

Aspen Teacher Leader Fellows

2012 Class



CARRIE BAKKEN

Program Coordinator and Teacher, Avalon School

In 2001, Carrie Bakken helped to open the Avalon School, a democratic, teacher-led, project-based charter school located in St. Paul, Minnesota. Avalon School serves students in grades seven through twelve and teaches students that self regulation, responsibility to others, and accountability, are best learned through experience. Students at Avalon School engage in self-directed projects and a student congress that shapes school rules. In the last five years, Carrie has expanded her duties to serve as both Program Coordinator and teacher. As Program Coordinator,

she hosts visitors and researchers nationally and internationally who come to investigate Avalon School's unique and successful model. Carrie is also committed to spreading awareness about alternative education models. In partnership with education organizations such as Education Evolving and EdVisions, Carrie regularly presents at education conferences regarding democratic schools, project-based learning, and teacher-led schools. Most notably, she accompanied Education Evolving to Washington D.C. to participate in a dialogue with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and his highest-ranking advisors in 2010.

Prior to her work at Avalon School, Carrie taught for three years at Plymouth Youth Center, an alternative education program in Minneapolis that serves at-risk students living in poverty. Carrie has a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from the University of St. Thomas and a Juris Doctorate from Hamline University. Carrie also earned a Bachelor of Arts from Beloit College with a major in Women's Studies and a minor in Latin American Studies.



JEAN CLEMENTS

President, Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association

Jean Clements attended the University of Oregon, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Education and Special Education, and worked as a research assistant for the University of Oregon's Direct Instruction Model Follow-Through Project. Jean returned to Florida as a high school teacher of children with learning disabilities in the Hillsborough County Public Schools, currently the eighth largest district in the country. After teaching and working in various positions, including district-wide resource teacher for the learning disabilities program, high school

exceptional education specialist and department chair, and a district-wide specialist assisting secondary schools with all exceptional education programs, she was elected president of the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association. She has served as full-time union president since 2002.

Jean has served many years on the governance board for the Florida Education Association, on state and national association task forces and committees, and numerous district committees and task forces in Hillsborough. A member of the national American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Program and Policy Council, she has served on AFT committees studying and recommending policy on various topics, including high school reform, teacher evaluation, and Common Core state standards.



CELINE COGGINS
Founder and CEO, Teach Plus

Celine Coggins is the founder and CEO of Teach Plus. Coggins is a former teacher and current Mind Trust Education Entrepreneur Fellow. She has a background that includes research, policy and K-12 teaching. She originally launched Teach Plus in 2007 as a subsidiary of the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy in Cambridge, MA and incorporated it as an independent 501c3 in 2009. She has been a labor-management consultant in Providence, RI as well as Worcester and Springfield, MA and was formerly special assistant to the Massachusetts

Commissioner of Education on teacher quality. She is the author of more than two dozen reports and journal articles and the editor of two books. She earned her Ph.D. in Education Policy Analysis from Stanford University.



KERRIE DALLMAN
President, Jefferson County Education Association

Kerrie Dallman earned her teacher license and a BA in Sociology from Metro State College of Denver. She taught social studies (American government) at Pomona High School (Arvada, Colorado) from 2001 to 2008. In the spring of 2008 she was elected president of the Jefferson County Education Association (JCEA), which represents all licensed, non-administrative employees in Jeffco Public Schools (JPS), Colorado's largest school district.

Dallman is a strong and vocal advocate for both teachers and public schools. She has served on the governing board of the Colorado Education Association and is an active participant in the Teacher Union Reform Network (TURN). Dallman's leadership was critical in securing a \$39.5 million federal Teacher Incentive Fund grant, which was awarded to JPS in October of 2010. The grant will fund a five-year study to assess the impact of Jeffco's proposed "Strategic Compensation" plan (a targeted performance-based compensation system) on student achievement and on attracting, retaining, and rewarding high performing educators. She was one of only four teachers appointed by Governor Bill Ritter in 2010 to serve on the Council on Educator Effectiveness, which is charged with making recommendations on implementation of SB 191, Colorado's groundbreaking evaluation law, to the State Board of Education.



CHRISTOPER EIDE
Founder and Executive Director, Teachers United

Christopher Eide is the founder and executive director of Teachers United, a growing organization of educators who share the value that students and student achievement ought to be the first consideration in all education policies. Teachers United is a place for educators who share that value to discuss and decide on policy and then powerfully advocate for it in a variety of ways.

