REBUILDING STRONGER

May 2022

Advisory Committee Member Roster

myIPS

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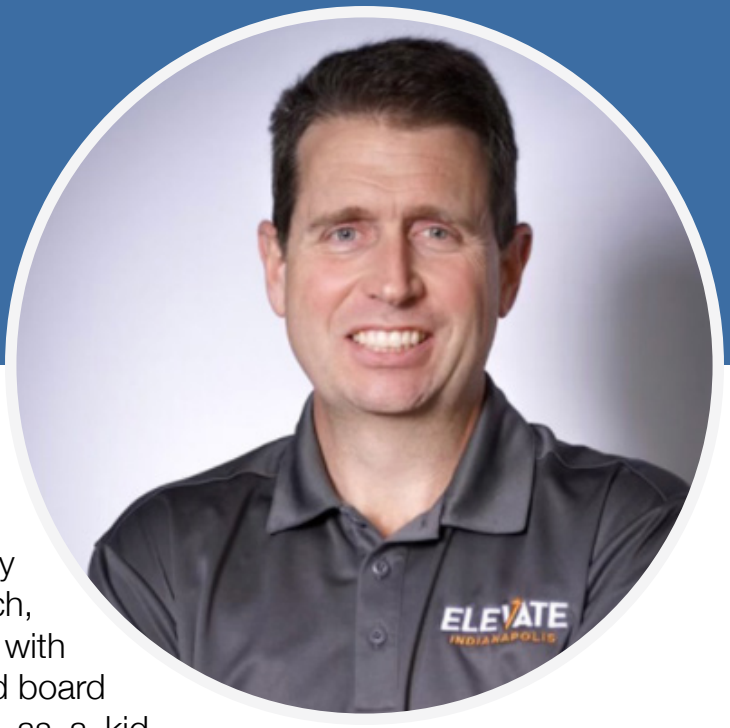
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*** Committee Co-Chairs**

Aaron Story

President & CEO

Elevate Indianapolis



Having served as Elevate's President & CEO since January of 2018, Aaron is an active foster parent, basketball coach, community developer, and near-eastside resident. In his role with Elevate, Aaron provides leadership and direction to the staff and board while building like-minded partnership—keeping Elevate Indy as a kid-centered organization.

Aaron was born and raised in northern Indiana; Aaron, Carrie and their 4 children have lived in the Indianapolis area for 20 years. With a history of developing and sharing vision to bring people and organizations together to impact the community for Indianapolis' most marginalized citizens, Aaron has a passionate servant-leader approach. He has served and mentored youth living in economically disadvantaged communities for nearly 15 years.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business from Indiana Wesleyan University, master's degree in biblical studies from Moody Seminary, and numerous certificates in leadership, fundraising and organizational management. In 2019, Aaron was recognized as a Leadership Fellow by the Tobias Fellow Program of Indiana University.

Alonzo Ross

K–14 Initiatives Executive Director

Ivy Tech Community College



Alonzo Ross currently serves as the Interim Executive Director for K-14 initiatives for Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis. In this role, he is responsible for advancing the mission of the college within the K-12 arena while providing high school students with an opportunity to earn college credit while still completing high school.

Alonzo regularly contributes to the greater higher-education knowledge community through forums, conferences, and other activities that increase the awareness of early college-access programming for student success. Most recently, Alonzo made a presentation on Free College During High School: Addressing the Inequities in Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment, which illuminated the disparities within and benefits of early college programming.

Alonzo holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Indiana University East and an MBA from the University of Southern Indiana. Alonzo is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at the University of the Cumberlands.

Barato Britt

President/CEO

Edna Martin Christian Center



A results-oriented, highly motivated professional, Barato Britt has committed much of his professional career to community empowerment focused on underserved families. He currently serves as the President/CEO of the Edna Martin Christian Center (EMCC), an 80-year old multiservice community-based organization serving Martindale Brightwood and surrounding communities on Indianapolis' near east side. Having served the agency since 2009, Barato previously served as the center's Deputy Director, then Executive Director of Leadership and Legacy Campus, the EMCC's intergenerational hub for activities related to youth and senior empowerment. In that capacity, Barato has led the center's campus capital development strategies, which have included some $20 million in total center and partner investments since EMCC acquired the site in 2016.

A long-time community servant, Barato served as a site coordinator for The Princeton Review's supplemental education services tutoring wing prior to joining EMCC. In that capacity, he led efforts to provide intensive academic tutoring more than 400 students who attended IPS schools. He also worked as a writer and section editor for the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper, nation's third-oldest African American-led newspaper.

Barato's civic positions include current service as a board director for KIPP Indy Public Schools, a network of three K—12 public schools serving over 1,300 students. Prior to joining the KIPP Indy board, Barato served as a Board member for the Irvington Community School Corporation, which also operates three charter schools in Indianapolis.

