American University, and previously worked for organizations promoting human rights in Latin America. Dr. Gault received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.



Sara Goldrick-Rab
Founding Director
The Hope Center for College,
Community, and Justice
Temple University

Goldrick-Rab is Professor of Higher Education Policy and Sociology at Temple University, and Founding Director of the

Hope Center. She is the Chief Strategy Officer for Emergency Aid at Edquity, a student financial success and emergency aid company. She also founded Believe in Students, a nonprofit distributing emergency aid. Goldrick-Rab is best known for her innovative research on food and housing insecurity in higher education, having led the five largest national studies on the subject, and for her work on making public higher education free.



Autumn Green, PhD
Research Scientist
Wellesley Centers for Women

Dr. Green is an applied sociologist and nationally recognized scholar in higher education and anti-poverty programs. Her research and advocacy focus on college access and success

for students with low incomes, first-generation, and non-traditional, especially student parents. As a visiting scholar at Wellesley Centers for Women, she is finalizing multiple publication projects based on her research, particularly a book-length manuscript tentatively titled *Low-Income Parents in Higher Education*, with the support of the Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Award. She is also working on several article-length manuscripts and developing a pilot and demonstration project proposal for The Two-Generation Classroom offering a new approach to postsecondary teaching and learning.



Jee Hang Lee
Senior Vice President
Association of Community
College Trustees (ACCT)

Lee is the Senior Vice President for Public Policy and External Relations for the ACCT. He heads ACCT's government affairs office. Working with other higher

education organizations and state associations, Lee advocates on behalf of community college boards and colleges on legislative and regulatory issues such as appropriations, student financial aid, tax policy, and higher education policy. He serves on the board of the National Asian Pacific Islander Council, National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, and on the oversight board of the Voluntary Framework of Accountability. He also served on the board of trustees of the American Student Association of Community Colleges and the executive committee of the Committee for Education Funding. Lee holds a B.A. from Boston University and an M.A. from George Washington University.



Adrian Haugabrook, PhD
Executive Vice President and
Managing Director
The Horizon Group
Southern New Hampshire University

Dr. Haugabrook is executive vice president and managing director for the Horizon Group at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU).

He provides strategic leadership and executive guidance for the University's national and global disruptive innovation agenda through emergent solutions with goals towards extending SNHU's mission and offerings to new learners through the representation of learning, experiments, and testing of new ideas. He has committed his career to influencing access, equity, and opportunity by leading strategy, growth, public policy, and change initiatives in both higher education and nonprofit sectors. He sits on the boards of the Postsecondary National Policy Institute, the Ascend National Advisory of the Aspen Institute, the National Advisory Committee on the Future of African-American Education, and City Year New Hampshire. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Boston, his M.S. from Georgia Southwestern State University and his B.S. from the University of West Georgia.



Donna Johnson
Director of Family Support
Childcare and Parent Services
Program (CAPS)
Georgia Department of Early Care
and Learning (DECAL)

Johnson serves as a Director of Family Support for the CAPS program at DECAL. She provides

programmatic leadership and guidance for Georgia's child care subsidy program. She leads a team of family support consultants by assisting them in identifying and linking to community supports and services. She also leads CAPS' efforts in developing and implementing 2Gen strategies for assisting families receiving child care subsidy in reaching self-sufficiency. Prior to this role, she served as the Director of Children and Youth with Special Needs, Director of Child Health programs in the Maternal and Child Health Section of the GA Department of Public Health, and Director of GA's Early Intervention Program. Johnson serves as the parent representative and faculty on the Autism Sub-Committee Council on Children with Disabilities for the American Academy of Pediatrics. She holds a B.S. in Human Services and Nonprofit Management and an M.S. in Human and Social Services from Walden University.