Born into a Scandinavian ideology, Chris was, like many teachers, brought up with the motto: “You go first, I’ll be fine.” That ideology also included the belief that one should always seek to contribute their gifts back to their community for its betterment. Teaching was, of course, a natural fit. A classroom teacher in high-poverty schools for five years, Chris has also observed classrooms in over 20 countries, researched charter schools nationally, founded a chess team that made it to the Texas State Interscholastic Chess Championships, and raised over \$17,000 to take a group of 7th graders who had never been outside of their Houston neighborhood to New York City for field study. A graduate of The University of Washington in chemistry and philosophy, Chris also holds a masters degree in education policy from Harvard University.



JAMES ENCINAS
Teacher, Westminster Avenue Elementary School

Entering the teaching profession after a TV/film acting career, James Encinas has served for the past fifteen years as an educator and role model for the heavily Latino population at Westminster Avenue Elementary School. James helped found the Westminster Avenue Elementary School Endowment, a not-for-profit focused on strengthening ties with parents and the community at large. Faced with continuing declining enrollment in the school and the possibility of eventual closure, he and his colleagues focused on building ties with a diverse group of parents and community members. As a result, Westminster’s enrollment has stabilized and standardized test scores continue to soar.

James has also been very active in addressing teacher quality issues. As a UTLA Chapter Chair, James participates in a highly collaborative relationship with the Westminster Avenue principal, successfully focused on upgrading the caliber of faculty at the school. Most recently James has brought his passion for teacher quality and community-building experience to the formation of NewTLA, the political reform caucus within UTLA. As a founding member, he has recruited other reform-oriented teachers and become the group’s most forceful advocate for inclusion of a rigorous teacher evaluation system in the new UTLA/LAUSD collective bargaining agreement.



NINA ESPOSITO-VISGITIS
President, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers

Nina Esposito-Visgitis has been an active member of the Pittsburgh community for over 30 years. Her long record of community leadership led the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers to appoint her as their new president in September 2011. Nina has been instrumental in reshaping the Pittsburgh public school system, and was a central figure in the creation of RISE, the teacher evaluation system that has gained national recognition for its innovation and utility. Nina also led the effort to involve teachers more directly in the Empowering Effective Teachers initiative. Her other involvement with the Pittsburgh community includes: serving as a Building Representative, Executive Council Board Member, PFT Staff Vice President for Middle Schools and as co-chair of the Special Education Communication Council; connecting speech and language specialists with the PFT through her work with the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association.



IRA FISHMAN
Managing Director and COO, NFL Players Association

Ira Fishman is the Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of the NFL Players Association, and formerly a partner and Chief Operating Officer at Patton Boggs LLP. He previously served as special counsel and director of the Task Force on Education at the Federal Communications Commission and was named the founding CEO of the Schools and Libraries Corporation, a non-profit that provides \$2.25 billion annually to K-12 schools and public libraries for the purchase and implementation of technology. Mr. Fishman has also served as deputy assistant to the president for legislative affairs at the White House during the Clinton Administration, vice president for congressional and external affairs at the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and founding CEO of HiFusion, an education and consumer media company.

Mr. Fishman is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council on Teacher Quality and the National Campaign for the Prevention of Teenage and Unwanted Pregnancies and previously served on the Boards of Directors of Education Sector, KIPP DC, and NetDay. He is a veteran of numerous Presidential and Congressional campaigns. Mr. Fishman is a graduate of Yale College where he was the recipient of the Berkeley College Fellows Prize and of Harvard Law School where he served as Managing Editor of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.



EMILY AYSCUE HASSEL
Co-Director, Public Impact

Emily Ayscue Hassel is Co-Director of Public Impact, where she co-manages Public Impact's team and operations. She provides thought leadership and oversight to Public Impact's work on teacher and leader policy, organizational change, parental choice of schools, and emerging opportunities for dramatic improvement in pre-K to grade 12 education. Her work has appeared in *Education Week*, *Education Next* and other publications. She was previously a consultant and manager for the Hay Group, a leading human resources consulting firm. Ms. Hassel received her law and master in business administration degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she served on the North Carolina Law Review.

