

## NASHVILLE EDUCATION SUMMIT

### Speaker Bios

#### **Dan Katzir**

*Managing Director, The Broad Foundation*

Dan Katzir has worked with Eli Broad to develop the vision for The Broad Foundation's education work and has been with the foundation since the education division formally launched in 1999. Today, Katzir oversees all aspects of the foundation's investments.

One of the nation's leading education reform experts, he has more than two decades of experience in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of organizations, including school districts, schools, national education nonprofits and businesses. Early in his career, Katzir worked as a consultant to the international management consulting firm Bain & Company, where he developed and implemented business strategies for Fortune 500 companies.

He later became chief operating officer for Teach For America, where he managed what was then an organization with a \$7.5 million budget, 15 offices, 70 full-time staff and 1,200 teachers. Katzir created the organization's first financial planning and control system and trained its national leaders in strategic planning, budgeting and personnel management. Seeing the tremendous benefit of applying best practices in management and operations from the business industry to the education industry, Katzir went on to serve as the first executive director of the UCLA School Management Program, a joint venture of UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Anderson School of Management that provides executive management training to public school educators.

In four years, Katzir took the program from a start-up to a \$5 million, 60-person organization with offices across the country. The program provided customized executive management programs for boards of education, senior school district management, principals and teachers in large school districts. Katzir also served as the founding regional director of Sylvan Learning Systems in Los Angeles, managing 33 reading tutorial centers in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Katzir has a bachelor's degree in history from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

#### **Paul Pastorek**

*Superintendent of Education, State of Louisiana*

Paul Pastorek served on the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) from 1996 to 2004, including the last three years as President of the Board. On his departure from the Board, Louisiana was noted as having the best rated statewide accountability program in the United States.

For the last 20 years, Pastorek has been working to improve public education in Louisiana. He started as a passionate volunteer in a New Orleans inner city junior high school. His experiences led him to study education issues, and he began working through the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce to push for improvements. His work came to the attention of Gov. Mike Foster who appointed him to BESE. After stepping down from the Board in 2004, Pastorek formed Next Horizon, a nonprofit organization that serves as a statewide think tank to connect Louisiana's leadership – education, government, business and community – as a force supporting school improvement.

Pastorek is an attorney and was licensed by Louisiana to practice law in 1979. He joined the law firm of Adams and Reese, then a New Orleans based law firm. He has been associated with Adams and Reese for over 27 years, first as a litigator, and later a corporate and transactional attorney.

In February 2002, Pastorek was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as General Counsel to NASA. He served as both the chief legal official for the agency and as a trusted advisor to then NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe. In addition, he served on and led several senior management and leadership committees, including leading the team that developed NASA's 2004 "transformational" reorganization plan. For his service at NASA, he received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal and NASA's Distinguished Service Medal. After two and half years of service, Pastorek left NASA to return to Adams and Reese.

Pastorek is a volunteer in his community; he has served on several boards, participated in many business groups and is the recipient of numerous awards and medals from various organizations. He is married to Kathy Pastorek. They have three grown children, Ryan, Jeffrey and Kaitlin.

### **Michelle Rhee**

*Chancellor, DC Public Schools*

On June 12, 2007, Mayor Fenty appointed Chancellor Michelle Rhee to lead the DC Public Schools, a district numbering over 47,000 students in 123 schools. Her commitment to excellence in education began in a Baltimore classroom in 1992 as a Teach For America teacher. The lesson she learned at Harlem Park Community School is what informs her work every day: a city's teachers make up the most powerful driving force behind the city's future prosperity, as they build the academic skills that yield positive life choices for children's futures.

This belief led Rhee to found The New Teacher Project (TNTP) in 1997, now a nationally recognized leader in understanding and developing innovative solutions to the challenges of new teacher hiring. As Chief Executive Officer and President, Rhee partnered with school districts, state education agencies, nonprofit organizations, and unions to transform the way schools and other organizations recruit, select, and train highly qualified teachers in difficult-to-staff schools. Her work implemented widespread reform in teacher hiring, improving teacher hiring in Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Miami, New York, Oakland, and Philadelphia. Thanks to TNTP, 23,000 new, high-quality teachers were placed in these schools across the country.

