

Northern California Summit on Children and Youth 2012

Concurrent Presentations

Speaker Bios -- Round 1 Presentations



Ted Lempert, President of Children Now, a national research and advocacy organization based in Oakland, California. He is also a Lecturer in the Political Science Department at UC Berkeley. Previously, Mr. Lempert was the founding CEO of EdVoice, a California organization advocating for education reform and support for public education. Mr. Lempert was a California State Assemblymember representing San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties from 1996 to 2000 and 1988 to 1992. He served as chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and co-chair of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education. He had more than 75 bills signed by Governors Deukmejian, Wilson and Davis, including major laws in the areas of education, health care, children and families, tax policy and the environment. Mr. Lempert also served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, where he was President of the Board in 1995. He was the founder of the County's Youth Commission and chaired the Task Force on Violence Against Women. Prior to holding public office, Mr. Lempert was special counsel and an associate for the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton in San Francisco. Mr. Lempert received the "Al Rodda Lifetime Service Award" from the California School Boards Association; was named "Legislator of the Year" by numerous leading education groups, including the National Association of Educational Service Agencies, the California Association of School Administrators, California Community College Faculty and the UC and CSU Students Associations; was recognized five times with the "High-Tech Legislator of the Year" award from the American Electronics Association. He graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and earned his law degree from Stanford University. He, his wife Nicole, and their three daughters live in San Carlos.



Donn Harris, Executive Director and Artistic Director, Oakland School for the Arts. Mr. Harris was born in New York and has lived in the Bay Area since 1990. He received his BA and MA in Theatre Arts from California State University at Los Angeles, and his teaching and administrative credentials from San Francisco State University. Mr. Harris has served as an English and Drama teacher, and worked with children challenged by learning and emotional disabilities. His teaching experience spans high achieving schools and incarcerated youth in juvenile hall. He became an administrator in 1994 when he was appointed Dean of Students at Galileo High School in San Francisco. Mr. Harris comes to OSA from the acclaimed San Francisco School of the Arts, where he served as Principal for seven years. During his tenure, the school grew from 400 to 650 students. Mr. Harris also created a sister school, The Academy of Arts and Sciences, to ensure a broader range of students access to SOTA's proven curriculum and vibrant campus. Student achievement, as measured by California's Academic Performance Index, rose steadily under Mr. Harris's leadership, reaching a score of 802 in 2006-2007. It is Mr. Harris's vision that, with the Fall 2008 move to the Fox Theater, OSA will come to be the most dynamic secondary school in the East Bay and that student achievement, both artistically and academically, will reach unprecedented heights. He joins the dedicated and skilled OSA team with great enthusiasm and passion for taking the school to the next level of inspired excellence. Mr. Harris lives with his wife and two daughters in San Francisco.



Alicia Maldonado, President, Mockingbird Communications & Senior Consultant to the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Alicia Maldonado brings a diverse communications background with experience and expertise in strategic planning and communications, media relations, community advocacy and outreach. Prior to starting Mockingbird Communications, Alicia serviced a diverse roster of clients for a private public affairs advocacy firm and led strategic media and communications efforts for a national civil rights organization. She also worked as a broadcast news journalist and cable and public radio manager. Alicia is the liaison and lead consultant for the Campaign for Grade Level Reading in the state of California working with the 19 cities/communities that submitted Letters of Intent to apply for the National Civic League All-America City Grade-Level Reading Award in 2012. She worked with community representatives on their Community Solutions Action Plans (CSAP) submitted on March 12 and continues to work with the communities on their participation in the National Civic League's Conference and awards announcement in Denver in June. Alicia organizes meetings with key stakeholders across the state to provide opportunities to promote the Campaign in public and private settings, and coordinates logistics and participation in local, regional and national conferences held in California to showcase the Campaign and motivate participation in its efforts.



Mary Ann Burke, Ed.D., Director II, Categorical and Special Projects Santa Clara County Office of Education, City of San Jose. Mary Ann Burke is an Adjunct Lecturer in school finance, grant writing and systematic planning, and school-community relations at the California State University, Sacramento. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California specializing in resource development for education. She has provided administrative program development, grant writing assistance, and assessment support to various Los Angeles County urban school districts and charter schools. Burke is the former Director of the Community Partnership Coalition VISTA Project sponsored by Fenton Avenue Charter School. The project recruits and trains parent and community volunteers to serve as mentors and tutors in the classroom. She is the author of *Simplified Grantwriting* and coauthor of *Recruiting Volunteers*, *Creative Fundraising*, *Leveraging Resources for Student Success*, and *Developing Community Empowered Schools*.