Martha Kanter, EdD
Executive Director
College Promise Campaign

Dr. Kanter leads the College Promise Campaign and is a Senior Fellow at New York University's Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy. She specializes in policy efforts to

identify and apply innovative, evidence-based education interventions, financing models, and behavioral incentives to raise high school and college graduation rates. Previously, she served as the U.S. Under Secretary of Education, overseeing federal postsecondary statutory, regulatory, and administrative policies and programs, higher education, adult education, career-technical education, international education, and six White House Initiatives. She was also president of De Anza College and then chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District. Dr. Kanter holds a B.A. from Brandeis University, an M.Ed. from Harvard University, and an Ed.D. from the University of San Francisco.



Laura Kohn
Director of Early
Workforce Development
San Diego Workforce Partnerships

Kohn is a 25-year leader in the field of education, early childhood, and workforce development with a range of experience in policy, government, advocacy,

research, program design, nonprofit management and philanthropy. At the San Diego Workforce Partnerships, she promotes and executes investments in children and youth to maximize their likelihood of thriving in the workforce as adults. Kohn also co-produces the Parents' Guide to Public Schools with Voice of San Diego. Prior roles include founding director of the Education Synergy Alliance, executive director of the New School Foundation, director of education for the city of Seattle, advocacy lead for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and education policy advisor to the governor of Washington state. Kohn has a B.A. from Yale University and an M.P.A. from the University of Washington.



Chastity Lord
President & CEO
Jeremiah Program

Chastity Lord has spent two decades specializing in organizational development, education, college access, fundraising, and leadership development. She has a B.A. in

Organizational Communication from the University of Oklahoma and an M.B.A. in Strategy and Marketing from Northwestern University. She is a 2012 Pahara-Aspen Fellow with the Aspen Global Leadership Network and serves on the board of Shriver National Center on Poverty and Law.



Nicole Lynn Lewis
Founder & CEO
Generation Hope

Lewis graduated from the College of William & Mary with a B.A. in English as a student parent who overcame homelessness and a drug-infested environment to achieve what felt like the

impossible. She also earned an M.A. from George Mason University. After honing her skills in communications and nonprofit management and learning about the needs of teen parents, she founded Generation Hope in Washington, D.C. in 2010. As CEO, Lewis oversees all aspects of Generation Hope's operations. Named a CNN Hero in 2014, Lewis uses her skills in social entrepreneurship to lead an organization that is making a difference in the lives of student parents.



Kelly Middleton-Banks
Program Implementation Manager
National Association of
Workforce Boards (NAWB)

Middleton-Banks is responsible for developing programming and partnerships to support workforce development boards in implementing strategies and

practices to advance workforce and economic development locally and nationally. She oversees workforce initiatives such as Family Centered Employment, Advancing Retail Engagement, and the NAWB Industry Partners programs. Prior to joining NAWB, she managed a \$6M portfolio of geriatric-focused initiatives to expand medical research, education, and care for older adults at the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine. She also worked at the Council for Opportunity in Education supporting TRIO programs and managing national grants to promote high school graduation and postsecondary education amongst students with low incomes.



Gloria Perez
President & CEO
Women's Foundation of Minnesota

Perez is President and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN). WFMN conducts ongoing research on the status of women and girls in MN, advocates for public policy that results in greater

economic security and safety for women and their families, and invests in organizations and leaders to build the field and achieve gender and racial equity. As an Ascend Fellow, Perez works with leaders from across the country to drive innovative ideas and proven strategies to help families achieve educational success and economic security. She serves on the board of directors for Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, the Ciresi Walburn Foundation, and the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. She holds a B.A. from Macalester College.



S. Kwesi Rollins
Director of Leadership Programs
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Rollins guides IEL's portfolio of programs designed to develop and support leaders with an emphasis on family and community engagement, early childhood

education, and community-based leadership development. He directs the District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement as well as Leaders for Today and Tomorrow. He has years of experience working with local communities and state agencies to improve cross-sector collaboration and service delivery systems supporting children, youth and families. He also provided technical assistance and training to state and county agencies, school districts, local schools, and community-based organizations in projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Rollins holds an M.S.W. degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Social Work, where he was a Maternal and Child Health Leadership Training Fellow.