Ms. Hassel is leading Public Impact's effort to develop and refine school and staffing models for reaching more students with excellent teachers, and co-authored a range of publications on the topic, including *3X for All: Extending the Reach of Education's Best*; *Opportunity at the Top*; *Seizing Opportunity at the Top: How the U.S. Can Reach Every Student with an Excellent Teacher*; *Teacher Tenure Reform*; *Measuring Teacher and Leader Performance*; and *Improving Teaching Through Pay for Contribution* for the National Governor's Association. Other work includes *Picky Parent Guide: Choose Your Child's School with Confidence*; *Choosing the Right Preschool* eBook for TheSavvySource.com; and Learning Point Associates' *Professional Development: Learning from the Best*, a toolkit for education leaders on designing and implementing effective professional development.



HEATHER KIRKPATRICK
Vice President of Education, Aspire Public Schools

Heather Kirkpatrick is the Vice President of Education at Aspire Public Schools, a not-for-profit organization that develops and manages charter schools. She oversees Teacher Development (Aspire's Teacher Residency and Induction programs, Instructional Coaching, and Talent Development); Principal Development (trainings and retreats); and Student Support Services (Counseling and Intervention programs).

Heather earned her Ph.D. in Education Administration and Policy Analysis at the Stanford University School of Education, her Masters in Education Administration and Policy Analysis from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and her B.A. from Barnard College.



TONY KLEMMER

Founder and President, The Center for Better Schools & the National Academy of Advanced Teacher Education

Tony is the Founder and President of The Center for Better Schools and the National Academy of Advanced Teacher Education currently focused on developing new programs of advanced teacher education for high performing K-12 classroom teachers. In 2010, Tony and The Center for Better Schools were named one of 47 Finalists, from a field of over 500 applicants, as a Kauffman Foundation Education

Venture Fellow.

Tony has participated in the start-up and board-level activities of a number of social enterprises. He has a long history in entrepreneurial settings, having helped found several high tech companies in the medical device, advanced materials and industrial automation industries, as well as international experience. Tony also managed a successful marketing, strategic planning and investment consultancy and led the healthcare and life science practice at a Boston-based boutique investment bank.

Tony Klemmer received his Ph.D. in Humanities from Salve Regina University. His doctoral work focused on “Moral Coherence in the Modern World.” He graduated from the Harvard Business School and has a BS in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Tony taught Production and Operations Management in the MBA program at Babson College, while helping develop entrepreneurship course materials there. He is a cum laude graduate of Portsmouth Abbey School, Portsmouth, RI.



DAVID LOW

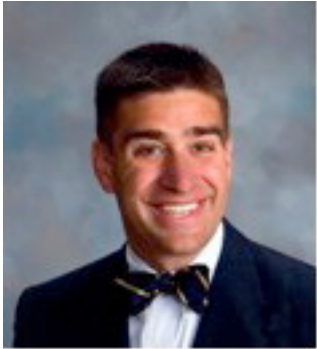
Executive Vice President, High Schools & School Reform, New Haven Federation of Teachers, and Teacher, Sound School

As Vice President for High Schools & School Reform of the New Haven Federation of Teachers, David Low has negotiated three teacher contracts, and has played an integral role in New Haven’s extensive School Reform initiative since its inception, including crafting the current teachers’ contract, coordinating the creation and implementation of the new teacher evaluation process, sitting on the city-wide Reform Committee and serving as chair of the teachers’ Working Group on School

Reform. He has been an invited guest speaker at ASCD’s Summer Institutes, CT Community Foundation’s Forum on School Change, Southern CT State University’s Achievement Gap Symposium and numerous Boards of Education.

A classroom teacher with 19 years’ experience in the areas of Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics, Mr. Low still carries a full teaching load, in part to maintain his connection to the students and the work. He is a graduate

of Pomona College (BA – Mathematics) and Southern CT State University’s post-secondary program (MS – Mathematics/ Secondary Teaching Certification).



CHRISTOPHER POULOS
Teacher, Joel Barlow High School

Christopher Poulos, Connecticut’s 2007 Teacher of the Year, has worked extensively in the fields of Spanish education, teacher leadership, and community development. Chris is a full time Spanish teacher at Joel Barlow High School in Redding, CT. He achieved National Board Certification (WLOE-EAYA) in 2009. At Barlow, he has advised the Student Council, mentored beginning teachers, and been involved in world language curriculum design and implementation. In addition to his work at the high school level, Chris works as an adjunct professor of Spanish at Fairfield University and has served on the staff of the Rassias Foundation’s Accelerated Language Programs at Dartmouth College.

Chris earned a BA in Leadership Studies and double-minored in Spanish and Business Administration at the University of Richmond. After college, Chris joined the United States Peace Corps as a volunteer in Honduras, Central America and later enrolled in the State of Connecticut’s Alternate Route to Certification Program (ARC), then earned an MA in the Teaching of Spanish at Teachers College, Columbia University. Subsequently, Chris independently founded and served as the director of a language-training program centering on community service and cultural education.