Nikolas Howard, Director of Sacramento READS!. Mr. Howard assumed the Director position in July of 2011 with the vision of "ensuring literacy for all third graders" in Sacramento. As Director of Sacramento READS! Nik has worked to build a community solution to the current literacy crisis. His work is informed by his experiences in public education as a teacher and administrator as well as his time in the non-profit sector with Teach For America. Nik's experience includes: serving as a Special Education teacher at Mayer Sulzberger Middle School from 2003 to 2005 as a Teach for America Corps Member; creating Mayer Sulzberger Middle School's first special education inclusion program; collaborating with colleagues to help all of their special needs students grow by at least 1.5 grade levels in reading and math in just one school year; serving as a Program Director with Teach for America supporting 56 corps members in New York City Public Schools; continuing his work as a Program Director with Teach for America, relocating to Los Angeles to support 30 corps members in Los Angeles Unified School District; joining the Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF) in Los Angeles as a US History teacher and Assistant Principal in charge of curriculum and instruction at View Park Preparatory Accelerated Charter Middle School. Nik eventually assumed leadership of the school as the Principal and in four years at View Park Prep, Nik, his dedicated teachers and amazing students collectively raised the school's Academic Performance Index (API) from 746 to a height of 822. Nik is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo (B.A. History). Nik earned his Masters

in US History from the University of Oregon, and also earned a Masters in Elementary Education from St. Joseph's University while teaching in Philadelphia.



Laurel Kloomok, M.Ed., Executive Director, First 5 San Francisco. Laurel served as Regional Director of Parents Place/Jewish Family and Children's Services since 1996 and was responsible for the development and operation of the agency's Family Resource Centers and Early Childhood Mental Health Programs. She spent her early career as an early childhood special education preschool teacher and then as an early childhood special needs program coordinator. She served as a private consultant for the California State Department of Education, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco Community Behavioral Health Services, and Support for Families of Children with Disabilities, Miriam and Peter Haas Fund and Oakland's Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to coming to Parents Place, she was the Director of the High Risk Infant Interagency Council responsible for implementing federal and state early childhood special education legislation in San Francisco. Laurel holds a Master of Education degree in Special Education and Rehabilitation as well as certificates in Family Therapy and Group Facilitation Skills. Laurel and her husband raised two children in San Francisco. Her daughter works with children in the foster care system in San Diego and is applying to graduate school in social work. Her son is a junior at New York University.



Luis Santana, Executive Director, Reading and Beyond. Luis came to the United States from Brazil in 1991 to earn his Master's degree in Social work from Sacramento State University. In Brazil, Luis was a Hospital Director and Administrator of the Bar Association. After earning his Master's degree, he worked as a missionary coordinating street outreach and mental health counseling efforts in South America. In 1999, Luis joined a group of concerned citizens and established Reading and Beyond to address the high illiteracy rate and low educational attainment in Fresno. He was asked to serve as the first Executive Director; a position he still occupying. Under his leadership, Reading and Beyond has flourished with programs that span from early childhood education to workforce development. Luis's philosophy of providing holistic services and reaching out to the entire family has assisted the organization in effectively building foundations for children and families. Luis has served as Chairman of the Fresno County Local Childcare Planning Council, is a member of the Voluntary Preschool Master Plan for Fresno County, as a Board member for the United Way of Fresno County, representing the nonprofit sector, served on the Preschool Leadership Council of the League of Women Voters of Fresno, and is currently on the board of the Children's Collabrium, a state-wide organization committed to quality early care and education. In 2009, Luis became the first person in the Central Valley to receive the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award.



Joel Mackey, JD, Executive Director, West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (The Ed. Fund). For the past twenty years, Joel Mackey has been connected to the nonprofit sector as the Executive Director senior staff member, and board member. Joel Mackey is an attorney currently serving as the Executive Director of the West Contra Costa Education Fund. Previously, he was the legal and policy analyst with Making Waves in Richmond, CA. Prior to joining Making Waves, Joel served as the Executive Director of Harbor House Ministries and as the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, East Bay. He has served on the board of many nonprofit organizations, including East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, The Family Independence Initiative, The Berkeley Emergency Food and Housing Project, The People's Credit Union, Consumer Credit Counsel, and the Homeless Action Center.



Tanya Avila, Lead Education Consultant, The Ed. Fund OST Initiative. Tanya Avila is a recognized leader in the Out-of-School Time arena in the Bay Area with more than 15 years of experience working in this field. She has provided leadership for After School Programs in two large urban school districts, West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), from 2001-2007. Prior to this, Ms. Avila grounded her practice at the school site level, establishing one of WCCUSD's flagship Community School models at Helms Middle School during her tenure there from 1997-2001. Most recently, from 2007-2012, Ms. Avila has served as a consultant throughout the Bay Area providing technical assistance for Out-of-School Time and Family Support efforts. She is currently working with The Ed Fund to launch an Out-of-School Time Collaborative Initiative in West Contra Costa County. Ms. Avila received her Master's degree in Social Welfare, Management and Planning from UC-Berkeley. She lives with her family in Richmond, CA.