Michelle Rhone-Collins
Executive Director
LIFT

Rhone-Collins joined LIFT in 2012 as the Executive Director of LIFT-LA. She seeded many of the program innovations that are now core to LIFT's nationwide program model, most notably

the focus on an intergenerational approach to

breaking the cycle of poverty that targets parents and children in the early childhood years. In 2017, she was promoted to Chief Cities Officer, overseeing all of LIFT's regional operations. She developed LIFT's current strategic plan, which offers a bold vision to extend LIFT's direct services to 25,000 more parents and children and to launch a systems change strategy to reach families with young children living in poverty. In 2019, she was promoted to the role of Chief Executive Officer. She is a Senior Fellow at both the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. She received her B.A. from Duke University and M.Ed from Columbia University.



Marni Roosevelt
Founder & Director
Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC)
Family Resource Center (FRC)

Roosevelt founded the LAVC FRC with a vision of creating a family friendly campus to support student parents, workforce training participants, and community

members. The FRC has become a national model for replication and won multiple state and national awards. More than \$15M in grants have been awarded to the FRC. In addition, Roosevelt secured \$1.5M in donations to build a dedicated FRC facility on the LAVC campus. Roosevelt has extensive expertise with work and family programs in the corporate world. She did national and international consulting before joining the LAVC faculty. Roosevelt received her B.A. from the University of California at Santa Cruz and her M.A. from California State University at Sonoma.



Sarah Saxton-Frump
Chief Operating Officer
PelotonU

Saxton-Frump, a co-founder of PelotonU, directs the college completion program and trains new partners to bring their model to new cities. She graduated from Brown University in 2007 and

received her M.A. in Educational Administration in 2013. Saxton-Frump served for five years at KIPP: Austin Collegiate as a teacher and school leader. Prior to KIPP, she was a 2007 Rio Grande Valley corps member with Teach for America where she taught 9th grade World Geography and 10th grade World History.



Abigail Seldin
CEO
Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation (SHSF)

Seldin is the CEO of the SHSF. The Foundation funds seed-stage public interest projects and collaborates with leading tech companies to build tools for the new college majority. At SHSF,

Seldin has led the development of SwiftStudent, a free digital tool for college students seeking financial aid appeals. Seldin is the co-producer of the New College Majority Photo Series with Getty Images, a new images project highlighting the demographics of today's college students. She serves on the boards of Temple University's Hope Center, the Montgomery College Foundation, and the Association of American Rhodes Scholars.



Jacqueline Smith
Vice President
Arizona State University Foundation

As Vice President at the Arizona State University (ASU) Foundation, Smith designs opportunities for external constituents to invest in ASU as a New American University. She is also a Professor of

Practice in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College with a focus on university design and higher education and the law. Additionally, she teaches an undergraduate course called Cross Sector Collaboration which is offered to students in the Next Generation Service Corps, a program she helped design.



Louis Soares
Chief Learning & Innovation Officer
American Council on Education (ACE)

As Chief Learning & Innovation Officer at ACE, Soares incubates and scales executive leadership networks, as well as catalyzes research and innovation initiatives

across the Council. Working with colleagues, Soares integrates the work of ACE's leadership, research and innovation teams to optimize membership value for colleges and universities by developing programs and services to advance the success of senior leaders, diversify the executive talent pipeline, and facilitate partnerships to enhance institutional performance. While at ACE, he published landmark papers, including *The Post-traditional Learners Manifesto Revisited: Aligning Postsecondary Education with Real Life for Adult Student Success* and *Evolving Higher Education Business Models: Leading with Data to Deliver Results*.



Susan Warfield, MSW, LICSW
Program Director
Student Parent HELP Center
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Warfield is the Program Director for the Student Parent HELP Center at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (U of MN-TC). She has 20 years experience

working with student parents and other under-represented populations at the U of MN-TC and an additional 20 years spent working with children and families in both Colorado and the San Francisco Bay area. Beginning her social work career in the public K-12 education system, she spent seven years working in highly diverse neighborhoods with low incomes. She earned her degrees at the University of Denver and the University of California at Berkeley. She serves on the Institute for Women's Policy Research Student Parent Policy Workgroup and is the founder and inaugural chair of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Adult Learners and Students with Children Knowledge Community.