Rhee currently serves on the Advisory Boards for the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ); the National Center for Alternative Certification (NCAC); Project REACH of the University of Phoenix's School of Education. She is an Ex-Officio Member of the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees. Rhee's expertise on education is also informed by a bachelor's degree in government from Cornell University, and a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Dennis Walcott**

*Deputy Mayor, Education & Community Development NYC*

Dennis M. Walcott is the Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development in New York City. In that capacity, he oversees and coordinates the operations of the Department of Education and the Department of Youth and Community Development, as well as maintains liaison with and reviews the activities of the New York City School Construction Authority, City University of New York, City University Construction Fund and the New York City Housing Authority. Walcott is also responsible for maintaining liaison with community-based organizations citywide and coordinating policies concerning youth programs and adult education. He serves as Co-Chair of the Mayors Commission for Construction Opportunity. A product of the New York City public school system, Walcott received a master's degree in social work from Fordham University and a master's of education from the University of Bridgeport. He and his wife, Denise, have four children and two grandchildren.

**Kevin Hall**

*CEO and President, Charter School Growth Fund*

Kevin Hall is the CEO and President of the Charter School Growth Fund, an organization that invests in the growth and scale-up of very high performing Charter Management Organizations nationally. Prior to CSGF, Hall served as Chief Operating Officer of the Broad Foundation where he worked to develop the foundation's investments and programs in education. He is also a co-founder and former senior vice president of business development of Chancellor Beacon Academies, which manages public charter and private schools across the United States. Hall previously served as senior vice president of infoUSA, a publicly traded information services company. He also held positions at McKinsey & Co., Goldman Sachs & Co., and Teach For America. Hall has served as an elementary school teacher and as a teaching fellow at Harvard University. He received a bachelor's degree with honors in political science and economics from Swarthmore College and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

**Richard Barth**

*Chief Executive Officer and President, KIPP Foundation*

Richard Barth joined KIPP in December 2005 after serving as President of District Partnerships for Edison Schools. In Barth's three years at KIPP, he has overseen the growth of the network from 45 to 82 schools, expanded the organization's board, raised \$30 million in new funding commitments and spearheaded the organization's commitment to building a Kindergarten through 12th grade network that will reach the 100-school mark by the summer of 2011. Prior to joining Edison Schools, Barth was one of the founding staff members at Teach For America.

Barth is the President of the KIPP Foundation Board, and also serves on the board of Be the Change Inc. and The Broad Center. He graduated from Harvard University in 1989.

**Matt Candler**

*Founding CEO, New Schools for New Orleans*

Matt Candler is the founding CEO of New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO). NSNO was created in aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to provide public schools, with an emphasis on charter schools, with the support they need in order to succeed in the new world of New Orleans public

education. Candler has taught and coached at the elementary, middle and high school levels. In 1994, he returned to his home town of Atlanta to help build the Main Operations Center for the 1996 Olympics. Candler founded a consulting practice specializing in start-up support for new charter founders and served as co-founder of a charter school in North Carolina. He joined the KIPP Foundation in 2001 as the Vice President of School Development, where his team established 37 new schools. Candler then served as founding COO of the New York City Center for Charter School Excellence, a \$41 million effort to incubate and support charter schools across New York City. Candler holds a B.A. in mathematics and Spanish language from Duke University, and a master's degree in management from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

### **Elliot Washor**

*Co-Founder & Director, Big Picture Learning*

Elliot Washor, Ed.D. is the co-founder and co-director of Big Picture Learning. He is also the co-founder of The Met Center in Providence, RI.

Washor has been involved in school reform for more than 30 years as a teacher, principal, administrator, video producer, and writer. He has taught and is interested in all levels of school from kindergarten through college, in urban and rural settings, across all disciplines. His work has spanned across school design, pedagogy, learning environments, and education reform and is supporting others doing similar work throughout the world. Washor's interests lie in the field of how schools can connect with communities to understand tacit and disciplinary learning both in and outside of school. Washor is deeply committed to imagining Big Picture Learning as a "do-think-do" organization, and persistently pushes the boundaries of its design in order to continually innovate practice and influence in the world of education.

At Thayer High School in Winchester, N.H., Washor's professional development programs won an Innovations in State and Local Government Award from the Ford Foundation and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has been selected as an educator to watch in Rhode Island and has recently been selected as one of the Dirty Dozen – the Twelve Most Daring Educators in the World by the George Lucas Educational Foundation. His dissertation on Innovative Pedagogy and New Facilities won the merit award from DesignShare, the international forum for innovative schools.

