

2018-2019 LEVERAGE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FELLOW PROFILES



Ashley Anderson Martin

PRINCIPAL, UNCOMMON COLLEGIATE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Brooklyn, New York City

Ashley Martin became the Principal at Uncommon Collegiate Charter High School after working as an Uncommon Schools Instructional Fellow, Dean of Students, and the founding math teacher of UCC. Ashley has served students and families from Bedford Stuyvesant and Brownsville, Brooklyn for six years and works relentlessly alongside her teachers and students to prove that demography does not equal destiny.



Komal Bhasin

PRINCIPAL, LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Lawrence, Massachusetts

Komal Bhasin has been the Principal of the Leonard School, a district public turnaround school in Lawrence, Massachusetts since 2013. Previously one of the lowest performing schools in the state, the Leonard School made enough progress to be re-designated as a “Level one school” in 2016. Prior to working in Lawrence, Komal was the Principal of Excel Academy Charter School: East Boston, where she worked from 2007-2012 and led the school to be the highest performing middle school in MA. Before Excel, Komal served as the founding Assistant Principal of a KIPP-affiliated school in New Orleans, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Prior to that, she was a teacher: first at a district school in New Orleans through the Teach For America program and subsequently as a founding teacher in a turnaround school in New Orleans. Komal got her start in education through work with Breakthrough sites in Manchester, New Hampshire and Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Paulina Cabezas

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS • APTUS CHILE

Santiago, Chile

Paulina Cabezas is the Director of a training program for the best instructional leaders in Chile. These leaders serve students that belong to the poorest 30% of the country and their results in the national assessments put them in average between 1.0 and 2.0 SD of schools with similar characteristics. The Program of Instructional Leaders (PFLI) is completely inspired in Leverage Leadership and also pilots in 8 schools to implement the leadership levers. (2010 to 2018) In a previous role as Director of Schools Support, Paulina led a team of 35 professionals who supported 42 schools in 6 regions of Chile. She was in charge of training the team and managing relationships with CMO leaders and school principals. (2008 to 2010).

She is a preschool education teacher and in her early years she was part of the founding team of 2 schools for disadvantaged children, a coach for PK to 1st grade teachers in 18 charter schools.

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Robin Davson

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, DISTRICT 5

Harlem, New York City

Robin Davson is currently the newly assigned Deputy Superintendent of District 5 in Harlem, New York. She helps to supervise twenty-three schools and is committed to increasing student outcomes and building strong school culture across the district. Robin previously was the Founding Principal of Brooklyn Landmark Elementary School. Under her leadership, within 3 years Robin led the school from failing to being the highest in her district and in NYC. Robin served as the Model Principal for the District Charter Partnership in her district, increasing overall literacy scores across the district. Robin has served as a Mentor Principal and has received numerous accolades including being 1 of 48 Showcase Schools in New York City.



Cristobal Edwards

CHIEF OF RESEARCH & EFFECTIVE PRACTICES, FUNDACION BELEN EDUCA

Santiago, Chile

Cristobal “Tobo” Edwards is a school leader and educational psychologist in Chile. During 2012, Cristobal taught the subject of Orientation to 5th, 6th and 7th grade on a school located on Cerro 18, one of the most under-resourced neighborhoods in Santiago. Cristobal was the chief of the Leadership Levers Project of Aptus Chile, where he applied the levers of Data Driven Instruction, Observation and Feedback, and Student Culture in 4 schools in Santiago. Later, Cristobal joined Belén Educa Foundation to coach three schools. This year, Cristobal help launch an Institute of Educational Leadership in Poverty Contexts for every leader who wants to make his/her high expectations come true.

Cristobal is the fourth of a family of 6. He and his wife, a primary school teacher, are expecting their first child during the cohort year.



Jane Fletcher

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ARK SCHOOLS

London, England

Jane Fletcher has been a Principal of three schools, working with students from the age of 9-18. These schools have been both Local Authority schools and academies. Each of them has been a failing school when she started work with them and in an area of deprivation. Jane’s last school leadership post was in London where she served for 8 years. Jane and her team took the school from a position of failing to outstanding and students achieved progress measures that placed the school in the top 3% and higher of schools nationally for 6 years consecutively. Jane is now a Regional Director for Ark. In this post she oversee a group of 11 schools at varying stages on their improvement journey.

