

## 2015-2016 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.



### **Carolyn Albert-Garvey**

*Principal, Maury Elementary School, DC Public Schools, Washington, D.C.*

Attained classification as a “Reward” school in 2014, signifying a school that has had the highest levels of student performance and growth—as demonstrated by an overall index score that falls in the top 5% of all schools in DC

Received the Washington Post Principal of the Year (2014) award, the DCPS Rubenstein Award for School Leaders (2013), and was named an Ashoka Changemaker School Leader (2013)

Earned her school the designation of a Department of Education Blue Ribbon School by achieving 25 point gains in Reading and 15 point gains in Math compared to other DC public schools



### **Lamont Browne**

*CEO/Executive Director, East Side Charter School and Family Foundations Academy Charter School, Delaware*

Increased academic proficiency 30% in Reading and 26% in Math as Principal of East Side Charter School, the highest growth of any charter school in the state; East Side outperformed the state of Delaware student achievement targets in Math by 16% and Reading by 8%

Received the prestigious Ryan Award for exceptional leadership in closing the achievement gap in K-12 education (2015)

Founding member of Relay National Principals Academy Fellowship’s first cohort



**Natalie Catin-St. Louis**

*Principal, Grover Cleveland Elementary School, Mastery Charter Schools, Pennsylvania*

Achieved 17.6 point gains in Reading and 19.6 point gains in Math compared to other local Philadelphia schools

Served as an instructional reform facilitator for the School District of Philadelphia, where she was in charge of interpreting data and coaching struggling teachers

Began teaching in the South Bronx as a lower elementary teacher in 2002



**Jesse Coburn**

*Principal, Uncommon Collegiate Charter High School, New York*

Founding principal of Uncommon Collegiate Charter High School

Attained a pass rate on the Comprehensive English Regents that was 21% higher than the NYC average, and Geometry and Integrated Algebra pass rates that were 33% higher than the NYC average (2012-13)

Enrolled 100% of sophomores in AP World History (27% more than the closest peer school), and students achieved a 45% pass rate—24% higher than any peer school



**Celestina De La Garza Hidalgo**

*Principal, Uncommon Schools Leadership Prep Brownsville, New York*

Founding principal of Excellence Girls Charter School where she served for 5.5 years

Ranked among the top 10 highest scoring NYC charter schools for both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades; Excellence Girls ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 617 elementary schools in the city (2013-14)

Prior to teaching in the Bronx for four years as part of Teach for America, Cele received her BA in Growth and Structure of Cities at Bryn Mawr



### **Greg Dutton**

*Principal, Queens Metropolitan High School, NYCDOE, New York*

Queens Metropolitan ranked in the 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile for Math and US History Regents Exams, and in the top 3% of other district schools in NYC with similar non-selective admissions policies

Led his students at Queens Metropolitan to compete in the NYC triathlon – the only school-based triathlon team in NYCDOE

Began his career teaching Social Studies in Maryland



### **Shara Hegde**

*Executive Director, Cornerstone Academy Preparatory School, California*

Leads one of the highest performing schools in the city of San Jose, which is in the top 3 schools in Santa Clara County for English Language Learners; named a California Distinguished School (2014)

Serves on the California Charter Schools' Association Member Council for Region 5, chairs the Sonoma County Charter SELPA CEO Council, and is an advisory board member for several non-profit education startups

Learned English when she started school in the U.S. (like many of the students she serves); English is her third language



### **Hannah Lofthus**

*Chief Executive Officer, Ewing Marion Kauffman School, Missouri*

As founder of the Ewing Marion Kauffman School in Kansas City, Missouri, Lofthus led her students to exceed one year of growth in each subject on the NWEA

Student growth for the founding class exceeded or matched the nation's highest performing charter schools within the first two years of operation

Worked on the founding team at Uncommon Schools Leadership Preparatory Charter School



**Doug McCurry**

*Co-CEO and Superintendent, Achievement First*

Led Achievement First to be selected as one of three finalists for the Broad Prize; grew the organization from 84 students to impacting over 10,000

While Doug taught at Amistad Academy, students achieved 100% Math proficiency on the Connecticut Mastery Test; his Reading and Writing students consistently showed over two years of growth in a single school year

Received the selective Morehead Scholarship at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and was presented with the University of North Carolina's Distinguished Young Alumnus Award



**Erin McMahon**

*Instructional Superintendent, Denver Public Schools, Colorado*

Led 8 of the 12 schools she manages to outpace the district average by at least 10 points in one year in Math; currently oversees the highest performing school in Denver and manages 3 schools with growth over 20 points

Served as the principal of the Henry Street School for International Studies in NYC for four years prior to her current role; the school made between 10-20 point gains in the NY Regents exam in one year in at least 4 Regent categories

Worked as a manager at Capgemini and as the Director of School Partnerships for City Year Boston