Charlotte Hawthorne

Sr. Director, Social Impact and Vice President, Lilly Foundation

Eli Lilly and Company



Charlotte Hawthorne is the Senior Director of Social Impact for Eli Lilly and Company as well as the Vice President of the Lilly Foundation. In this role, she leads the employee engagement team, volunteerism program, social impact strategy, and STEM education portfolio. She also develops and drives external partnerships and community engagement.

She is a diversity thought leader and serves as an advisor to Lilly's business areas, helping to develop strategies to deliver on Lilly's D&I objectives. Prior to this role, Charlotte was a consultant in Lilly's leadership development group where she was responsible for developing and delivering solutions to grow leadership capabilities for managers at all levels. She received a bachelor of science in industrial engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Since joining Lilly, Charlotte has had a variety of roles in manufacturing, human resources, global diversity and Lilly Research Labs. Charlotte is a professional development coach, trainer, consultant, and project manager. She specializes in performance improvement and organizational effectiveness.

She is active in her community through serving on the Enroll Indy board and as an active parent advocate in Indianapolis Public Schools. Charlotte is a wife and mother of four. She is a passionate advocate for policies and practices that create equity and inclusion for all.

Claudia Montes Salinas

Immigrant & Refugee Program Specialist

Indianapolis Public Library



Claudia Montes obtained her bachelor's degree in Spanish and translation studies from the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts in Indianapolis. She also holds a master's degree in urban education from the IU School of Education.

Claudia Montes began her professional career by working as a Spanish teacher at a private Montessori school. She served as the first ESL College and Career Readiness Coordinator at Indianapolis Public Schools. She worked as an Adjunct Instructor at the IU School of Education in Indianapolis, where she prepared undergraduate students to work in urban settings with minority students, especially Latino students in the United States.

Claudia Montes is a co-founder of the Latino Youth Collective of Indiana, which provides resources and opportunities for youth to engage in personal and community development using critical pedagogy, grassroots organizing, and collective action. For the last 10 summers, Claudia Montes has helped run a 6-week summer program, the Athena Academy for Media Arts and Science, which hires and trains 40 Latino youth to conduct participatory action research using new media technologies about a topic of interest.

Claudia Montes currently works at the Indianapolis Public Library as the Immigrant & Refugee Program Specialist.

David Dresslar

Consultant

Indianapolis Publis Schools



Dr. David Dresslar is a retired educator who has served as a teacher, Dean of Students, building administrator, Assistant Superintendent, District Superintendent, and Executive Director of the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis. While at UIndy in 2004, Dresslar began his work with IPS in connection with the Gates Foundation-funded small high schools project.

Since retiring from CELL in 2015, he has continued to serve in a variety of consulting roles with IPS and is currently working with the IPS Post-Secondary Readiness Team in the implementation of high quality college and career pathways.

David Hampton

Committee Co-Chair

Executive Director

Local Initiatives Support Corporation



David Hampton serves as the Executive Director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Indy. Previously he spent five years as Deputy Mayor before leaving to become President and CEO of Hampton Innovations, his own strategy and consulting firm.

The holder of a doctorate in practical theology from Christian Theological Seminary, Hampton retired as a pastor in 2019 after 20 years in the ministry. He served seven years as Pastor at Light of the World Christian Church in Indianapolis, four years as Pastor at Bethany Baptist Church of Brooklyn, New York, and five years as Senior Pastor at Zion Hope Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

A 1990 Lawrence North High School graduate, Hampton has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Indianapolis and executive certificates from Harvard University (Strategic Business Strategy) and Purdue University (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion).

He is currently on the board of directors of the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, Indianapolis Black Chamber of Commerce and National Action Network.

He previously served on the Indianapolis Board of Zoning Appeals and the boards of the Indianapolis Urban League, Indianapolis City Market, and Martin University.

Deana Harger-Perry

Principal

William McKinley School 39



I am a proud Arsenal Technical High School graduate and have dedicated 26 years to serving families in the Indianapolis Public School district. I began my career teaching second through fifth grade students at Washington Irving School 14. From there, I served as a District School Improvement Coach, an Instructional Coach at Eleanor Skillen School #34 and Assistant Principal at William McKinley School 39 where I am currently the Principal.

I have committed my professional life to the success of all students and believe that all members of the school community must nurture positive relationships, make learning relevant, set high expectations, and ensure equitable practices for each student to reach their full potential. I currently reside in the Holy Cross neighborhood with my husband Bill whom I share two adult sons.

Dena Bond, R.D.

Director of FoodService

Indianapolis Public Schools



Dena Bond is a registered dietitian, and the Director of FoodService for Indianapolis Public Schools. In this role, she oversees the operation and administration of child nutrition programs, which provide nutritious meals, both during and after the school day, supporting the health and education of IPS students.

As a member of the IPS Foodservice Team since 2003, Dena has served as a School Operations Manager and Food Center Operations Manager prior to her role as Director for the last five years. In 2019, she was recognized as one of IPS' Women Leaders for her impact as a female leader in the district.

Dena graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor of science in dietetics, and a master of arts in family and consumer sciences.