Amanda Winters
Program Director
National Governors Association (NGA)

Winters serves as a program director at the NGA, where she advises state leaders on postsecondary and workforce policies. Winter's work focuses on

state postsecondary financing with an emphasis on equity and measurable outcomes. She is also examining state longitudinal data systems, short term credentials, work-based learning, occupational licensure, state higher ed oversight, and connecting education and work. Before joining NGA, Winters was the assistant director of academic affairs at the Illinois Board of Higher Education. In addition to working with 100+ institutions in the state to provide institutional and program review, she worked with the community college system and the state workforce board on projects to promote college access and completion. Winters holds a B.A. from the University of Missouri-Rolla and a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Illinois- Springfield.

POSTSECONDARY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE FOR PARENTS

The Postsecondary Leadership Circle for Parents (Leadership Circle) is a cohort of 23 college presidents and chancellors from diverse institutional backgrounds that are spearheading work that supports students who are parents. They offer bold ideas and concrete pathways towards completion and success for parents and their families. The Leadership Circle will also lead the implementation of several strategies developed by Ascend from recommendations of practitioners, researchers, and other postsecondary experts.



Roslyn Clark Artis, JD, EdD
President
Benedict College

Dr. Artis was appointed as the 14th President of Benedict College in June 2017. She became the first female President in the 147-year history of the college. Dr. Artis came to Benedict from

Florida Memorial University, where she served for four years as the 13th president and first female in that University's 138-year history. In her brief tenure at Benedict, Dr. Artis has lowered tuition, increased academic standards, stabilized the institution's financial position, streamlined academic degree programs, and upgraded the institution's technology infrastructure. These efforts resulted in Benedict receiving the 2019 ACE/Fidelity Investments Institutional Transformation Award, which recognizes institutions that have met higher education challenges in a particularly innovative or creative way and realized positive results in a relatively short period of time.



Pam Eddinger, PhD
President
Bunker Hill Community College

Dr. Eddinger is president of Bunker Hill Community College. She began her tenure in 2013, and previously served as president of Moorpark College. Dr. Eddinger's service in the Community College movement

spans more than 25 years, with senior posts in academics and student affairs, communications and policy, and executive leadership. In addition to serving as chairpersonship of Achieving the Dream, she serves on a number of boards and commissions, including the New England Commission of Higher Education, WGBH Boston, the Boston Foundation, the Massachusetts

Workforce Development Board, and Boston Private Industry Council. Dr. Eddinger was honored in 2016 by the Obama administration as a Champion of Change. She earned a B.A. in English from Barnard College and her M.A. and doctorate in Japanese Literature from Columbia University.



Sue Ellspermann, PhD
President
Ivy Tech Community College (ITCC)

Dr. Ellspermann became the 9th President of Ivy Tech Community College in 2016. She has more than 30 years of experience in higher education, economic, workforce development, and public service.

She led ITCC through the adoption of a five-year strategic plan, while also leading a comprehensive realignment of the system's campus structure. Prior to joining ITCC, Ellspermann served as Lieutenant Governor of Indiana. In this role, she served as President of the Senate and Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. She also oversaw six agencies. As the vice chair of the Indiana Career Council, she led efforts to align Indiana's education and workforce development system to meet the needs of employers. She holds a B.S. from Purdue University, and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Louisville.



Mike Flores, PhD
Chancellor
Alamo Colleges District

Dr. Flores assumed his duties as chancellor in October 2018. He is the first internal candidate and the first Hispanic chancellor in the district's history. Dr. Flores supports

empowering students for success through high-impact teaching and learning practices, including academic advising, early access to college through high school programs and experiential learning opportunities through apprenticeships, internships, and volunteer experiences. He previously served as president of Palo Alto College, where he established new degree and certificate programs in high-wage, high-demand career areas, seven early college high school partnerships, the college's first Center for Mexican-American studies, and an Honors program. Dr. Flores holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at San Antonio, a master's degree in Political Science from Illinois State University, and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Austin.