**Adam Meinig**

*Chief of School Leadership, Collegiate Academies, New Orleans*

Founded KIPP Believe College Prep in the summer of 2006, the highest performing open-admission school for eight years following Hurricane Katrina

Achieved gains close to 10 points higher than the Recovery District average and was ranked #1 for three-year Recovery School District Performance as principal

Served as the founding English teacher at KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy



**Monica Dilts Nurrenbern**

*Instructional Superintendent, Innovation Network, Denver Public Schools, Colorado*

As instructional superintendent, achieved an overall growth in Reading in her schools that was 9% higher than the DPS average growth

As principal, led the district redesign of her school and improved combined student achievement results by 32%—the third highest growth results in DPS in 2009, taking the school from the district’s second lowest performing “red” school to a “green” high-growth school in 3 years

Holds an MA in Curriculum and Instruction for Linguistically Diverse Students, with an emphasis in Bilingual Education from University of Colorado



**Jesse Rector**

*Dean of School Leadership Programs, Relay Graduate School of Education, New York*

Teaches, coaches, and supports close to 350 district and charter school leaders from across the country as founding dean of Relay’s leadership programs; led program to more than triple the number of leaders of the first cohort

Led North Star Academy’s Clinton Hill Middle School for over six years. While principal at Clinton Hill Middle School, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade cohort scored 98% proficient or advanced in Math and 96% proficient or advanced in ELA on the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge



**Josh Regnier**

*Principal, East Central Junior High, Tulsa Public Schools, Oklahoma*

Completing his 13<sup>th</sup> year with Tulsa Public Schools and his 4<sup>th</sup> year as principal of East Central Junior High

Achieved gains of 15 points higher than the district average growth in Reading and 22.1 points higher in Math from 2012-13 to 2013-14

Began his career as a Health Education teacher



**Stacey Shells**

*Chief Executive Officer, ReGeneration Schools, Illinois*

Over the past two years of turnaround, ReGeneration has 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 her 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



**Billy Snow**

*District Transformation and Innovation Officer, Caddo Parish, Louisiana*

Selected to serve as the district transformation and innovation officer for Caddo Parish Public schools, uniting a group of ten historically failing schools

Raised scores in all subjects and subgroups while principal of Bowie Elementary, including a gain of 27% in scores of special education students; took the school to consistent Exemplary status and it was recognized as one of two model schools in the state for intervention by the UT Center for Student Success

Received the Distinguished Title One Performance award and Excellence in Education Award's Texas Elementary Principal of the Year (2008)



**Kathleen Sullivan**

*Associate Managing Director, Uncommon New York City Middle Schools and High Schools, New York*

Led 100% of the Uncommon Charter High School Class of 2015 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

Received the EPIC Silver-Gain award three times as Executive Director of Boston Collegiate Charter School, which was also ranked # 3 in Massachusetts by US News and World Report

Began her career as a high school English teacher in Yazoo City with the Mississippi Teacher Corps



**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



**Rebecca Utton**

*Managing Director, Strive Prep Charter Schools, Colorado*

Led her first new turnaround class to make 11% gains in Reading compared to the district, and 26% gains in Math

As principal of Strive Federal, her school was 8<sup>th</sup> among middle schools in Denver in 2012-13 and earned the DPS “Distinguished” classification

Earned her Master’s in School Leadership from the Harvard School of Education and a BA from Barnard College



**Nicole Veltze**

*Associate Dean, Relay Graduate School of Education, Colorado*

Hand-picked to lead turnaround of Skinner Middle School, one of the lowest performing middle schools in the district; within five years of Nicole’s leadership, Skinner outpaced all expectations for school turnaround

Received the Game Changer Award by A+ Denver in 2013; also a member of the founding cohort of the Relay National Principals Academy Fellowship

Previously served as principal of North High School; recognized during her tenure as a High Growth school by Denver Public Schools (2012, 2013)



**Tom Weishaupt**

*Principal, Mastery Charter Schools, Douglass Elementary Campus, Pennsylvania*

Served as assistant principal of instruction, K-5, at Mastery Grover Cleveland, a school that increased an average of 12% in Reading and 16% in Math on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment during the first year of turnaround

Hand-selected to take over as principal of the Frederick Douglass School in North Philadelphia

Member of the founding cohort of the Relay National Principals Academy Fellowship



**Alison Welcher**

*Director of School Leadership, Charlotte Mecklenberg Schools, North Carolina*

As principal of Ranson IB Middle School, made almost 16 point gains compared to the district average in Reading, and close to 8 point gains in Math; Ranson has hosted visits from the NC Secretary of Education, NC State Board of Education, the governor, and the mayor

Received her BA in English Language and Literature/Letters from Spelman College and her M.Ed. from Harvard University Graduate School of Education

Member of the founding cohort of the Relay National Principals Academy Fellowship