Dennis Southerland

Senior Vice President

Cripe Architects + Engineers



As a lifetime resident of Indianapolis, I proudly grew up on our city's east side and am a true Baby Boomer, becoming a Hoosier in 1949. We had 77 kids on our block, half of us went to IPS 68, Susan Roll Leach School and the other half went to Little Flower Catholic School. Life was great on the 1900 block of Glenridge Drive.

In my 6th grade year, we moved to 44th and Arlington and I transferred to IPS 92, Booth Tarkington School, then to a relatively new Arlington High School. The northeast side of Indianapolis was exploding with families and by my senior year at Arlington, 1968, our school had nearly 4,000 students. In the mid- to late 1960s our country was being challenged with an unpopular war; urban and racial upheaval; integration of a segregated school system; and the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy within 64 days of each other.

Interestingly, of the 4,000 students at Arlington, about 50 were African American and of that 50, 40 were in the Freshman class. Arlington was not a safe place for students of color! A few of us decided to get acquainted with students that did not look like us. Interestingly, the four freshman we befriended, the other co-captain of the football team and I discovered, as did these kids, we all had the same three priorities: football, girls and school, in that order. Those friends have profoundly impacted my life, 54 years later.

Fortunately, I have been able to maintain personal contact with some of the educators who profoundly impacted my life. These educators are my personal heroes.

After Arlington, I went to DePauw University, met a classmate, married her and have been the luckiest person you will ever know. We have 5 grown children and 12 grandchildren. My wife was a classroom teacher, a school principal, and was director of education at The Children's Museum. One daughter is a public a school administrator. I helped create the Lawrence School Foundation and was a founding member of the IPS Foundation Board of Directors.

Diane Arnold

Committee Co-Chair

Executive Director, Hawthorne

Indianapolis Public Schools Board of School Commissioner



Diane Arnold has lived and worked on the west side of Indianapolis for most of her life. She served as the Executive Director of Hawthorne Community Center for more than 30 years. Through her work at Hawthorne, she focused on education as a quality-of-life issue, providing programs that range from early childhood education to senior citizen activities.

Diane has been recognized and honored for her service by Local Initiatives Support Corporation, United Way of Central Indiana, United States Department of Justice, Indiana Youth Institute, Indiana Education Association, University of Indianapolis, and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. She has been honored as a Kentucky Colonel and a Sagamore of the Wabash.

Diane has served as an IPS Commissioner representing District 4 for 14 years. She has served as Board Secretary and Vice-President, and twice as the President.

Diane has an undergraduate degree in elementary education and a master's degree in social work, both from Indiana University. She is a proud graduate of George Washington High School where she met her husband, Jim Arnold. Diane and Jim currently have a granddaughter attending Edison School of the Arts 47.

Germaine Flemming

Head Custodian

Indianapolis Public Schools



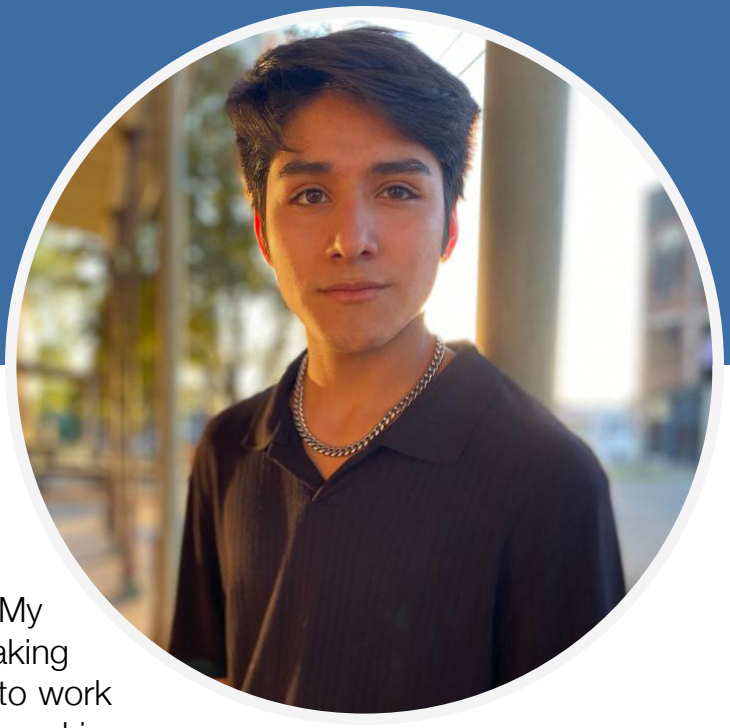
Germaine Flemming is originally from Chicago, but has lived in Indianapolis and worked for IPS for 20 years. Germaine has enjoyed serving the staff, students, and families of IPS as part of both the Special Education and Custodial Departments.

Germain is thrilled to be helping to shape the future of IPS as part of the Rebuilding Stronger Advisory Committee. He hopes to use his extensive experience and the expertise he's developed working with IPS to help identify opportunities to upgrade existing facilities and ensure American flags are properly displayed.

