

2017-2018 LEVERAGE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP COHORT

The LLI Fellowship is designed for principals and principal managers who have obtained outstanding results for children in their local districts and who want to join a movement focused on creating national impact. Leaders selected for the fellowship are in the top 10% of schools in their local district or state and have led student outcomes and opportunities to double-digit gains.



Kevin Anderle
REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST (AF)

In his role as Regional Superintendent for Achievement First, Kevin Anderle coaches principals at AF high schools in Brooklyn and manages the high school academy level for AF across the entire network. Most recently, Kevin was the principal of AF Crown Heights Middle School where he led that school to double-digit gains compared to the NY State average.

In his current role, he has seen marked growth in the schools he coaches. Namely, in every single course tested (5th-8th grade ELA, 5th-8th grade Math), the growth from the 2015 exam to the 2016 exam was HIGHER than the growth in the local district and the growth in NY State, and in 7 out of 8 courses tested that growth was more than 10 points.



Meredith Anderson
SENIOR PRINCIPAL, UNCOMMON SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE GIRLS MIDDLE ACADEMY

As the Founding Principal of Excellence Girls Middle Academy in Brooklyn, Meredith Anderson has achieved incredible results. Excellence Girls outperformed the average New York City and New York state schools on the 2016 state exam by more than 20% and outperformed NY-State non-economically disadvantaged students by 8%.

In 2016, Excellence Girls was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for its commitment to female empowerment and excellence in literacy education.



Nikki Bowen

PRINCIPAL, UNCOMMON SCHOOLS – EXCELLENCE GIRLS ELEMENTARY ACADEMY

Nikki Bowen became the Principal at Excellence Girls Charter School Elementary Academy after working as an Uncommon Schools Instructional Fellow at Leadership Prep Ocean Hill where she learned best practices for leading a highly effective elementary school.

Under Nikki's leadership, Excellence Girls outperformed its local district, New York State, NY State white students, and non-economically disadvantaged students in NY State – effectively fulfilling their mission of closing the achievement gap.



Dr. Abigail Brown

PRINCIPAL, MUNROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

With over 26 years of experience in education, Dr. Abigail Brown has been a school leader for 13 years in Denver Public Schools and is in her eighth year as the principal of Munroe in Denver where she and her team have transformed the school from being one of the ten lowest performing (red) in her district, to one that now outperforms both the regional network and district on multiple assessment measures.

Under Abigail's leadership, Munroe is currently a TNTP (The National Teacher Project) research site, National Home Visit Project evaluation school, Book Trust donor host school, and, was awarded the Maria Droste Community Partnership Award in 2016.



Dr. LaKimbre Brown

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. LaKimbre Brown is an Instructional Superintendent in Washington DC with the District of Columbia Public Schools. Previously she served as principal at Milani Elementary School in the California Bay Area. She completed her doctorate in educational leadership, writing her dissertation on developing teacher leadership. She was the 2010 Newark Unified Elementary Principal of the Year.

In her current role, LaKimbre has been instrumental in achieving the following results:

- 6 out of 14 schools outperformed the district average on PARCC
- 10 out of 14 schools outperformed the district in growth from 2015-2016 in PARCC



Dan Caesar
HEAD OF SCHOOLS, KIPP HOUSTON

As Head of Schools for KIPP Houston, Dan Caesar supervises nine schools. He possesses over 20 years of experience in high need public schools. He is also well versed in the methods and dedication required to lead within an organization targeting academic excellence in a traditionally underserved area.

Under his leadership, KIPP Houston averaged 6% annual comparable growth for three years in ELA. They also experienced an average 3-year comparable growth of 13% for Math, with two of the three schools achieving 14-19% gains.



Tera Carr
PRINCIPAL, HAMILTON ELEMENTARY, TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Tera Carr currently serves her community as a principal at Hamilton Elementary, a Tulsa district public school. She was a middle school assistant principal for two years prior to this, and taught high school special education and math (Algebra I - PreCalculus) for three years at her Teach For America placement school in Tulsa.