Monroe Howard, Specialist II, Youth Engagement Services, Sacramento Unified School District. Monroe Howard is a Specialist II within the Youth Engagement Services unit of the Youth Development department at the Sacramento City Unified School District. Under the direction of the unit Coordinator Monroe oversees the implementation of the 21st Century High School After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) grant at 7 district high schools and works closely with the Linked Learning department to effectively align out-of-school time with the high school reform initiative. With a professional history in community based organization management and providing direct student services, Monroe possesses a unique perspective on how to leverage internal and external district partnerships to provide supports for student success.



Corey Newhouse, Founder and Principal, Public Profit. Ms. Newhouse has a wide range of experience in evaluating programs that serve children and families. Ms. Newhouse earned her Bachelor's degree from Columbia College and her Master's degree from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to founding Public Profit, Corey managed the evaluation division of Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates (HTA) where she was responsible for managing and performing dozens of youth service organization evaluation contracts totaling more than \$1 million annually. Subsequent to her work at HTA, Ms. Newhouse was a Senior Policy Associate at Children Now where she was responsible for the development and publication of several widely released research reports.



Jennifer Peck, Executive Director, Partnership for Children and Youth. Jennifer was a founding staff member of the Partnership in 2001 and became its executive director in 2003. Since that time, she has developed and implemented initiatives to finance and build after-school and summer-learning programs, and increase access to school meals and nutrition education programs in the Bay Area's lowest-income communities. Under her leadership, the Partnership has brought more than \$70 million in public funding to schools and their community partners, enabling thousands of low-income children to participate in these programs. Jennifer has built the Partnership into an influential policy-development and advocacy organization that has improved the effectiveness of public funding for youth programs in low-income communities across California. In December 2010, Jennifer was appointed Transition Team Director and Policy Advisor for Tom Torlakson, the newly-elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In this role, Jennifer oversaw the transition planning process and helped ensure that the superintendent's goals were articulated through policy and organizational development at the California Department of Education. Jennifer continues to serve as an advisor to the Superintendent on Expanded Learning and Community School issues. In 2006, as California prepared to launch Proposition 49's substantial new investment in after school programs, Jennifer led the development and advocacy for state legislation that dramatically reformed the initiative and prioritized funding for schools in the lowest-income

communities. For this work, then-State Senator Tom Torlakson named Jennifer “Woman of the Year” in 2008. Jennifer created the California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance, the state Legislative Task Force on Summer Enrichment, and she leads a coalition of California organizations advocating for new federal policies to improve the effectiveness of after-school and summer-learning programs. Prior to joining the Partnership, Jennifer spent eight years as an appointee of President Bill Clinton at the U.S. Department of Education, where she supported implementation of numerous initiatives including student loan reform, School-to-Work, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Jennifer has a B.A. in Sociology and Women’s Studies from Colgate University.

Speaker Bios – Round 2 Presentations



Robert Bunce, Program Director, West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (The Ed. Fund). Robert Bunce has brought his energy and devotion to the field of education for over 15 years. Currently, Robert is the Program Director for The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (The Ed. Fund). Over his last two years with The Ed. Fund, Robert has grown and developed the organizations grants and scholarship program, piloted their new teacher development program, and launched their Out-of-School Time Initiative and College Access Initiative. In addition to overseeing programming, Robert is the face in the community for The Ed. Fund, working with diverse community stakeholders to identify opportunities and resources to improve educational opportunities for youth and schools in Richmond. Robert attended Sonoma State University for his graduate and undergraduate studies in education and history respectively, and earned his teaching credential from Dominican University. Robert began his career as a teacher and has spent nine years in the classroom. His vision for student centered education has made him a school leader in and out of the classroom. Upon completing graduate school, Robert stepped into the world of non-profit management. Deeply committed to social justice, Robert ran the education department for Sacramento’s largest domestic violence and sexual assault center. Robert went on to become the operations director for Oasis Children’s Services in New York City. Robert brings those rich experiences and talents with him to the community of Richmond.



Peter Kim, Executive Director, Glow Foundation. Peter Kim has worked internationally and in the US on environmental law and policy, education, transportation and land-use, partnerships, and environmental justice issues. For the past six years, Peter has worked in the philanthropy sector as a director of strategy for a consulting firm and as an officer for the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. He has led successful social initiatives using a venture philanthropy approach to build the capacity of fifteen environmental nonprofits and to create an integrated educational and youth development curriculum with schools, teachers and nonprofits. In addition, he authored the Silicon Valley Community Foundation’s regional planning grantmaking strategy and worked with other national foundations to retool regional strategies to maximize impact.