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Alejandra Garcia

PRINCIPAL OF TWO SCHOOLS, CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

Charlotte, North Carolina

Alejandra Garcia graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelors in Exceptional Student Education. She received National Board Certification Specialist in birth -21, then earned her Master's Degree in School Administration from Gardner Webb University. After receiving her Master's degree she was admitted to the New Leaders for New Schools Nation Urban Leadership program. During this she served a special education teacher for 11 years. Alejandra completed her principal residency at Pinewood Elementary for a year and later became Principal at Nations Ford Elementary, where she has served for four years.

Under her leadership, Nations Ford was removed from the State's low performing list in one year and improved from a D/F to a C school in three years. As a turnaround project the school had the highest growth in the district. Alejandra was just promoted to become the Principal over two schools, one elementary and one K-8 school, in a new district pilot combining two existing schools to function under a single leader. Her new role will entail overseeing more than 2,000 students and 232 staff members.



Shannon Garfield

REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST

New Haven, Connecticut

Shannon Garfield oversees a portfolio of schools – all Achievement First middle schools in Connecticut - and is responsible for coaching AF principals and deans in the development and implementation of academic programs and school culture initiatives. Prior to transitioning to the role of Regional Superintendent, Shannon served as Senior Director of Special Services and co-led Team Special Services, a group dedicated to improving Special Services across the entire Achievement First Network.

Prior to her work at Achievement First in 2012, Shannon was a professional contemporary dancer – teaching at the college level and performing throughout the east coast before transitioning to be a high school math special education teacher and leader in the School District of Philadelphia and KIPP Philadelphia. Throughout this time, she spent her summers working as a Fellow Advisor during Summer Institute for the New Teacher Project. She has earned a MEd in Special Education at Holy Family University, a MFA in Dance Choreography from Temple University, a pre-med post baccalaureate from Penn State University, and a BA in economics and BFA in dance from the University of Michigan.

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Laura Garza

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAMUELL AND SEAGOVILLE ELEMENTARY FEEDERS, DALLAS ISD

Dallas, Texas

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. She began her teaching career as a Bilingual K-3 teacher and Community Liaison at Julian Saldivar Elementary and then served as a Reading First Coach and Assistant Principal in other Dallas elementary schools. Laura has served as a Monitor for the Emergency Immigrant Education Program and a Site Coordinator for after-school programs. She is a graduate of UT Austin.



Angela Glass

PRINCIPAL, ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS - HORACE MANN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

St. Louis, Missouri

Angela Glass received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri and her Master's degree in Educational Research and Psychology from the University of Missouri in Kansas City, Missouri. After obtaining teacher certification, she began teaching 1st grade in St. Louis Public Schools.

After three years of teaching, Angela realized she wanted to specialize in literacy. She obtained Reading Specialist certification and trained as a Reading Recovery teacher and served as a reading specialist for two years. In 1999, Angela accepted a position as an Academic Instructional Coach. Serving in this role for 16 years, she supported teachers in implementing best practices.

After completing her Educational Specialist degree in administration at Lindenwood University in 2015, she accepted a position as Assistant Principal for one year. In 2016 she became Principal at Mann Elementary, where she currently serves.

Angela lives in Fairview Heights, Illinois with my husband, son (who is away in college), and daughter.

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Kimberly Grayson

PRINCIPAL, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. EARLY COLLEGE

Denver, Colorado

Kimberly Grayson earned her Bachelor's degree from Newman University in February and began her teaching career in Wichita, Kansas as a 4th grade teacher at Ingalls Edison School. As a classroom teacher, she taught 4th and 5th grade at the elementary level and 6th, and 8th grade at the middle school level. She also served as a curriculum coordinator for Edison Schools Inc. Kimberly took a position as an educational consultant for Edison Alliance and relocated to Charleston, South Carolina. During this time, she supervised two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school in the area of student achievement, learning environment, and language arts. At the conclusion of the 2004-2005 school year, Kimberly moved back home to Wichita, Kansas to serve as an instructional coach for a middle school for one year. She served as an assistant principal for one year and a building principal for five years before relocating to Denver, Colorado. This school year marks her tenth year as a building principal, currently at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College.