In May 2010 Chris was elected President of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council’s Board of Directors. Chris is an AFT Public Education Advocate and a member of NEA’s Expert Teacher Panel. He has also been invited to consult with the US Department of Education and Connecticut State Department of Education as to how policy affects different facets of public education.



LEWIS ROBINSON
Executive Director, Prince George’s County Educators’ Association

Lewis Robinson is Executive Director of the Prince George’s County Educators’ Association (PGCEA), the professional employee organization whose purpose is to improve the teaching and learning conditions in the Prince George’s County public schools and the professional well-being of its members, which is affiliated with the National Education Association. In July 1991, Mr. Robinson was hired as the director of PGCEA and he is responsible for the day-to-day management of the 9,000-plus member organization. As executive director, Mr. Robinson serves as chief negotiator in contract negotiations, heads up the association’s advocacy program, instructional initiatives, and legislative agenda and is responsible for programmatic and financial operations.

For the past 15 years, Mr. Robinson has served as the Chair of the Prince George’s County Labor Coalition, an organization that represents 25,000 public and private employees in Prince George’s County. Other current and former memberships include the Industrial Relations Research Association, Executive Board member of the National Staff Organization, Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, National “W” Club of West Virginia State University, NAACP, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, AAU, American Management Association, Prince George’s Chamber of Commerce and Progressive Maryland and the College Savings Plans of Maryland. Mr. Robinson is a graduate of West Virginia State University and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. He has specialized training on subject matters such as labor law, budget development, compensation packages, benefit plans and various other human resources and labor relations functions.



CYNTHIA ROBINSON-RIVERS
Manager of Teacher Effectiveness Strategy, DC Public Schools

Cynthia Robinson-Rivers is currently the manager of Teacher Effectiveness Strategy for DC Public Schools. In this position, she focuses on teacher retention and develops policies and programs that will improve the school system’s ability to more effectively retain effective and highly effective teachers. Prior to this, Cynthia worked with the DCPS Master Educator Program, serving as a senior master educator for early childhood and director of the program during the inaugural year of IMPACT, the district’s groundbreaking teacher evaluation system. She has taught in public schools in Oakland, East Palo Alto, and Washington, DC. Cynthia holds a B.A. in Communication and Art from Stanford University and a M.A. in education from George Washington University.



MARK SASS
Teacher, Legacy High School

Mark Sass has been a history teacher in the Adams 12 Five Star School District since 1995. In 2000, he was part of the leadership team that helped open Legacy High School, where he currently teaches American History and U.S. Government. At Legacy, he serves as a Teacher Leader, the RtL Coordinator, the AP Coordinator and the Intervention Coordinator. He has been instrumental in bringing Professional Learning Communities to Legacy and the district.

Mark is also a blogger for *EdNews Colorado*, an education news website, and has been involved in educational reform throughout Colorado. He is a member of the Denver New Millennium Initiative, a working group of teachers advocating for the advancement of the teaching profession. He was also named one of the 2010 “best of” education reformers in Colorado by Education Reform Now. He is currently working to implement standards-based grading in Adams 12 at the district level.



AUDREY SOGLIN
Executive Director, Illinois Education Association

Audrey Soglin is the Executive Director of the Illinois Education Association (IEA). Audrey received her Bachelor's in Education from Northern Illinois University and did graduate work at Loyola University in Chicago. She taught in Evanston, Illinois, for 25 years. Ms. Soglin started her career teaching self-contained special education students and after eight years, moved to regular education where she taught kindergarten, first, second, fourth and fifth grades. During her career, Audrey was the president of the association and has served on local bargaining teams.

Prior to becoming the Executive Director of the Illinois Education Association, Audrey was the Director of the Center for Education Innovation for IEA and the Executive Director of the Consortium for Educational Change. Audrey has done a great deal of staff development work during her career and has been featured in staff development videotapes by Everyday Math and Teachscape. She has developed a particular expertise in the areas of mentoring, teacher evaluation, formative assessment, and observation. She works closely with Charlotte Danielson and is a member of the Danielson Group. Audrey has worked with many joint committees to develop comprehensive standards based evaluation systems and trained principals and teachers to successfully use such systems. Audrey has also facilitated training and workshops in the areas of school and union leadership, data analysis, formative assessment, and school improvement. She has worked closely with large urban districts, suburban districts, small rural districts, regional offices of education, and association leaders.



