

## 2016-2017 Leverage Leadership Institute Fellows

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.



### **Tamara Acevedo**

*Lead Instructional Superintendent, Denver Public Schools*

As principal, recognized by Colorado Department of Education with 2012 and 2013 School and District Performance Award, and the Colorado Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award (granted to schools statewide demonstrating three years of exceeding expectations on longitudinal academic growth)

As principal supervisor, exceeded DPS Elementary Education Division goal for increase in students meeting Kindergarten proficiency targets, with two of her schools showing the highest gains in the network – 22% and 28%

Tamara is a proud product of Denver Public Schools and holds her Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication Disorders and Speech Science



### **Christine Algozo**

*Principal, Uncommon Preparatory Charter High School, Uncommon Schools*

Led the Class of 2018 to a 94% pass rate in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade New York State (NYS) Geometry Regents, 87% pass rate of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core ELA Regents, and 72% of the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade NYS Common Core Geometry exam

Spent seven years teaching middle school Science and high school Chemistry at Bronx Preparatory Charter School, and also served as Science department chair

Taught Chemistry at the Hotchkiss School and committed six summers to teaching science at the (MS)2 Program (Math and Science for Minority Students) at Phillips Academy



**Dr. LaKimbire Brown**

*Instructional Superintendent, District of Columbia Public Schools*

National Board Certified Teacher and Coach, and two-time Fulbright Scholar in Japan and Brazil to study the organization of their educational systems

As Principal at Milani Elementary School in the California Bay Area, led growth from 31% to 74% proficiency rates in 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics from 2008 to 2011

Selected as the 2010 Newark Unified Elementary Principal of the Year



**Colleen Colarusso**

*Chief Schools Officer, Blackstone Valley Mayoral Academy*

Outperformed Rhode Island Schools in 2015 PARCC – specifically, outperformed other low income schools by 20 points in ELA and 25 points in Math, and outperformed other non-low income schools by 15 points in ELA and 30 points in Math

Recognized as a “Commended School” by the Rhode Island Department of Education for the 2014-2015 year

Nominated for the Sue Lehmann Award in the Teach for America Miami-Dade Region, and participated in the Building Excellent Schools Emerging Leaders Program



**Ginger Conroy**

*Principal, DCIS at Ford, Denver Public Schools*

DCIS, a Turnaround Innovation School, was a Top Performing High Growth School for Denver Public Schools in 2014-2015

Nearly 30 years of experience in education across a variety of capacities – prior to DCIS, served as Principal of the Title I Balsz Elementary School (AZ)

During time at Tempe School District No. 3, served as professional development specialist, collaborative Literacy intervention project trainer, Title I Reading coach, and classroom teacher



**Tatiana Epanchin-Troyan**

*Founding Partner, DC Developing Leaders Initiative*

As Principal Manager for Aspire in 2013, statewide rank of her schools was 7 and the similar schools rank was 10

As principal, her school increased its academic performance index by 150 points, more than three times the state average increase; awarded the National Title I Distinguished School Award for closing the achievement gap, an honor bestowed upon only 1 out of over 9,600 schools in the state

Began her teaching career with Teach for America in New Orleans and has also served as a social worker in Contra Costa County working on intensive family preservation cases



**Hope Evans**

*Director of Instruction and Leadership Development, Alpha Public Schools*

In first year as principal (while also serving as interim principal to another school), scores for 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math were higher than the district and the state in the first year of Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Began career in education as a reporter for Catalyst Chicago and as a teaching intern at Breakthrough Collaborative

After teaching in Chicago for several years, attended Harvard's Graduate School of Education, earning a M.Ed. in Education Policy and Management.