### **Frances McLaughlin**

*Chief Operating Officer, Education Pioneers*

Frances McLaughlin, Chief Operating Officer at Education Pioneers, has extensive experience in for- and not-for-profit organizations. Prior to joining Education Pioneers in early 2009, McLaughlin was a Senior Director at the Broad Foundation, a Los Angeles-based venture philanthropy. There she was responsible for the foundation's investments in organizations which build leadership capacity in public education.

McLaughlin previously served as executive vice president of the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), a nonprofit organization and market leader in the fields of study abroad and international student exchange. In addition to developing new business activities, over the course of her ten years at CIEE, she also served as chief operating officer of the organization's largest division, managing operations in Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States. Prior to CIEE, McLaughlin was the director of North American marketing and sales for

the EF International Language Schools, and also worked as a regional director for Teach For America. McLaughlin has a bachelor's degree in history and art history and an Executive Management Certificate from Columbia University.

**Jon Schnur**

*Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, New Leaders for New Schools*

Jon Schnur is Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of New Leaders for New Schools, a national nonprofit organization with one mission: ensuring high academic achievement for every student by attracting and preparing outstanding leaders and supporting the performance of the urban public schools they lead at scale. Since co-founding New Leaders, he has led the development of the organization's goals, metrics, and strategy, as well as the management team, board, core values, partnerships, and fundraising.

Based on its results, New Leaders has received important national recognition, including being honored in January 2006 as one of the highest rated social enterprise in the U.S by Fast Company/Monitor Group. In addition, New Leaders was one of only six programs – and the only national program – highlighted in a “Best Practice Guide to School Leadership” by the U.S. Department of Education being distributed to all 50 states nationally.

Schnur has served as Special Assistant to Secretary of Education Richard Riley, President Bill Clinton's White House Associate Director for Educational Policy, and Senior Advisor on Education to Vice President Al Gore. He has developed national educational policies on teacher and principal quality, after-school programs, district reform, charter schools, and preschools. Schnur graduated from Princeton University and a Wisconsin public high school. He is deeply committed to educational excellence for every child.

**Victoria Van Cleef**

*Vice President of Staffing Initiatives, The New Teacher Project*

As Vice President of Staffing Initiatives for The New Teacher Project, Van Cleef is charged with growing this new business line. She oversees projects that focus on building school-level capacity to make effective hires and staffing chronically low-performing schools. In her previous role as Vice President of Business Development & Communications, she oversaw the establishment of TNTP's partnerships with school districts, state departments of education and other educational organizations, and managed the organization's marketing strategy and goals. Prior to joining The New Teacher Project, Van Cleef served as a consultant to the Stupski Foundation, identifying best practices to support whole district reform efforts, and as Senior Research Associate and Special Assistant to the Dean of New York University's Steinhardt School of Education, coordinating projects devoted to strengthening the teacher force in high-need districts. She has served as Special Assistant to the Chancellor for the New York City Department of Education under two administrations, working on both instructional and operational initiatives. Van Cleef holds a B.A. in Classical Civilizations from the University of California at Los Angeles and a Master's in Public Policy Analysis from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Memphis, Tenn.

**Elisa Villanueva Beard**

*Chief Operating Officer, Teach for America*

Prior to becoming chief operating officer, Elisa Villanueva Beard served as senior vice president of regional operations at Teach For America. She joined the staff as executive director of the organization's Rio Grande Valley site. During her four years as executive director, she grew the region's funding base 17 times over, created a functioning community advisory board, and oversaw a corps of teachers that more than doubled. Villanueva Beard was a 1998 Teach For America corps member who taught bilingual first and second grades in Phoenix for three years. She also served as her school's basketball coach and grade-level chair, and was a member of the school site-based committee. Villanueva Beard received a B.A. in sociology from DePauw University.

### **Jim Shelton**

*Assistant Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education*

Jim Shelton is the assistant deputy secretary for innovation and improvement, managing a portfolio that includes most of the Department's competitive teacher quality, school choice and learning technology programs, housed in the Office of Innovation and Improvement.