Gregory Fowler, PhD
President
Southern New Hampshire
University (SNHU) Global Campus

As President of SNHU's Global Campus, Dr. Fowler has oversight for academic functions in support of the university's learning experiences and modalities—

online, competency-based and hybrid—meeting the rapidly changing demands of the workforce and global communities. A two-time Fulbright Senior Scholar (Germany and Belgium) with 25+ years of experience in higher education management, Dr. Fowler has published and presented at events throughout the world, including Germany, where he also taught at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at Freie Universität-Berlin. He has held senior level academic and administrative positions at numerous institutions including Western Governors University, Pennsylvania State University and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Fowler holds a B.A. from Morehouse College, an M.A. from George Mason University, an M.B.A. from Western Governors University, and a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He was a Charles A. Dana Scholar at Duke University and completed several higher education and executive leadership/negotiation programs at Harvard University.



Carrie Besnette Hauser, PhD
President & CEO
Colorado Mountain College

Dr. Hauser has served as president and CEO of Colorado Mountain College since 2013. Previously, she held leadership roles at the Kauffman Foundation, Metropolitan State University

of Denver, and the Daniels Fund. Dr. Hauser is currently a governor's appointee to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and a member of the Great Outdoors Colorado board and El Pomar Foundation Northwest Regional Council. She serves on the American Council on Education Board of Directors and the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank Economic Advisory Council. Dr. Hauser is also the past president of the National Scholarship Providers Association. Dr. Hauser taught at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), the University of Denver, and Colorado State University. She held research and legislative staff roles as well as positions with the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and the University of Arizona (UA). Dr. Hauser earned her bachelor's at UA and her master's and Ph.D. degrees from UCLA. She is also a graduate of the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.



Barry Gribbons, PhD
President
Los Angeles Valley College

Dr. Gribbons has been President of Los Angeles Valley College since August 2019. Previously, he had 19 years of leadership experience at the College of the Canyons, with the last four

years serving as Deputy Chancellor. He also held several administrative posts including assistant superintendent, vice president, and dean. From 1996 to 1999, he was senior researcher and project director at the University of California at Los Angeles' Center for the Study of Evaluation. Dr. Gribbons was also a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education. He has co-authored more than 520 research reports and presented work at more than 50 conferences. He taught at California State University, Los Angeles and the College of the Canyons. Dr. Gribbons received his associate's degree in Math and Science from the College of the Canyons, his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from California State University, Northridge, and his Master's degree and doctorate in Education, both from the University of Southern California.



Maria Harper-Marinick, PhD
Former Chancellor
Maricopa County Community
College District

Dr. Harper-Marinick is a national leader in higher education and a strong advocate for access to opportunity, equity, and student success. She served the Maricopa

Community College District for almost 30 years in a variety of leadership roles, most recently as chancellor. Dr. Harper-Marinick is a Senior Fellow with the Aspen Institute. She is actively engaged in national and local boards including the American Council of Education, the American Association of Community Colleges, Excelencia in Education, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, among others. She served on the Federal Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistant, twice as chair, by appointment of then U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. She is an Aspen Institute Ascend Fellow and a Distinguished Fellow of the Arizona State University (ASU) Morrison Institute for Public Policy. Dr. Harper-Marinick holds a master's degree and a Ph.D. degree in Education from ASU.



Anne Kress, PhD
President
Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA)

Dr. Kress is the sixth president of Northern Virginia Community College, a role she began in January 2020. She has more than 25 years of experience in

higher education, having served as a tenured faculty member in English, department chair, associate vice president, provost, and president at community colleges in Florida and New York. Dr. Kress ensures NOVA provides meaningful and equitable access to educational and economic opportunity, connects students to transformational, high quality programs, builds innovative industry and community partnerships, and increases philanthropic support of student success. She serves on the board of the American Association of Community Colleges and on work groups affiliated with the American Council of Education, the Association of Community College Trustees, and Opportunity America. Dr. Kress is a board member of the Northern Virginia Technology Council and the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. She earned two B.A.'s in Finance and English, an M.A. in English, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration, all from the University of Florida.