Justin Deem-Loureiro

Community Leader and Activist

Student at Butler University



My community involvement began at the age of 12 years old. My two moms taught me the importance of getting involved and making a difference wherever I could. At the age of 12 I slowly started to work on campaigns by calling voters, registering those to vote, and knocking on doors for politicians that aligned with my beliefs.

I served as Chairman of the Indiana High School Democrats of America, Ran for office as Precinct Committeeman, President of The Herron High School Democrats, served on the Mayors Youth Council, member of the IPS reorganizational committee and intern for the André Carson campaign.

Excited to make a difference on this committee to ensure our schools thrive in this great city of Indianapolis.

Keith Potts

Councilor – District Two

City of Indianapolis



Keith Potts (he/him/his) is an arts advocate, having graduated in 2012 from the Boston Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He works with local not-for-profit arts organizations, teaching after-school music classes, directing, and performing with organizations like the Phoenix Theatre, Indy Shakes, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Actors Theatre of Indiana, and Civic Theatre.

Potts' political work has been centered on issue-based campaigns and progressive candidates, with a particular focus on protecting women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and the environment. Potts lives in Nora with his husband, Dr. Bryan Dodd, and their rescue dog, Mak.

Kelli Marshall

Senior Vice President of Schools

The Mind Trust



As Senior Vice President of Schools, Kelli Marshall leads the execution of The Mind Trust's school incubation, school support, and talent strategies that support the growth and ongoing success of high-quality schools for Indianapolis students. Marshall's team manages The Mind Trust's Charter and Innovation School Fellowships, the organization's school talent strategy, partnerships with education organizations like Relay Graduate School of Education and Instruction Partners, as well as other system-level strategies that help ensure every Indianapolis student has access to a high-quality public school.

Kelli began her career as a teacher in Indianapolis Public Schools and over the span of 16 years, went on to serve as an instructional coach, assistant principal, and principal within the district. In 2008, Kelli transitioned from IPS to become a school leader in the charter sector where she took Indianapolis Lighthouse Academy from a low-performing school to one that received an A on the state's accountability system. Kelli then went on to found Tindley Collegiate Academy in 2011, the state's first all-girls middle school. Under Kelli's leadership, Tindley Collegiate became the highest-performing middle school in Indianapolis. In 2015, Kelli was asked to transition to serve as Tindley's CEO, helping to stabilize the network's finances and operations.

Most recently, she successfully launched a new high school while simultaneously serving as GEO Academies Chief Academic Officer for Indiana. Kelli earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Indiana University, a master's degree in education administration from Butler University and is currently completing her doctoral studies at Marian University.

Leigh Riley Evans

Director of Community Development

Eastern Star Church JEWEL Human Services



Leigh Riley Evans is a community development executive. In her professional endeavors she is responsible for making asset-based connections and developing resources to improve equity and access for neighborhood residents. Over the last decade she has responsibly provided direction and leadership for JEWEL Human Services at Eastern Star Church and the Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation.

Leigh considers herself a change agent and enjoys fostering collaborative placekeeping initiatives to attract awareness and investment while reducing poverty in historically underserved communities. Her career and educational highlights include earning a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Purdue University and her MBA from the University of Phoenix.

She currently serves as a Commissioner for the Indiana State Fairgrounds and is on the Board of Directors for several community-based organization,s including the world-renowned Children's Museum of Indianapolis that implements the Mid-North Promise Program. Previously, she was a board member for Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and appointed by Mayor Hogsett to the Marion County Wellfield Education Corporation (MCWEC) board. Leigh has also earned Trailblazer Awards for improving public health and homeownership opportunities.

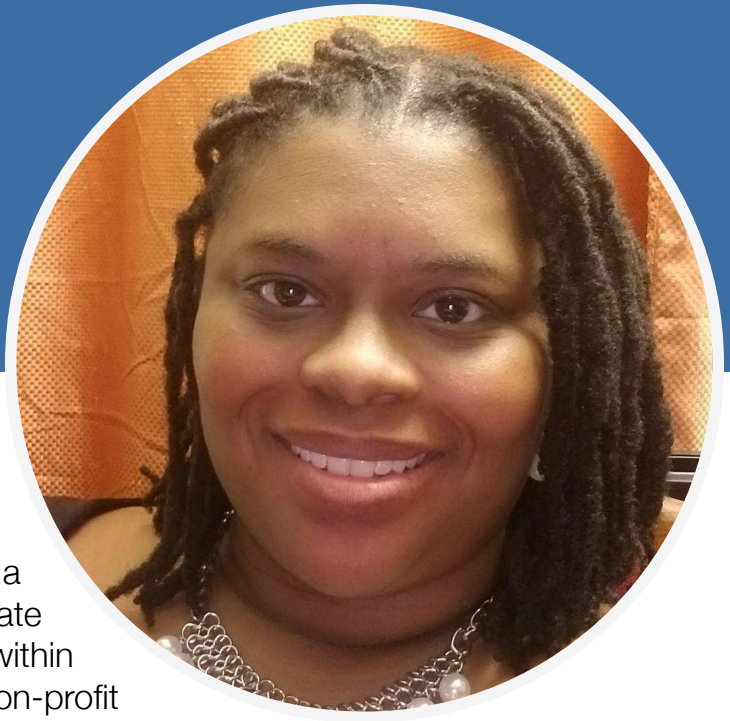
Personally, Leigh has been married to Scott Evans for 28 years and is the mother of three sons and one grandson.