Previously, he served as a program director for the education division of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, managing the foundation's national programs and work in the northeast region of the United States. Shelton has also been a partner and the East Coast lead for NewSchools Venture Fund and co-founded LearnNow, a school management company that later was acquired by Edison Schools. He spent over four years as a senior management consultant with McKinsey & Company in Atlanta, Ga., where he advised CEOs and other executives on issues related to corporate strategy, business development, organizational design, and operational effectiveness. Upon leaving McKinsey, he joined Knowledge Universe Inc., where he launched, acquired and operated education-related businesses.

Shelton holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Atlanta's Morehouse College as well as master's degrees in business administration and education from Stanford University. Shelton currently resides in his hometown, Washington D.C., with his wife, Sonia, and two sons, Justice and Jameson.

### **Courtney Phillips**

*Assistant Director, The Broad Foundation*

Courtney Phillips is assistant director of policy for The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, a national venture philanthropy focused on dramatically improving K-12 urban public education through better governance, management, labor relations and competition.

Phillips oversees a range of education policy investments designed to eradicate local, state and federal policy impediments that hinder student achievement and set up conditions under which students and teachers can optimally perform. Currently, she is an advisory board member of the Center for Educator Compensation Reform, funded by the U.S. Department of Education to support federal Teacher Incentive Fund grantees as they implement differential pay efforts nationwide. Prior to joining The Broad Foundation, Phillips was a presidential management fellow at the U.S. Department of Education, specifically serving as outreach director in the department's office of innovation and improvement. In this capacity, she advised the assistant deputy secretary on public school choice and supplemental services provisions of No Child Left Behind. At the age of 20, Phillips was elected to office as a neighborhood councilwoman, representing 64,000 residents in South Central Los Angeles.

**Chris Gabrieli**

*Senior Partner, Bessemer Venture Partners*

Following the success of GMIS, the healthcare software company he co-founded, Chris Gabrieli joined Bessemer Venture Partners. Throughout his 22 years as a partner with Bessemer, Gabrieli has worked to help other entrepreneurs start and grow their companies. He remains active as a Senior Partner at Bessemer Venture Partners, focused on biotechnology.

Gabrieli currently serves as Chairman of Massachusetts 2020, which he co-founded in 2000, with the mission to expand the economic and educational opportunities for children families across Massachusetts. Massachusetts 2020 is currently leading Massachusetts' first-in-the-nation initiative to redesign and expand learning time at public schools.

Gabrieli is also the Chairman of the National Center on Time & Learning, a national education policy organization that works to research how schools expand time to strengthen learning, supports public policy at the local, state and federal level, and provides technical assistance to schools, districts and states seeking to expand time for learning.

Gabrieli's book (with co-author Warren Goldstein), *Time to Learn: How a New School Schedule is Making Smarter Kids, Happier Parents, and Safer Neighborhoods*, was published in 2008. He has served on numerous civic and university boards in Massachusetts. In 2002, he won the Democratic primary for Lt. Governor and he came in second in the Democratic primary for Governor of Massachusetts in 2006.

**Eric Schwarz**

*Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Citizen Schools*

Eric Schwarz is the Co-Founder and CEO of Citizen Schools, a leading education nonprofit that partners with middle schools to expand the learning day for low-income children. Schwarz served on the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's Task Force on 21st Century Skills, the Center for American Progress working group on Expanded Learning Time, the transition team of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, and New Profit Inc.'s Social Entrepreneur Advisory Board. He is the author of *Realizing the American Dream: Historical Scorecard, Current Challenges, Future Opportunities*, and the co-editor of *The Case for Twenty-First Century Learning*. Previously, Schwarz served as a Public Service Fellow at Harvard University and Vice President at City Year.

**Dr. Tim Webb**

*Commissioner of Education, State of Tennessee*

Tim Webb was named by Governor Phil Bredesen to serve as Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education in February 2008; he was made permanent commissioner in July. Prior to these appointments, he served as Deputy Commissioner. He has been active in education since 1990 where he began as a math and social studies teacher. He served as Superintendent of Lewis County Schools from 1997 – 2003. He is a retired officer of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

Webb holds a doctorate in Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University, a master's degree in Education Leadership from Middle Tennessee State University, a bachelor's degree from Regents College and an associate's degree from Columbia State Community College.