Kimberly attended the Relay GSE National Principals Academy Fellowship, graduating with distinction in 2014. The instructional levers she learned through that experience combined with her passion to increase student achievement culminated in DMLK becoming one of only six state accredited Early Colleges in Denver Public Schools. The schools is the fourth best performing 6th-12th grade school out of 12 in Denver Public Schools, achieving green status on the School Performance Framework.



Mark Gregory

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ARK SCHOOLS

Birmingham, England

Mark Gregory has been a teacher and leader in inner city Birmingham, UK, for the last 19 years, working with disadvantaged and disenfranchised communities for the duration. For the last two years Mark has been responsible for Ark Schools' four secondary (11-18) provisions in the city. Prior to that he worked as a senior leader and principal at Ark St Alban's. St. Alban's serves the most disadvantaged neighborhood in the city and Mark's team took it to be in the top 20 best performing schools in the country, underpinning academic performance with great organizational culture.

Mark has four children between the ages of 1 and 23 and lives in the community he serves.

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Lisa Hill

PRINCIPAL, CRAWFORD W. LONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Atlanta, Georgia

Lisa Hill is a native of Atlanta, Georgia and a product of Atlanta Public Schools. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Masters of Science in Physics from Clark Atlanta University where she was an Office of Naval Research Scholar. Immediately following graduation, she began teaching Physics and serving as the Director of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Pre-College Programs at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

Lisa transitioned to Atlanta Public Schools where she became the project manager of a One-to-One Laptop initiative sponsored and funded by the State of Georgia. Seeing the powerful impact of technology on teaching, learning, and school climate, she completed a teaching certification program at the University of West Georgia and became a middle school mathematics teacher in Atlanta Public Schools. Lisa became an Instructional Technology Specialist and was quickly promoted to Lead Instructional Technology Specialist for the South Region of Atlanta Public Schools. In this position, she continued to support administrators, teachers and students, developed technology conferences and trainings, and created a district electronic data dashboard used to monitor progress and interventions.

Lisa obtained an Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership from Kennesaw State University and served as Dean of Academics at Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy Middle School. She recently completed my 7th year as Principal of Crawford W. Long Middle School.



Heather Haines

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, DIVISION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Denver, Colorado

Heather Haines currently serves as an Instructional Superintendent for Denver Public Schools, where she oversees twelve middle schools. In 2017, Heather's network had the highest growth PARCC scores in the district in both literacy and math; three schools received Colorado Governor's Distinguished Improvement Awards for exceptional student growth.

Heather began her career as a middle school English teacher with Teach for America in Philadelphia. She attended the Summer Principal Academy at Columbia University, and afterwards, she went on to be a high school principal and Chief Academic Officer at Perspectives Charter Schools in Chicago, Illinois.

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Nikhil Kawlra

HEAD OF SCHOOL, COLLEGIATE HALL

Denver, Colorado

Nikhil Kawlra founded and leads Collegiate Hall Charter School, the highest performing school in Tulsa based on percentage of students meeting growth goals, average student growth, and annual student culture TriPod surveys. Nikhil began his career in education as a Teach for America Corps member, as the founding math teacher at Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School. In 2011, he joined the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) as the Senior Academy Dean of Students, where he was responsible for the culture and operations of the 11th and 12th grade. While at DSST, Nikhil led a team of educators and their 200 students to an average 24.1 ACT score, a 98% graduation rate, and a 100% college acceptance rate.

Nikhil has earned a Master of Education Leadership from Teachers College at Columbia University, a Master of Physiology from Georgetown University, a Master of Urban Education from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience from the University of Michigan.



Dr. Nickalous Manning

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, ASPIRE MEMPHIS, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Memphis, Tennessee

Dr. Nickalous Manning has been instrumental in several turnaround schools in Memphis, Tennessee through his work as an assistant principal, principal, and associate superintendent. During his time in these roles, all of his schools experienced double-digit academic gains. Throughout his career, Nickalous has received training through New Leaders for New Schools, Harvard Principals' Center, Urban Education Center, and Research for Better Teaching.