Lena Dickerson

Founder & President of Non-profit Organization

Joyful Inc.

Indianapolis Public Schools Alumni and Parent



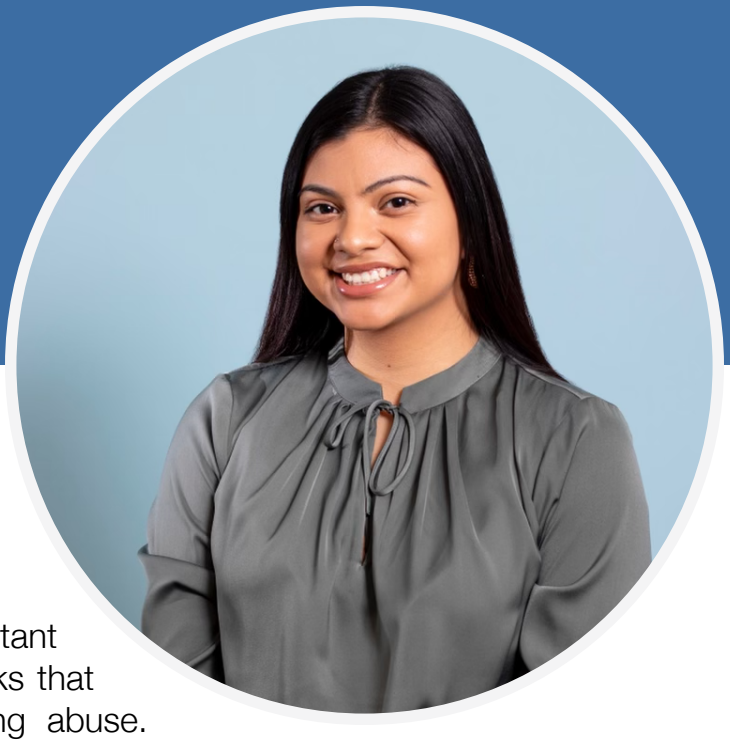
Lena Dickerson was born and raised here in Indianapolis. Lena is a mother of three school-age daughters. She is an IPS alumni, graduate of Emmerich Manual High School, and former AmeriCorps worker within IPS schools. She is the Founder & President of Joyful Inc, a non-profit organization.

Lena has served her community for over two decades. She is a strong parent who believes in advocating for not just her children but for all children to have an equitable education. Lena is currently pursuing her associate degree in human services at Ivy Tech Community and plans to continue her education until she obtains her master's in social work.

Maria De Leon

Student, Incoming Human Resources Associate

Crispus Attucks High School '18



Maria is a 2018 graduate of Crispus Attucks High School and currently attends Butler University with majors in political science and critical communications and media studies.

Maria's passion to serve and raise awareness about important issues began when she co-founded a club at Crispus Attucks that raised awareness about domestic violence and teen-dating abuse. From there on, Maria realized the power of advocacy. In 2019, Maria co-founded the Butler University chapter of Leading Women of Tomorrow to encourage more young women to consider careers in public service, with the aim of bridging the gender gap among public representatives. Currently, Maria is serving as the Co-President for the student organization, Latinx Student Union. Maria enjoys being involved in Indianapolis, especially investing her time in supporting the Hispanic/Latinx community and youth from her high school.

Professionally, Maria interned for the Indiana Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, Indiana Latino Expo, Conexus Indiana, VOX Global, City of Indianapolis, and Eli Lilly and Company. Most recently she was elected to serve as a 2022 500 Festival Princess.

Maria has been recognized locally in Indianapolis and has received the Lilly Endowment Scholarship, TeenWorks Scholarship, Young Latina Leadership Award, Heather and Coriana Memorial Award for Excellence in Youth Service , Butler University Department of Political Science Peace Builder Award, and the Digital Nomad Diversity Award.

Mariama Shaheed

Founder and Principal

Global Preparatory Academy



Mariama Shaheed isthe founder and principal of Global Preparatory Academy, Indiana's first Spanish immersion charter school, which opened in August 2016. Mariama, who is bilingual, holds bachelor's in elementary education and two master's degrees in both educational leadership and business.