Russell Lowery-Hart, PhD
President
Amarillo College (AC)

Dr. Lowery-Hart became president of Amarillo College by unanimous consent of the Board of Regents in August 2014. He served the previous four years as AC's vice president of academic affairs.

Dr. Lowery-Hart joined the AC administration in 2010 following years as a member of the faculty and administration at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU), where he had risen to associate provost for academic affairs. Dr. Lowery-Hart returned to WTAMU professionally in 1998 and worked his way up from assistant professor of speech communication to director of forensics, executive director of first-year experience, associate vice president for academic affairs, and associate provost in 2007. Three years later, he became vice president of academic affairs at AC. He holds a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication at WTAMU, a master's degree in Communication Studies from Texas Tech University, and a doctoral degree in Gender and Diversity in Communication from Ohio University.



Félix Matos Rodríguez, PhD
Chancellor
City University of New York (CUNY)

Dr. Matos Rodríguez became the eighth Chancellor of the City University of New York in 2019, making him the first educator of color and the first Latino to lead CUNY. He is a scholar, teacher,

administrator, former cabinet secretary for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and an Ascend Fellow. Dr. Matos Rodríguez, who served as the president of Queens College from 2014 until his appointment, was also Hostos Community College president from 2009 to 2014. He has an extensive publication record in the fields of Women's and Latino Studies. Dr. Matos Rodríguez is the author of *Women and Urban Change in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1820-1868*; editor of *A Nation of Women: An Early Feminist Speaks Out / Mi opinión sobre las libertades, derechos y deberes de la mujer* by Luisa Capetillo; and co-editor of *Puerto Rican Women's History: New Perspectives*. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Dr. Matos Rodríguez has a B.A. in Latin American Studies from Yale University and a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University.



Susan Mingo
President
Washington County Community College (WCCC)

Over her more than 15-year career in higher education, Mingo has devoted herself to providing opportunities for degree attainment that

advance the lives of individuals within Washington County and the State of Maine. She has served as the President of Washington County Community College since August 2018 and prior to that as the Dean of Students for seven years. Mingo supports under-resourced students and works to improve opportunities at WCCC to close achievement gaps and improve retention and persistence rates. She is an advocate for decreasing barriers that impede student success, creating supports, and leveraging resources to assist students with navigating their external barriers. Prior to working in higher education, she worked for 20 years in local businesses as well as two years in municipal government. She and her husband of 32 years are owners and operators of two small businesses in the Calais area. Mingo graduated from the University of Maine at Machias with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and from Husson University with a Master of Science in Human Relations.



Mark Mitsui, EdD
President
Portland Community College (PCC)

Dr. Mitsui became President of Portland Community College in August 2016. He is the first Asian American president in the school's 58-year history. He serves on several boards including the

Governor's Workforce and Talent Development Board, the Portland Business Alliance board, and the Greater Portland Incorporated board. He also serves on the board of the Community College Baccalaureate Association, the Higher Education Steering Council for Second Nature, and the President's Advisory Council for Phi Theta Kappa. Prior to working at PCC, he served in the Obama Administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges in the U.S. Department of Education. He also served as President of North Seattle College, Vice President of Student Services at South Seattle College, Assistant Dean of Student Services at Green River Community College, and Director of Student Success at North Seattle College. Dr. Mitsui holds a B.A. in Physical Education from Western Washington University and a master's degree and doctoral studies in Educational Leadership and Policy Development at the University of Washington.



Eduardo Padrón, PhD
President Emeritus
Miami Dade College

Dr. Padrón is the President Emeritus of Miami Dade College. In 2016, President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the U.S., for being a prominent

national voice for access and inclusion in higher education. He is the recipient of the Carnegie Corporation's Centennial Academic Leadership Award, the National Citizen Service Award from Voices for National Service, and the Hesburgh Award, the highest honor in U.S. higher education. He is also an Ascend Fellow at the Aspen Institute and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Six American Presidents have selected him to serve on posts of national prominence. He serves on the boards of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Urban Institute, the Spencer Foundation and the International Association of University Presidents. He is the past chairman of the Business-Higher Education Forum, the American Council on Education, and the Association of American Colleges and Universities. He is the recipient of over fifteen honorary doctorates.