**Ashleigh Fritz**

*School Director, YES Prep Public Schools- West Campus*

In 2015, YES Prep West was in the top 10 list of the top 25% schools for student progress, and in the top 25% of schools closing Achievement Gaps

YES Prep West was #6 in the TEA list of top 25% schools closing Achievement Gaps in Texas in 2014; school was recognized as a Texas Education Agency Reward School Case Study Project

Received the 2011 Golding Foundation for Excellence in Education Award and the Distinguished Leadership Award from Denison University



**Kevin Hall**

*Principal, Uncommon Schools Excellence Boys Elementary*

In first year of leadership of Excellence Boys, students exceeded the district proficiency rate on the state Math exam by 31 points; by 2015, Excellence Boys scholars exceeded the district's proficiency rate by 55 points

Increased Excellence Boys state ELA exam performance against the district by 10 points, reaching a proficiency rate that more than doubled the district's rate; maintained a proficiency rate of at least double the district in the years that followed

Began his career teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at PS 213 in East New York, Brooklyn



**Kim Jackson**

*Principal, Seaton Elementary, District of Columbia Public Schools*

As Principal of Seaton Elementary, student progress was 34 points higher than the district average

Received DCPS Principal of the Year 2015 and Rubenstein Award 2015 (only four awarded per year out of 111 schools)

Over 25 years of experience in education, beginning as an elementary teacher in Baltimore, Maryland, and transitioning to lead students and teachers in Illinois as an assistant principal and then principal; served New Jersey children for eight years as a principal of two schools in Moorestown, New Jersey



**Dr. Ben Klompus**

*Managing Director of Principal Supervisor Programs, Relay GSE*

As Principal of Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter School, commended by Governor Patrick for "Closing the Achievement Gap" and demonstrating "High Growth" in turnaround efforts at Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School

Led school turnaround to achieve a composite performance index growth of 22.1 points in ELA and 32.3 points in Math; Named a "Silver Gain School" by EPIC

Served as a Network Facilitator for the School Leaders National Network and as Director of Greylock A Better Chance, Inc.; recently earned his Ed.L.D. at Harvard Graduate School of Education.



**Jim Leckrone**

*Principal, East End Preparatory School, Nashville*

East End Preparatory was in the top 8% for Math, top 5% for Science, and top 20% for Reading across all schools in Davidson County, TN

The school's TNTP Insight staff survey instructional culture score was #1 among all TN charter schools that participated (28 schools)

Has been teaching and leading in Tennessee for 20 years as a Math teacher, assistant principal, and founding principal



**Myron Long**

*Principal, E.L. Haynes Middle School*

As principal, scored 6<sup>th</sup> out of all schools for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade PARCC, and achieved an 11% gain in Math between 2013-2014; moved from Tier 2 school to Tier 1 school in DC's classification of schools

Passionate advocate for young men of color, creating an all-male leadership program called the Chain of Brotherhood that has dramatically changed the trajectory for boys of color in the schools in which he has taught and led

Completed the New Leaders Program; born, raised, and educated in Washington DC



**Sultana Noormuhammad**

*Associate Dean, National Principals Academy Fellowship, Relay GSE*

As Principal of Leadership Prep Bedford Stuyvesant (LPBS), received designation as a Reward School by SUNY Board of Regents for demonstrating significant improvement in achievement 13-14

In 2015, LPBS ranked in top 2% of schools in the state for Math proficiency, top 5% in the state for 4<sup>th</sup> grade Math proficiency, and top 9% in the state for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA proficiency

Began her career as a teacher at CS 50 in the Bronx



**Chris O'Brien**

*Principal, Village Prep Woodland Hills*

In the first three years of its existence, E Prep Woodland Hills (EPWH) was ranked in the top 1% of all 3,500 Ohio public schools in student growth measures.

EPWH has received an “A” rating from the Ohio Department of Education for Overall Value Added, Value Added for Lowest 20% Students, and Value Added for Students with Disabilities in every year of its existence

Selected to serve on Ohio Governor Kasich’s Steering Committee to reshape teacher observation and evaluation practices for the state of Ohio.



**Leah Peters**

*School Director, YES Prep East End*

YES Prep East End earned Distinction from the Texas Education Agency in ELA and Math, increasing on all targets between 1-5% points between 2014 and 2015. 12 out of 14 STAAR (Texas state test) metrics were above state average.

US News and World Report ranked Yes Prep East End #95 out of 21,000 high schools.