During her more than 20-year career as a teacher and administrator, Mariama has received numerous honors. She received the prestigious Milken National Educator Award, valued at $25,000 and known as the "Oscars" of teaching. She has since been named a Champion of Diversity (Minority Business Journal) and a Transformational Educator by Indiana University-Purdue University (IUPUI). Mariama has also received the Minority Achievement Award in Education from the Center for Leadership Development and was named a Trailblazing Woman by the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Mariama has committed herself to urban education and has spent her entire career working in public schools with students who have historically been underserved. Mariama believes that all children deserve to be educated in a high-quality school that enables them to compete on a global stage and that the educators in front of students play a pivotal role in their success. Her deep beliefs about the power of education drove her to create a language immersion school that would serve historically marginalized students. Global Preparatory Academy is the school that she wanted for her daughter that before now did not exist.

Mark Fisher

Indianapolis Public Schools Parent



Mark Fisher serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Indiana Association of Realtors (IAR) where he is responsible for implementing IAR's mission in service to 20,000-plus members in the Indiana real-estate industry.

Prior to his role with IAR, Mark served as Chief Policy Officer for the Indy Chamber; he was responsible for the overall development and implementation of the Chamber's policy and political initiatives, while focusing his efforts on economic and community development, transportation, local government and fiscal policy matters.

A native of Bloomington, Mark has a bachelor's degree in sociology, a certificate in business, and a minor in economics from Indiana University-Bloomington. He holds a master's in public affairs from Indiana University-Indianapolis. Mark currently lives in the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood with his wife and four children and stays active in a variety of community-based initiatives, including Leadership Indianapolis and serving as a board member for the board for the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute.

Michael Huber

President & CEO

Indy Chamber



Michael Huber has served as the President & CEO of the Indy Chamber since the fall of 2013. In this role, he leads an organization of over 2,000 member businesses from the Indianapolis region. The Indy Chamber serves to unite the Indianapolis business community, to grow an inclusive regional economy, and to tell the Indianapolis story across the nation and world.

Under Michael's leadership, the Indy Chamber has led Indianapolis' regional economic development strategy; led the coalition supporting mass transit expansion (including the successful November 2016 referendum); and, in response to the coronavirus, led a new $22M small business lending and grants program in 2020.

Michael's past roles include Senior Director of Commercial Enterprise at the Indianapolis Airport Authority and Deputy Mayor for Economic Development for Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard. Michael also worked in the Indiana Office of Management & Budget for Governor Mitch Daniels. He has appeared as a featured guest on national news programs including NPR Marketplace and MSNBC Squawk Box.

Michael has composed and produced music for over 30 years, and regularly plays in Indianapolis with his 7-piece pop and R&B band, Chamber Music. He and his wife Helen are parents of three young children and live in Fall Creek Place in Indianapolis.

Pamela Ross

Vice President of Opportunity, Equity and Inclusion

Central Indiana Community Foundation



Pamela joined the Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF) September 2016 as a community leadership officer and was promoted to her current position in April 2018. Pamela leads the organization's internal process of ensuring equitable policies and practices are operationalized and exemplified in all work of the foundation. She's also responsible for leading CICF's organizational initiatives that support increased equity, inclusive economic growth and racial awareness in central Indiana.

Pamela has her master's in social work from the University of Georgia. She has more than 25 years of professional experience in the social services field, managing multiple programs dedicated to improving the plight of children and families. Pamela serves on the board for Kennedy King Memorial Initiative. She is a 2019 Tobias Fellow and vice chair for Indiana Blacks in Philanthropy.

She is a native of Indianapolis but throughout her life, she has lived in other places, including Phoenix, Atlanta, Houston and Iowa. Pamela has a great passion for making a difference in the lives of people often left behind. Above many things, she values her family and living a purposeful life.

Rick Rush

Architect

arcDESIGN

Indianapolis Public Schools Parent



Rick is an Architect and Associate at arcDESIGN where he has focused on healthcare, higher education, and early childhood architecture. He has led local projects with Eskenazi Health, Community Health, IUPUI, and IndyPL. Rick was a member of the inaugural class of AIA Christopher Kelley Scholars, an initiative that supports emerging architects to be transformative leaders in their communities and the profession of architecture. Rick is a graduate of NJIT in Newark, N.J., and is a life-long resident of Indianapolis.

Rick is an active member at Saint Joan of Arc Parish where he volunteers as a catechist, serves on the school facility committee, and volunteers in several other capacities. Rick and his wife, Lauren, are proud parents of the three children who attend Rousseau McClellan School 91 and one who hopes to join her older siblings at school in 2024.

Robert Glaspy

Manager of Facilities

Indianapolis Publis Schools/FMD



Robert Glaspy was born and raised in Indianapolis and is a graduate of Indianapolis Public School. He attended elementary school at IPS 41, 9 and 14 and middle school at H.L Harshman 101 where he participated in organized athletics, including football and basketball. Robert graduated from Arlington High School where he discovered and developed talents and abilities while participating in the school's Industrial Arts curriculum. Robert continued his athletics career for Arlington, playing basketball and football for the school's Golden Knights.