Currently, Nickalous is the associate superintendent for Aspire Public Schools. In this role, he is responsible for school leadership, student support, operations, and student recruitment. During his tenure as an educator, he was named Airways Teacher of the Year, featured in the Tennessee Education Association's training video, "Leadership Series," and has led a host of leadership teams and professional development series. Moreover, Nickalous has been a distinguished lecturer at Christian Brothers University, Trevecca Nazarene University, Memphis City Schools Teaching and Learning Academy, Urban Education Center, and adjunct professor for Performance Learning Systems in conjunction with Christian Brothers University.

Nickalous earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in Secondary Education. He also completed a Master's in Educational Leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University. While completing his Doctorate at Trevecca, his dissertation on single gender education earned him the coveted Trevecca Nazarene University's Dissertation Award. Nickalous resides in Memphis, Tennessee with his wife, Lequite, and two sons, Miller and Maxwell. In his spare time, he enjoys reading and supporting the development of children.

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Anna Mendez-Hickman

PRINCIPAL, KIPP DENVER COLLEGIATE/DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS/KIPP COLORADO

Denver, Colorado

Anna Mendez-Hickman is in her 6th year of school leadership with KIPP Colorado. She spent four years as an assistant principal and will be starting her third year as a principal for the 2018-2019 school year. Before administration, Anna taught history and reading for five years. Anna has spent the last decade working with students and families in the SW Denver community and is passionate about ensuring their access to college and a life of choice and opportunity. Anna has two daughters, ages 2 and 8, and enjoys hiking, swimming and spending time with her family.



Jamie Morrison

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, UNCOMMON SCHOOLS ROXBURY PREP

Boston, Massachusetts

Jamie Morrison began his teaching career in 2008 in New Orleans in the Recovery School District. Prior to that, Jamie had worked in business consulting in Boston. In 2010, Jamie and his wife moved back to Boston where he worked on the founding team of the UP Education Network. Jamie helped write the original charter for UP Academy Boston, Massachusetts' first Horace Mann middle school turnaround. He became a founding Dean of Curriculum and Instruction of Humanities from 2010-2012 and eventually became principal from 2012-2014. Jamie then served for two years as Chief Academic Officer at UP. In the fall of 2017 Jamie transitioned to Uncommon Schools as Assistant Superintendent at Uncommon Roxbury Prep.



Elizabeth Namba

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

Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Namba an Instructional Superintendent for DC Public Schools. Previously Elizabeth was a Principal of Hyde-Addison a DC public school for 4 year's Elizabeth has extensive international education experience, teaching in Russia, Ethiopia, and India over five years. She began her career as an Americorps volunteer in DC Public schools and then became a middle school teacher in Boston.

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Tenia Pritchard

PRINCIPAL, WHITTIER EDUCATION CAMPUS, DCPS

Washington, D.C.

Tenia Pritchard received a Bachelor's degree in English from the University of Maryland at College Park, a Master's degree in Elementary Education from Trinity College, a certificate in Educational Leadership from Bowie State University, and a Master's in Business Administration in Executive Leadership from Georgetown University. She is currently writing her dissertation on principal retention in urban school districts in order to complete her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Bowie State University.

Tenia had been employed with DC Public Schools for 18 years and has served the Whittier School community for 16 of her 18 years in the district. She served as a teacher, dean of students, and assistant principal at Whittier Education Campus prior to becoming the principal of the school. She has also served in the capacity of a professional development facilitator, an Executive Board member of the Washington's Teacher Union, and the resident mentor principal for five principals in the Mary Jane Patterson Fellowship. Tenia is currently in her sixth year as the principal of Whittier Education Campus.

Tenia was recognized at Standing Ovation in 2015 for winning a Rubenstein Award for Highly Effective School Leaders, and she is the 2018 Principal of the Year for DC Public Schools. Tenia was recently named the principal of Excel Academy, DC Public Schools first school for girls.



Marvin Rainey

EXECUTIVE MASTER TEACHER, CADDO PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Shreveport, Louisiana

Marvin Rainey graduated as the Highest Ranking Graduate in Spring 2003 from Grambling State University. In 2007, he graduated from Louisiana State University in Shreveport with highest honor in the Masters of Education program. In 2011, Marvin obtained his National Board Certification in Literacy: Reading Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood and was honored at the White House as one of the TOP 100 Educators in the United States.