Katie Tremper, Program Officer, College Access Foundation. Ms. Tremper joined the College Access Foundation program staff in October, 2007. Katie brings 20 years of experience in program administration and grant management in the areas of college access, international education, and non-profit organizations. Previously, Katie served the Institute of International Education in Washington, D.C. for 16 years, administering a variety of international exchange programs for the U.S. Department of State. As senior program officer for the Fulbright Scholar Program, she planned and managed a \$2.5 million junior faculty development program for the former Soviet Union, the

annual Fulbright Scholar Conference, which included a cultural performance at the Kennedy Center, and diversity initiatives to increase participation of minority-serving institutions in the Fulbright Program. From 2005 to 2007, she was project director of Cal-SOAP Southern San Joaquin Valley, a College Access Foundation grantee serving low-income students in Bakersfield and throughout the southern Central Valley. She also taught math as an adjunct lecturer at Bakersfield College. Katie received her B.A. in Economics from James Madison University and her M.A. in Education Policy, Planning and Administration from the University of Maryland at College Park.



Jessica Wright-Davis, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Making Waves Education Program. Ms. Wright-Davis joined the Making Waves community in 1995 as a tutor/teacher for the First Wave, while teaching social science and leadership at a local high school. That same year, she became the Associate Program Director. In 2001, she transitioned into the Director of Academic Affairs, focusing on the expansion of the program's academic support services. In 2004, her position evolved to include the role of Director of Student Affairs, working to ensure that Making Waves Education Program resources are utilized to holistically serve our students and families. Ms. Wright-Davis has a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and a California Teaching Credential from California State University Hayward (now East Bay). She also has a Master of Arts in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University. She resides in Oakland with her husband and children.



Derek Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer, Partners in School Innovation. Born and raised in Chicago Illinois, Dr. Mitchell brings tremendous vision and proven expertise to the challenge of educational equity. His expertise derives from work at the Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (CRESST) in UCLA, in which he helped to pioneer school and district information management systems and data-driven technologies; Oakland USD, where he was Director of Technology and Student Achievement addressing equity-related challenges in assessment, technology and achievement; the Stupski Foundation, where he managed efforts to support district-wide reform across the country, including in districts such as Jackson Public Schools in Mississippi and the Baltimore City Public Schools System in Maryland; and Executive Director of the Opportunity Zone in Prince George's County in Maryland, where he led critical efforts to instill innovative school options as a core component of district-wide reform. Dr. Mitchell currently leads Partners in School Innovation, a school and district transformation non-profit headquartered in San Francisco, CA.



Dr. Emily Brizendine, Director of Gateways Cradle to Career Education and Workforce Partnership, and Professor of Educational Leadership, California State University, East Bay (CSUEB). Until December 2011, she also served as Executive Director of the Concord Campus of CSUEB. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, she has served as Interim Dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies (2006-07), Associate Dean (1996-2006), Assistant Dean (1995-96) and Department Chair of Educational Leadership (1993-95), the department in which she earned tenure and full professor rank. She led a faculty team partnering with Glassbrook Elementary School (Hayward Unified) as part of the Professional Development School Partnership. She joined the Cal State East Bay faculty in 1990 after serving for three years as Assistant Professor in the Department of Administration and Interdisciplinary Studies at San Francisco State University. An educator for 40 years, Dr. Brizendine began her career in the public schools, serving as a high school teacher, a middle school vice principal and as the district coordinator for Multicultural Education in Long Beach Unified School District (CA). She received her BA, MA, and Ed.D. from University of California, Los Angeles, where she was a Fellow in the UCLA-Bush Foundation Program in Child Development and Social Policy, and a research

assistant in the Laboratory in School and Community Education research project under John I. Goodlad, Dean of UCLA Graduate School of Education. Dr. Brizendine has served on a number of review boards of journals in the area of educational leadership and policy implementation and impact. Her research interests include urban schools leadership, women and minority leadership, educational policy impacts, and school change.



Dave Yanofsky, Director of Media and Youth Development, ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career. He got his start in radio, reporting for and producing “Budapest Day & Night,” the first English language radio program to appear in Eastern Europe after the wall came down. During that time, he also produced freelance feature stories for public radio’s Market Place. After returning to the US, he embarked on his first feature film, Poetic License.

Aired nationally on PBS, the film captures the emergence of spoken word poetry as a powerful form of self-expression for teenage youth. He then went to become the Executive Director of Just Think, a media literacy nonprofit organization, where he produced a number of innovative curricular projects that focus on youth and storytelling, and that help educators integrate media into their classroom or afterschool workshop. Before coming to ConnectEd, Yanofsky was the Program Director for Uth TV, where he oversaw a staff of youth media makers and helped to produce *Grind & Glory*, a feature-length film that was shot and edited by a crew of teenagers.