Since Tera has been principal, Hamilton Elementary had the highest third grade reading and math growth in the city of Tulsa in 2016.



Denise De La Rosa
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LEADER DEVELOPMENT, IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Denise De La Rosa currently serves as the Managing Director of Leader Development for IDEA Public Schools where she coaches and develops a portfolio of Principals-in-Residence and new Principals. She believes passionately that the role of principal is one of the most pivotal roles in education, and is committed to ensuring every school leader she coaches has the knowledge, skill and mindset to help students and teachers be their best selves.

In a previous role as a Principal Supervisor, 7 out of 8 of the school leaders she coached are on track to meet or exceed 3 or more of their indices, which includes Texas student achievement, student growth and college readiness standards. 83.3% of her leaders earned 90% proficiency of their target Leadership Levers.



Eric Diamon
PRINCIPAL, NORTH STAR ACADEMY, UNCOMMON SCHOOLS

Eric Diamon is in his fourth year as principal of North Star Academy, Uncommon Schools. In the fall of 2010, Eric became one of the founding teachers at North Star Academy Vailsburg Middle School, where he has taught 5th and 6th grade literature and served as the literature instructional leader, and now serves as principal.

North Star Vailsburg Middle school had the highest ELA scores in the Uncommon Newark network for 2016. In 2014-2015, Vailsburg outperformed the NJ state, NJ state white students, and NJ state non-economically disadvantaged students by more than 20% in ELA and 20-30% in Math.



Celeste Douglas
PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP FACILITATOR/ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF DISTRICT 18, NYCDOE

Celeste Douglas is currently the Principal Leadership Facilitator/ Assistant Superintendent of District 18 in Brooklyn, New York. She helps to supervise twenty-one schools and is committed to increasing student outcomes.

Celeste previously was the principal of MS 57. Under her leadership, MS 57 was removed from the State's School Under Registration Review list and has received ratings of "Well Developed" in Curriculum, Pedagogy, Assessment and Teacher Teams categories. She has served as the mentor for twelve administrators and has received numerous accolades including the 2017's Office of Leadership Distinguished Alumni Award. She currently sits on Mayor De Blasio's Leadership Team for School Culture and Discipline.



Jeremy Esposito
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER, KIPP ST. LOUIS

Jeremy Esposito serves as the Chief Academic Officer for KIPP St. Louis, establishing the instructional vision for St Louis's ten schools. He directly manages five School Leaders. Prior to becoming the Chief Academic Officer, Jeremy was the School Leader and Founder of KIPP Inspire Academy in St Louis and the School Leader of KIPP Freedom Academy.

In his time at KIPP, Jeremy has led students to post some of the most dramatic growth gains on the NWEA of any school in KIPP during its first year: 19 percentile points in reading, second in KIPP; 25 in language usage, first in KIPP; 26 percentile points in math, first in KIPP. These gains were the highest or second highest in the KIPP network in all content areas.



Charlie Friedman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NASHVILLE CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL

Charlie Friedman is a 2006 graduate of Yale University where he studied English Language and Literature. Originally from New York City, Mr. Friedman moved to Nashville in 2011 to start Nashville Classical. Charlie started his career as a 7th grade reading teacher in Philadelphia.

According to NWEA/MAP, under Charlie's leadership 80% of NCCS students achieved proficiency and 50% students achieve advanced proficiency in reading and math.



Laura Garza

PRINCIPAL, BLANTON ELEMENTARY, DALLAS ISD

Laura Garza is the Principal of Annie Webb Blanton Elementary school in the Dallas Independent School District and a participant in the Teaching Trust Pathway to Impact cohort. Prior to this role, she served for four years as the Principal of Ascher Silberstein Elementary School.