DeRionne Pollard, PhD
President
Montgomery College

Dr. Pollard assumed leadership of Montgomery College in 2010. She spearheaded the development of a new college mission statement and strategic plan. She partnered with Montgomery

County Public Schools and the Universities at Shady Grove in the creation of the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success program. Dr. Pollard formerly served as president of Las Positas College. She is a member of the Community College Advisory Panel at the College Board and the Higher Education Research and Development Institute Advisory Board. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges and is serving her first year as the president of the American Association of Women for Community Colleges. Dr. Pollard earned her B.A. and M.A. from Iowa State University, which awarded her its Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019. Her Ph.D is in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in Higher Education from Loyola University of Chicago.



Carol F. Probstfeld, Ed.D.
President
State College of Florida,
Manatee-Sarasota (SCF)

Dr. Probstfeld is the sixth president of the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, the area's oldest and largest public college. She is leading SCF's efforts to

boldly engage its students, faculty, staff, and community partners to achieve the goals of the college's 2015-2020 strategic plan. Under her leadership, the SCF Foundation launched its first Capital Campaign in 2016 to provide facilities that enhance the student experience. The Campaign financed \$1 million in technological upgrades for the Library and Learning Center and a \$4 million Studio for the Performing Arts. Her efforts also resulted in SCF receiving the two largest legacy gift commitments in the history of the SCF Foundation. Dr. Probstfeld served as the Florida College System Activities Association President and the Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation Chair. She provided statewide leadership to the Florida College System as Council of Presidents Chair and Policy and Advocacy Chair. Dr. Probstfeld hold a B.S. from California State Polytechnic University, an M.B.A. from John Carroll University, and an Ed.D. from Argosy University.



Juan Salgado, PhD
Chancellor
City Colleges of Chicago

Salgado has focused his 20-year career on improving education and economic opportunities for residents in communities with low incomes. As chancellor, he oversees Chicago's community college system, serving more than 80,000 students across seven colleges. From 2001- 2017, he served as CEO of Instituto del Progreso Latino, where he worked to empower residents of Chicago's Southwest Side through education, citizenship, and skill-building programs that led to sustainable employment and economic stability. Salgado earned an associate's degree from Moraine Valley Community College, a bachelor's degree in Economics from Illinois Wesleyan University, and a master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



William Serrata, PhD
President
El Paso Community College (EPCC)

Dr. Serrata became President of the El Paso County Community College District in August 2012. He came to EPCC from South Texas College where he served as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management for over seven years. He has provided enrollment management leadership in fostering enrollment growth as well as increases in student retention, dual credit enrollment, and graduation rates with an emphasis on first-generation and Hispanic populations and establishing a college-going culture. He serves as Vice Chair of the Executive Committee for the Texas Association of Community Colleges, Chair of the Board of Directors of Excelencia in Education, Advisory Board Member of the Higher Education Research and Development Institute, and is Chair-Elect of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges after being elected to the Board in 2017. Dr. Serrata is a member of the 2015 class of the Aspen Institute Ascend Fellows. Under his leadership, the Aspen Institute announced that EPCC was named one of 10 nation-wide finalists for the 2015 Aspen Prize for community college excellence. Dr. Serrata holds a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University (TAMU), a master's degree from the University of Texas at Brownsville, and a doctorate of philosophy in Educational Human Resource Development from TAMU.