Following graduation, Robert obtained a bachelor's degree from Indiana State University. He became a substitute teacher for IPS, and then was contracted to teach industrial education while also coaching football, wrestling, and track.

Rocio Cisneros

English as a New Language Teacher

Charles Warren Fairbanks 105



Rocio Cisneros (she/her) is a passionate and dedicated educator. Rocio has worked at Charles Warren Fairbanks 105 for nine years, and has made a huge impact on the school culture and community. She has built strong relationships with her students and their families, and has created many opportunities at Charles Warren Fairbanks. Not only is Rocio a strong advocate for English Language Learners, but she has also extended her skills beyond academics to extracurricular activities for all the students at the school. She has coached the running club, tennis, and serves as the Cap Lead Coach for Girls on the Run.

Understanding the importance of leadership and diversity, equity, and inclusion within Indianapolis Public Schools, Rocio has also taken the lead as Equity Team Leader. Additionally, she is a member of the Social Committee, Build Discussions Team, and the district wide Latinx Affinity Group. She also serves as a Student Teacher Mentor. This dedication and commitment to Charles Warren Fairbanks awarded her the honor of 2017 Top 10 IPS Teacher of the Year.

Rocio received her bachelor of science in education and her master of education in language education from IUPUI. She will be attending IUPUI in the summer of 2022 to earn her second M.Ed. in urban education leadership.

Ronald Swann

President

Indianapolis Education Association (IEA)

Indianapolis Public Schools Science Teacher



I am a 22-year teacher in IPS where teaching is my third career. I was born in Greensboro, N.C., and completed my high school education in 1966 as a proud graduate of the Greensboro Public Schools which were integrated in 1964. I am a graduate of the University of North Carolina Charlotte.

I was employed at several universities in the Charlotte area before leaving North Carolina to attend The Ohio State University in 1980. In 1981 I was employed at Indiana State University and Hamilton Center until 1984. I moved to Indianapolis, and was employed in the criminal justice field, and was a substitute teacher in the Indianapolis Public Schools. I have been a certified secondary science teacher in IPS since 1999 and worked at several building sites and taught in the alternate education program, New Horizons. I am a proud teacher at Crispus Attucks High School who retired from IPS in 2014 and came back in 2015 to fill a need to facilitate the learning process in students.

Once I became a certified teacher in IPS, I joined the Indianapolis Education Association (IEA) the collective bargaining union for IPS. Currently, I serve as the President of IEA and proud to be a part of this committee to give the union perspective.

Sarah TeKolste

Spanish Teacher

Shortridge High School



Sarah TeKolste teaches International Baccalaureate Spanish at Shortridge High School, where she also coordinates the Service Learning Program and the Peer Mentoring Program. She is also a methods instructor for aspiring Spanish teachers at the University of Indianapolis and an alumna of the Teach Plus Indiana Policy Fellowship.

Sarah was recognized as the 2022 IPS Teacher of the Year and a Top 3 Finalist for Indiana Teacher of the Year.

Scott Bess

Executive Director

Purdue Polytechnic High Schools



Scott Bess is Executive Director of Purdue Polytechnic High Schools, which is designed to increase the pipeline of underrepresented minority students to Purdue University. The schools launched with one location in downtown Indianapolis in 2017. A second location opened in Indianapolis in 2019, and a third in South Bend in 2020.

Prior to coming to Purdue, Scott was President of Goodwill Education Initiatives (GEI), a subsidiary of Goodwill Industries of Central and Southern Indiana. While at GEI, Scott led the development of the Excel Center, a high school designed for adults who had previously dropped out of high school. Under Scott's leadership, GEI grew from a single, small high school to a network of schools serving more than 5,000 students across Indiana and the United States.

Before assuming this role in 2004, he was chief information officer for Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana and served in similar technology roles in the private sector. Scott began his career as a teacher and coach in the Beech Grove school system. He also served four terms as a member of the Danville Community Schools board. Scott received a bachelor's degree in math education from Purdue and a master's degree in teaching from Marian University, where he was a part of the Turnaround School Leadership program.

Scott is on the board of Indiana Youth Institute and on the board of the Goodwill Excel Center in Washington, D.C. Hewas recently appointed to the Indiana State Board of Education and is also a graduate of the Pahara-Aspen Education Cap Fellowship.

Spencer Fort

Principal

Robert Lee Frost School 106



Spencer Fort has spent his entire working career in PreK—12, urban, public education. Currently, Spencer serves as Principal of Robert Lee Frost School 106 on Indianapolis' northeast side. Prior to serving as an IPS Principal, Spencer was an Assistant Principal and teacher in Indianapolis; Cape Town, South Africa; and Rome, Italy.

Spencer grew up in the Indianapolis area and graduated from Indiana University-Bloomington, Marian University, and the University of Indianapolis.