As a school turnaround principal, Marvin has participated in the UVA School Turnaround Program and is currently participating in the UVA Sustainability Program. Marvin is the only person currently in the Caddo Parish Public School System achieving both honors as the district's Elementary Teacher of the Year and Elementary Principal of the Year.

Marvin has traveled throughout the United States and internationally attending and presenting at academic and leadership conferences. Marvin taught elementary school for 8.5 years. He has been an instructional coordinator, assistant principal, and is currently the proud principal of Midway Elementary School, which has been transformed through community investments and innovation. Mr. Rainey is currently completing his final stages for his Doctorate of Education degree from Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Louisiana.

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Michael Rosskamm

REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST

Brooklyn, New York City

Mike is incredibly proud of the accomplishments of the AF Bushwick Middle School scholars while he was their principal for four years. By the time they were 8th graders, the initial group of 5th graders were 60% more proficient in ELA and 40% more proficient in Math. He misses the principal seat, but is thankful that as a Regional Superintendent he gets to help four amazing principals avoid many of the mistakes he made.

Prior to his work at Achievement First, Mike was a high school Math teacher at an under-performing NYC DOE school where he learned how critical it was to have a strong and aligned team of educators.

Mike spends his free time with his wife, Sarah, and two boys, Max and Eli.



Anna Shurak

CHIEF SCHOOL SUPPORT OFFICER HIGH SCHOOL, CAMDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Camden, New Jersey

Anna Shurak serves as Chief School Support Officer of High School for Camden City Schools. In this role Anna supports, manages and develops High School Principals, Leadership Teams and systems in order to best serve students and ensure preparedness for college and careers. Anna has served in many roles throughout her career including Teacher, Instructional Coach, Assistant Principal, Principal and District Official in Philadelphia and Camden. Anna is an award winning educator receiving the Young Women's Leadership Network Blue Ribbon Teaching Award for Excellence in All Girls' Education in 2007-2008 and the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Distinguished High School Educator Award in 2008-2009.

Anna is a Teach For America alumna and former School Systems Leadership Fellow and participant of the KIPP Leadership Design Fellowship. Anna holds a B.A in Political Science and Policy from Indiana University, Master's of Education and Educational Administration from St. Joseph's University.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her two daughters Tova and Mazzi, husband Jason, family and friends.

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Rahel Wondwossen

CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER, NOVA PIONEER

New Orleans, Louisiana / South Africa

Rahel Wondwossen was born and raised in Ethiopia and moved to Boston, Massachusetts at the age of ten. She received a B.A. in Political Science and English from Bates College, an M.S. in Teaching Adolescent English from Pace University, and an M.A in School Leadership from Teachers College at Columbia University.

Rahel joined Teach For America in 2005 and was placed as a founding member of Mott Hall Bronx High School, in the south Bronx, New York City. She then went on to work for KIPP NYC before moving to New Orleans to open Cohen College Prep as the founding principal. She is currently finishing up as an Education Fellow at New Schools for New Orleans, designing a school leader support program, and is getting ready to move to South Africa to serve as the Chief Academic Officer of Nova Pioneer Schools, a network of schools across the continent.

Over the course of the fellowship year, there are three key objectives that will guide our collective work together in the Leverage Leadership Institute:

OBJECTIVE 1:

Define a Replicable Pathway for Excellence

Define the criteria and pathway for exceptional, replicable results by:

- ▶ Identifying and codifying a set of best practices that guarantee exceptional results (advanced implementation of Leverage Leadership)
- ▶ Identifying and honoring exemplary instructional leaders that have both exceptional results and advanced implementation of these codified, replicable best practices
- ▶ Continuously improving these best practices by implementing and replicating the practices of honored instructional leader

OBJECTIVE 2:

Create a Community of “Proof Point” Practitioners

Create a worldwide community of proof point practitioners to:

- ▶ Strengthen and increase the number of proof point models for success
- ▶ Keep exceptional leaders refreshed and energized by engaging with other quality leaders outside of their home district

OBJECTIVE 3:

Coach Others to Meet the Bar

Certify and train exemplary leaders to develop other leaders by learning how to:

- ▶ Have advanced implementation of the coaching levers needed to coach other school leaders
- ▶ Lead professional development of the highest quality on the levers of the Leverage Leadership model