MICHAEL STRYER
Director of New Unionism, Future is Now Schools

Mike Stryer is Director of New Unionism at Future is Now Schools. His work focuses on developing the participation of teachers in teacher union governance and policy-making. Prior to joining Future is Now Schools, Mike Stryer taught Social Studies at Fairfax High School in Los Angeles for eight years, serving as the school's Lead Teacher and the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) chapter chair. He co-founded NewTLA, a political reform caucus within UTLA's governing body.

Before teaching, Mike worked in international business, heading international divisions of several U.S. consumer products companies, including Applause and Variflex. He has a bachelor's degree from Stanford University in Political Science and master's degrees from Yale University (International Relations) and Pepperdine University (Education).



PAUL TONER
President, Massachusetts Teachers Association

Paul F. Toner has been president of the 107,000-member Massachusetts Teachers Association since July 2010, where he has served as a strong voice for educators and a proud public school parent. From 1993 to 2001, Toner taught social studies and reading to seventh- and eighth-grade students at the Harrington Elementary School in Cambridge. In 2001, Toner was elected president of the Cambridge Teachers Association, where he worked with his members and the administration to develop an alternative high school program, a public Montessori school, two Expanded Learning Time schools and a new educator evaluation system. Prior to becoming CTA president, Toner held the offices of vice president, secretary, and building representative, and also served a number of years as a delegate to the MTA Annual Meeting of Delegates and the Representative Assembly of the National Education Association.

Toner served as chair of Mass Partners for Public Schools, and is active in the Teacher Union Reform Network. He also served on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's Educator Evaluation Task Force, and Task Force on 21st Century Skills and Task Force on Closing the Proficiency Gap. Toner is a commissioner on the Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission and an appointed member of the state Board of Higher Education. He is also a labor delegate to the Democratic State Committee and a member of the DSC Executive Committee. Toner graduated from Boston University's College of Liberal Arts with a bachelor's degree in political science and international relations, a master's degree in secondary education from the University of Massachusetts in Boston and a juris doctorate from Suffolk University Law School.



ANDREW VANDEN HEUVEL
Teacher, Michigan Virtual School

Andrew Vanden Heuvel found a passion for astronomy in the 8th grade. His enthusiasm for the universe propelled him through South Christian High School and to Calvin College, where he earned dual bachelor's degrees in physics and mathematics and discovered a previously unseen asteroid. In graduate school at the University of Florida, Andrew earned his master's degree in astrophysics and continued making celestial discoveries, including the new extrasolar planet, HD 102195b.

In 2006, Andrew found a new passion: providing authentic opportunities for students to engage in science and mathematics in school. After earning his high school teaching certificate and teaching physics, math, and astronomy for several years, Andrew founded AGL Initiatives, a consulting firm focused on creating engaging and authentic projects and curriculum for schools, companies, and government agencies. Working extensively with Michigan Virtual School as an online teacher and course developer, Andrew has embraced the vision that online learning is an essential element of quality education.

Andrew has received special recognition as a Hubble Top Star Educator, 2011 Michigan Online Teacher of the Year, and a finalist for the National Online Teacher of the Year award. In addition to Michigan Virtual, Andrew also works with clients such as *USA TODAY* Education, NASA, and New York City Public Schools. Andrew enjoys photography, PBS, and anything that flies. He is the youngest of five boys and continues to pursue his boyhood dream of becoming an astronaut.



ROBERT WILLIAMS
Teacher, Colony High School

Bob Williams began his teaching career as a Peace Corps teacher in Gambia, Africa. He currently teaches Geometry, Algebra 1, and AP Calculus at Colony High School in Palmer, Alaska. Bob is the Alaska 2009 Teacher of the Year and also received the 2009 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching. He was one of five national finalists for the 2010 NEA Foundation Teaching Excellence award. His highest award was a student's 2008 graduation stole with the following note: "Mr.

Williams, I have a confession to make. Before this year, I didn't like math. It was a struggle and made very little sense. Calculus was another story entirely. You made it fun, exciting, and easy to learn. I went from despising math to babbling incessantly about integrals and derivatives in the span of 9 months. I sport my [calculus] tee-shirt proudly and will bring my cross-sections project wherever life manages to take me. I haven't told my parents for fear that they will disown me, but I have every intention of minoring in math."

Bob has a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, an M.A. in Mathematics Education from Columbia University, and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy and Administration.