Laurel Vermillion, PhD
President
Sitting Bull College (SBC)

Dr. Vermillion, a recognized member of the Hunkpapa-Lakota peoples of the Standing Rock Reservation, is president of Sitting Bull College. She began her higher education at SBC when it was known as Standing Rock Community College (SRCC). She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education through an articulation agreement between SRCC and the University of North Dakota. During her 14 years as an elementary teacher, she completed a master's degree in Education Administration from the University of North Dakota. She relocated to Marty, SD and served as principal at the Marty Indian School. Dr. Vermillion later became the vice president of Academic Affairs at SBC and eventually vice president of Operations. During her seven years in this role, she earned a Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning, Higher Education from the University of North Dakota. She is an active board member of the Bear Soldier Horizons, the Standing Rock Education Consortium, Standing Rock Education Leaders, the North Dakota Association of Tribal Colleges, Recruiting American Indian Nurses program, among others.



Suzanne Walsh, JD
President
Bennett College

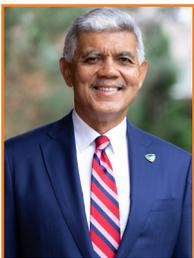
Ms. Walsh is the 19th President of Bennett College. Prior to this role, she served as the deputy director for postsecondary success with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Ms. Walsh led the foundation's efforts in institutional transformation strategies, Completion by Design, and was integrally involved in the viability and sustainability of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the current postsecondary education environment. She worked at Lumina Foundation, where she managed the Making Opportunity Affordable initiative, aimed at increasing college productivity by bringing about fundamental change in the way higher education does business. She also worked at the Heinz Endowments, where her diverse portfolio included community colleges, universities, workforce development, tech commercialization and transfer, city/county consolidation, immigration and regional economic development. Ms. Walsh earned an A.A.S. from Hudson Valley Community College, a B.S. from Cornell University, an M.S.S.A. in Social Work, and a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University.



Daria Willis, PhD
President
Everett Community College
(EvCC)

Dr. Willis is the 17th president of Everett Community College. She is the school's first African American president and fourth woman in this role

in its 78-year history. EvCC was recognized for increases in the number of students completing math and English requirements during their first year, year-to-year retention, and degree completion. Drawing from her experience as a first-generation college student and a student parent, Dr. Willis partners actively with public school districts, four-year universities, local businesses, and not-for-profit organizations to offer services and support to students from all backgrounds. She is a member of the American Association of Community College's Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She has served on local boards for the NAACP, the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County, and the Syracuse City School District Foundation. Dr. Willis holds a B.A. and an M.A. from Florida A&M University. She earned her Ph.D. at Florida State University.



M. Roy Wilson, MD
President
Wayne State University (WSU)

Dr. Wilson became the 12th president of Wayne State University on August 1, 2013. Prior to joining WSU, he served as deputy director for strategic scientific planning

and program coordination at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health. He was dean of the School of Medicine and vice president for health sciences at Creighton University, president of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver and chair of the Board of Directors of University of Colorado Hospital/Anschutz Medical Campus. Dr. Wilson also chaired the Board of Directors of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and was acting president during part of that time. His research has focused on glaucoma and blindness in populations from the Caribbean to West Africa. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Wilson holds a B.S. from Allegheny College,

an M.S. in Epidemiology from the University of California at Los Angeles, and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School.



Katharine Winograd, PhD
Former President
Central New Mexico
Community College (CNM)

Dr. Winograd was named the first female president of Central New Mexico Community College in February 2007. She retired

in 2020 as the longest serving president of the college. Dr. Winograd started at CNM in 1996 and was vice president for planning and budget prior to being named president. Her almost 45 years in higher education also included previous positions at the University of New Mexico, the University of Louisville and the Kentucky Council on Higher Education. Under President Winograd's leadership, CNM received national and state recognition for student success, innovation, and ethics. Dr. Winograd also received numerous recognitions for her leadership including the recent 2020 Spirt of New Mexico Award. She earned her bachelor's degrees in Psychology from Georgetown (KY) College, her master's degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Louisville, and her Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from the University of New Mexico. Dr. Winograd served on several community boards including serving as co-chair of "Mission: Graduate." She is an Ascend Fellow of the Aspen Institute, served as chair of the board of Presbyterian Healthcare Services, and was a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Denver Branch.



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