Holds a BS in Policy Analysis and Management from Cornell University, and a Master of Public Administration with Policy Analysis Concentration



**Sean Precious**

*Instructional Superintendent, Denver Public Schools*

Four of the high schools Sean manages were on the DPS High Growth list in 2014-2015

As interim principal for Lighthouse Academies, he achieved 17.6% comparable growth in Reading and 18.4% in math

Member of the 2008 New Leaders Cohort, 2012 National Superintendents Academy, 2013 Harvard Leadership Institute for Superintendents, 2015 Urban Schools Human Capital Academy, Wallace Foundation Principal Supervision PLC, and 2015 TFA School System Leadership program



**Zachary Rahn**

*Principal, Ashley Elementary, Denver Public Schools*

Change in percentile for Ashley Elementary ELA growth between 2014-2015 was 22 points and in 2015, Ashley Elementary was ranked as a Top 10 Growth school for DPS

2007 Teach For America Colorado Corps Member, taught 3rd and 4th grade in a bilingual classroom at Maria Mitchell Elementary School and Cole Arts & Science Academy in Denver, Colorado

Selected for the Residency for the Educational Development of DPS Intrapreneurs fellowship sponsored by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation



**Maya Roth Bisignano**

*Associate Managing Director, Uncommon Schools New York*

As Principal of Uncommon Charter High School for six years, helped lead 100% of the 2013-2015 graduating classes to pass in five NY Regents categories – Comprehensive English, Geometry, Integrated Algebra, Spanish, and US History and 98% to pass in Global History and Living Environment – surpassing the local district by 25% in most categories

Won the Blackboard Award for Academic Excellence in 2012, the Department of Curriculum and Teaching Scholarship Award from Columbia Teachers College in 2007, and the James T Sears Award for Curriculum Scholarship from Columbia Teachers College in 2007

Prior to founding Uncommon Charter High School, taught English for ten years



**Rodney Rowan**

*Principal, Westhaven Elementary School, Shelby County Schools*

As Principal of Cherokee Elementary, had the biggest gains of all Shelby County iZone schools, with 13.3% gains in Reading and 43.1% in Math from 2013-2015 and was designated a Tennessee Reward School (top 5% in the state) in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015

New Leaders 2012 Resident Principal at Balmoral/Ridgeway, an I.B. Candidate School

Rodney has been an educator for 20 years, serving the neediest students in Tennessee



**Eric Sanchez**

*Founding Executive Director, Henderson Collegiate*

Exceeded Expected Growth each year since opening and achieved the highest school performance grade in the state of North Carolina, an honor earned by only 2.8% of all NC public schools

Designated a Title I Reward School for 3 years (represents the top 10% of all Title I schools in the state) and a National Title I Distinguished School for North Carolina for High Progress (the only charter in NC history to win this award)

House-appointed, voting member of the Charter School Advisory Board, which makes policy recommendations and provides performance evaluations to the North Carolina State Board of Education



**Mary Ann Stinton**

*Principal, Truesdell Campus, District of Columbia Public Schools*

Recipient of the 2014 Rubenstein Award for School Leadership and recognized at DCPS Standing Ovation ceremony as a highly effective school leader 2013-2014 and 2014-2015

Achieved 2013-2014 gains of 14.2 points and ranks among top 3 DCPS schools over the last five years to close the opportunity gap for African American males





### **Stacey Shells**

*Chief Executive Officer, ReGeneration Schools, Illinois*

Over the past two years of turnaround, increased state test scores 10 points in ELA and 17 points in Math, despite an over 20 point drop statewide since introduction of the Common Core

Led founding cohort of students at Rochester Prep to rank sixth in the state of New York for English Language Arts (2008)

Featured in the books *Teach Like a Champion*, by Doug Lemov, and *Leverage Leadership*, by Paul Bambrick-Santoyo



### **Chi Tschang**

*Regional Superintendent, Achievement First, New York*

Oversees schools that are rated in the top 10% of schools compared to their host district in NYC as regional superintendent of Achievement First

Profiled on the Oprah Winfrey Show and in the New York Times #1 best-seller, *What Should I Do With My Life?* for his work in Boston and in Providence

Participated in City Year after college, where he tutored fourth graders in South Providence