Under Laura's leadership, Blanton Elementary School has experienced 15 point comparable gains in Reading compared to the district's growth and 30 point comparable gains compared to the district's growth in Math.



Jessee Haight

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR, TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jessee Haight has served as an Instructional Leadership Director for Tulsa Public Schools for the last 4 years. In this capacity, she supervises and coaches 11 principals. Prior to this role, she was the Principal at Robertson Elementary School in Tulsa for six years. She began her career as a fifth grade teacher. Jessee was a member of the National Principals Supervisor Fellowship at Relay in 2016-2017.

Eight out of ten of the schools Jessee managed in 2015-2016 made positive growth, two of those schools achieving double-digit gains compared to the district.



Nakia Haskins

PRINCIPAL, BROOKLYN BROWNSTONE SCHOOL D16, NYCDOE

Nakia Haskins is the founding Principal of Brooklyn Brownstone School. She serves as the Principal Member of the Mayor's Council for School Climate and Culture, and participated in the Uncommon Impact program with Relay Graduate School of Education. Prior to founding Brooklyn Brownstone, Nakia was the Founding Principal of the Girls Prep elementary school for three years.

In 2016 Brooklyn Brownstone saw 13.5% comparable gains in ELA compared to the district's gains, and 16.5% comparable gains in Math. Additionally, Brooklyn Brownstone was designated as a New York State Reward School for 2015-2016, increasing NYS ELA scores by 15% and Math scores by 18% in 2013-2014.



Erica Jordan-Thomas

PRINCIPAL, RANSON IB MIDDLE SCHOOL, CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

Erica Jordan-Thomas currently serves as Principal of Ranson IB Middle School, a Title I school in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District that has exceeded growth expectations defined by the state for the past two years. As Principal of Ranson IB, Erica serves over 1000 scholars and oversees over 100 staff members. Prior to serving as Principal, Erica served as Assistant Principal at Ranson IB for three years.

Ranson IB Middle School is ranked in the top quartile of all schools within Charlotte Mecklenburg School Systems for school growth and received the highest growth score of all Title 1 Middle Schools.



Teresa Khirallah-Jackson

PROGRAM OFFICER - LEADERSHIP TEAMS PROGRAM, TEACHING TRUST

Teresa Khirallah-Jackson is a Program Officer at the Teaching Trust, an organization that builds leadership capacity in Dallas Fort Worth Schools. In this role, Teresa oversees three key programs – the Aspiring Ed Leaders Program, Ed Fellows Program and Executive Ed for teams. Prior to Teaching Trust, she served as Primary School Principal at Peak Preparatory for four years and Senior Director Managing Principals for two years.

Teresa won our very first LLI Alumni Achievement Award for her achievements at Teaching Trust – 27 out of the 34 schools she supports made comparative gains (9 in double digit gains up to 30%) with an average free and reduced price eligibility of 86%.



Owen Losse

PRINCIPAL, LEADERSHIP PREP BEDFORD STUYVESANT MIDDLE ACADEMY

Owen Losse is the founding Principal of Leadership Prep Bedford Stuyvesant Middle Academy and a member of the Uncommon Schools 5-8 Math Working group, responsible for developing professional development sessions on the best practices in Math. Prior to joining Uncommon, Owen was a Grade 7 Team Leader and Math teacher at Harlem Village Academy and a Math Content Specialist for Teach for America.

Owen's leadership resulted in 100% of 8th grade students achieving a proficient or advanced score on the 2016 NYC High School Algebra Regents and Living Environments exams.



Gina Musumeci

REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST

Gina Musumeci currently serves as the Regional Superintendent of Schools for Achievement First Connecticut and Rhode Island Elementary. Additionally, she serves as manager for the AF elementary ELA team and senior director of ELA Achievement. Prior to these roles, she served as Founding Principal at Achievement First Brownsville Academy Elementary School, which was highlighted in Wendy Kopp's book, *A Chance To Make History*.