Stephannie Bailey

Chief Executive Officer

Indianapolis Public Schools Foundation



Stephannie Bailey has more than 25 years of experience in non-profit, education, consulting and corporate environments where she has proven her ability to strategize and execute an organizational vision and train and lead high-performance teams. From her early career days in sales and marketing at General Motors to her current role leading the Indianapolis Public Schools Foundation, the thread that ties her career experiences together is her focus on investing in people. Her 15 years in non-profit management have been focused on strategically building organizations from the ground up and restructuring historic organizations while exceeding budgetary and fundraising goals.

Since assuming leadership of the Indianapolis Public Schools Foundation, Stephannie has completed an entire overhaul of the fundraising model and all internal operations. She has rebranded the organization and recruited and trained new board members. These efforts combined with extensive relationship building with school district stakeholders, local donors, and national funders has resulted in an increase in annual fundraising revenue of more than 651% (now more than $5 million annually with $15 million in grants under management).

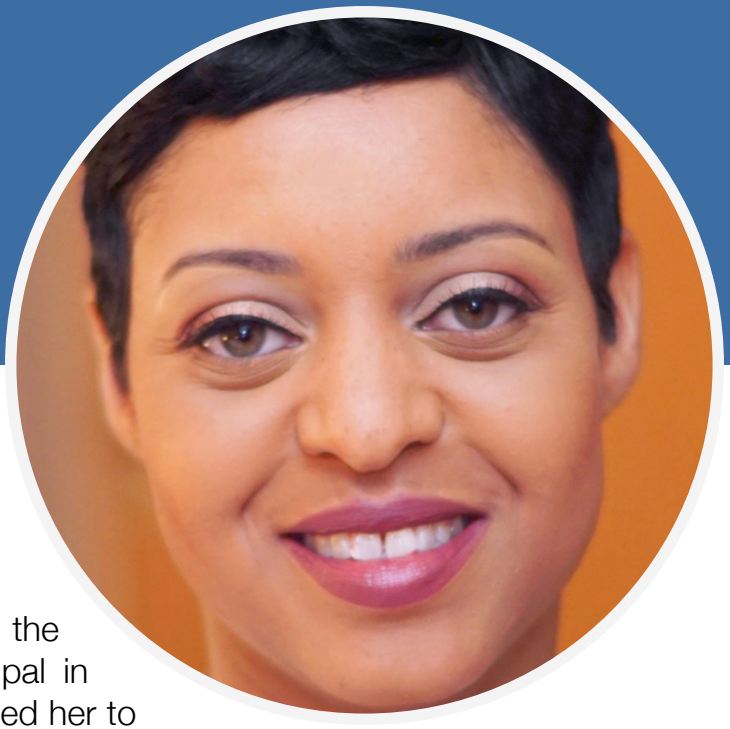
A collaborative leader, Stephannie brings experience in managing teams, partnering with executives, working extensively with volunteer boards and engaging community stakeholders to accomplish previously unimaginable visions for the organizations she leads.

Stephannie lives in Indianapolis with her husband Cliff, a special education administrator for IPS, and her daughter Emma, who is currently a high school senior and headed to Purdue University next fall.

Tihesha Henderson

Head of School

Sankofa School of Success @ Arlington Woods 99



Tihesha Henderson is a master educator who has spent the past 21 years as a teacher, instructional coach, and principal in Indianapolis. Tihesha's passion for trauma-informed care has led her to create innovative ways to address the social and emotional needs of students and staff.

Known to her staff and students as "Coach Henderson," Tihesha consistently coaches, trains, and develops staff to ensure students have what they need to achieve their academic goals. She works with her team from start to finish by providing professional development opportunities, peer support, weekly coaching sessions, and team-building exercises. Tihesha is redesigning how students learn and develop in school using mindfulness practices and social-emotional learning.

Tihesha has received numerous awards and accolades for transforming school cultures with high-impact strategies. As the 2022 IPS Principal of the Year and the Darius Leonard Community MVP, Tihesha is changing the landscape of education in Indianapolis.

Tina Ahlgren

Mathematics Teacher

Center for Inquiry 2

Bargaining Chair, Indianapolis Education Association



Tina has served the students and families of Indianapolis as a secondary mathematics teacher for 17 years, joining Team IPS upon graduation from DePauw University in 2005. While currently in her fourth year teaching in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme at Center for Inquiry 2, she began her career with seven years at T.C. Howe Community High School, followed by three years each at Shortridge High School and Arlington Community High School.

A 2014 finalist for Indiana Teacher of the Year and a recipient of the inaugural Hubbard Life-Changing Teacher Award, Tina has worked tirelessly to support the students of IPS and to continue learning and growing as an educator. With a focus on quality teacher recruitment and retention, and its impact on students, she has been involved in shaping education policy at the state and national level, as well as right here in Indianapolis.

Most recently, this work has included serving as the Bargaining Chair for the Indianapolis Education Association, negotiating teacher contracts, and working alongside district administration to fight for funding equity at the Indiana Statehouse. Tina is also an IPS parent, with a son and two goddaughters enrolled in IPS schools.

Committee Members

Rev. Tonya Hill

Shaneice Brown

Susana Colgan