

## Northern California Summit on Children and Youth 2012

### May 17, 2012 Opening Plenary – Effective Engagement and Strategic Relationships

#### Moderator:



**Nicole Taylor, President and CEO, East Bay Community Foundation.** Taylor, a veteran executive with 18 years of experience in the Bay Area non-profit community, is the first African-American to lead the Foundation in its 81-year history. In 2009, she was named by the *San Francisco Business Times* to its list of "East Bay Women of Distinction" and as one of the "Most Influential Women in Business in the Bay Area." In 2010, the *Times* named her as one of the "Most Admired CEOs" in the Bay Area. Before coming to the Foundation in September 2007, she was Managing Director of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University, one of the nation's premier institutions developing leaders capable of making social change. Prior to her service at Stanford, she was the CEO of College Track, a nonprofit organization that works to get underrepresented students in the San Francisco Bay Area successfully through high school and college. And prior to College Track, she was the director of Oakland's Fund for Children and Youth, which at that time distributed over \$7 million per year to youth serving organizations in Oakland, California. Taylor began her career as a teacher and also worked on school-reform efforts within urban school districts. For most of the 1990s, she worked at the East Bay Community Foundation where her work focused on education, children and youth services, nonprofit management and fund raising. She serves on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank and on governing boards of a number of non-profit organizations. She holds a B.A. in Human Biology and a M.A. in Education – both from Stanford.

#### Panelists:



**Bruce Harter, Ph.D., Superintendent, West Contra Costa County Unified School District (WCCUSD).** Bruce Harter is in his 5<sup>th</sup> year as superintendent in West Contra Costa Unified. He has been a math and science teacher, coached sports and was a principal before becoming a superintendent. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of Colorado. Dr. Harter is married to a high school counselor, Lee Anna, with whom he has three children – all graduates of public schools.



**Tony Smith, Ph.D., Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD).** Dr. Smith became Superintendent on May 22, 2009, when the Oakland Board of Education elected him by unanimous vote. An Oakland resident and parent of students in Oakland Public Schools, Smith is the District's first permanent, locally appointed Superintendent since 2003. In June 2011, the Board unanimously approved Smith's strategic plan, Community Schools, Thriving Students, which calls for OUSD's transformation into a full-service community school district where every school serves as a neighborhood hub that provides a comprehensive range of academic, social, and healthy supports for families. Prior to joining OUSD, Smith was the Deputy Superintendent for the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), following his time as Superintendent of the Emery Unified School District (EUSD) in Emeryville, California. Smith became the EUSD Superintendent after serving as Director of the Emeryville Citywide Initiative, with particular responsibility for the Math, Science, Technology Initiative (MSTI). From 1997 to 2001, Smith directed several

major initiatives at the Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools (BayCES), an educational non-profit that offers coaching and technical assistance to schools and districts as part of an effort to promote equity in education. In 1992, Smith received his B.A. in English from the University of California, Berkeley, where he was Captain of the football team and Graduate Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach before going on to earn his Masters and Doctorate Degrees in the Division of Language and Literacy from Cal's Graduate School of Education in 1993 and 2002, respectively.