As founding regional superintendent for AF Rhode Island, the first school in the cluster to reach PARCC testing had the second highest math scores in the state of Rhode Island with ELA scores above the state and national average.



Elizabeth Namba

PRINCIPAL, HYDE-ADDISON ELEMENTARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elizabeth Namba has been the Principal of Hyde-Addison Elementary School in DC Public Schools for the last three years. Prior to DCPS, she served as an Assistant Principal, School Improvement Coach, and IB Primary Years Program Coordinator at Mount Vernon Community School in Alexandria City Public Schools.

With Elizabeth at the helm, Hyde had the second highest math gains in the city and the highest gains of any elementary school in DCPS.



Eneida Padro

PRINCIPAL, ORAN M ROBERTS ELEMENTARY, DALLAS ISD

Eneida Padro is principal at Oran M. Roberts Elementary in Dallas ISD. Ms. Padro opened Roberts Elementary as a new campus in the 2013-2014 school year, encountering the challenges of developing new culture systems while building capacity of a new staff.

Since its opening, Ms. Padro has led her school to achieve 13% comparable gains to district gains in Math for 2016. Additionally, Roberts Elementary is in the top 6% in district/state based on TEA rankings of Index 2: Student Progress earning a distinction for top 25%.



Ciji Pittman

NATIONAL PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR, OPEN SKY EDUCATION

Ciji Pittman is the National Principal Director for Open Sky Education, a nonprofit that supports and manages a growing network of learning environments in Wisconsin including HOPE Christian Schools, EAGLE College Preparatory Schools, Compass Educational Programs and the Character Formation Project. Prior to this she was the Founder and Head of Schools for Aurora Collegiate Academy in Memphis TN.

As the Managing Director of HOPE Christian Schools in Racine, Wisconsin she used the levers of leadership to support a principal in opening the third highest performing school in the network (16 schools) and a school that in its founding year outperformed the local district by more than 10% in both English/Language Arts and in Math on the state test.



David Singer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

David Singer is the Executive Director of University Prep Schools, a Denver-based charter school management organization with plans of operating six schools over the next decade, five of which are intended to be restarts. After completing the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship in Boston and the Get Smart Schools Fellowship in Denver, he founded and launched University Prep in the fall of 2011 with 100 K and 1st grade scholars and served as the principal of the flagship campus for the first five years of operation. He completed the Relay GSE National Principals Academy Fellowship with distinction during 2015-2016.

University Prep is considered a Distinction school in Denver, ranking 9th out of 166 schools on the school performance framework and 4th out of 89 elementary schools. The schools ranked higher than University Prep had a poverty rate of 13% compared to University Prep's 82% free and reduced-eligible.



Jeanine Zitta
NETWORK SUPERINTENDENT, ST LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jeanine Zitta currently serves the St. Louis Public Schools as a Network Superintendent. Having been a music teacher, assistant principal, and principal across elementary, middle and high schools, she has been afforded many opportunities to see diverse aspects of the district.

When comparing the district's final benchmark assessment from 2016 to 2017, Jeanine's network saw an average gain of 74 MPI points in ELA and 71 MPI points in MA.



Josh Zoia
ISRAEL COUNTRY MANAGER, 1 WORLD NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

Josh Zoia is 1 World's Leadership Coach and Strategic Support. A significant portion of his time is spent directly supporting their Israeli partner, YEDA, and their two schools. Prior to joining 1 World Josh was the Superintendent of KIPP NYC. Josh was also a Teach For America corps member in NYC, a founding teacher at the original KIPP school in NYC, the founding principal of KIPP Academy Lynn and the Executive Director of KIPP Massachusetts.

As Principal of KIPP Lynn: The most recent group of 8th grade students moved from 14% proficient / advanced (P/A) on the MCAS (state test) in math to the 82nd % (P/A) by the end of 7th grade to make KAL the 12th highest performing middle school in math out of 466 middle schools state wide.