

Leverage Leadership Institute Fellows

The Leverage Leadership Institute Fellowship is designed for principals and principal managers who have obtained outstanding results for children in their local districts and 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.



Benjamin Marcovitz

Chief Executive Officer, Collegiate Academies (Louisiana)

Created Collegiate Academies (CA) to replicate Sci Academy, ranked the number two public high school in Louisiana by the 2014 US News & World Best High Schools report; today, CA operates three high schools and serves 890 students

One of three principals to receive the inaugural Ryan Award from the Accelerate Institute in Chicago, which honors principals who have demonstrated accelerated results in underserved environments over the previous three years

Serves on the faculty of Leading Educators, Future Leaders (UK), Newark Charter School Fund, and various networks in New Orleans and nationally



Brian Conley

Lead Director, School Leadership Support, Salt Lake City School District (Utah)

As a middle school principal, achieved school growth of 49% in Math and 20% in Science, successfully turning around a school that was previously in the bottom 10% of all schools in the state

Received the Huntsman Award for Excellence in Education in 2005 for outstanding educational leadership in Utah Public Schools

Selected for the UVA Darden-Curry Partnership for Leaders in Education Program



Cynthia Marlowe

Principal, Kit Carson College Preparatory Academy of Creative Arts and Technology (Nevada)

Achieved school growth of 39% in Math and 53% in English Language Arts (ELA)

As turnaround principal of Kit Carson Elementary, achieved her academic growth goals while implementing an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

Selected for the UVA Darden-Curry Partnership for Leaders in Education Program



Jesse Rector

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

While principal at Clinton Hill Middle School in Newark, NJ, the 8th 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 (NJASK)

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



Jessica Simmons

Principal, Brownsville Collegiate Charter School, Uncommon Schools (New York)

In 2012, Brownsville Collegiate was ranked the #10 school in New York City based on City Progress Report data; in 2013–2014, 98% of 8th graders passed high-school level Regents exams in Living Environments and Algebra

Received Sue Lehmann Award for Excellence in Teaching by Teach for America (TFA) in 2002, an honor given to just six TFA teachers nationally

Founding teacher at Sankofa Academy, where 90% of her students made an average of two years grade-level growth in Reading



Kelly Dowling

Principal, Downtown Middle School, North Star Academy (New Jersey)

Served as dean of students and now principal at North Star Downtown Middle School, where 8th graders scored 99% proficient or advanced in Literacy and 92% proficient in Math, surpassing the state average by approximately 20 percentage points in both categories

Began her career teaching for three years at Newton Street School in Newark, NJ



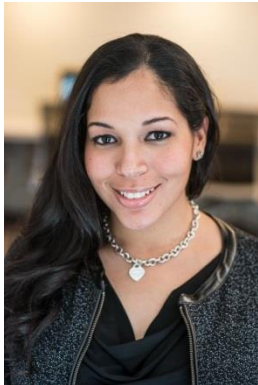
Laura Brinkman

Colorado Director of School Support, Achievement Network (Colorado)

Under her leadership, Fletcher Elementary in Aurora Public Schools moved from being one of the lowest performing schools in the state to becoming an award-winning “Beating the Odds” school

In Douglas County, English Language Learner students in her school exceeded the state average for growth

Supervised all of the elementary and K-8 turnaround schools as executive deputy director of the West Denver Network in Denver Public Schools



Michelle Allen

Assistant Principal of Instruction, Mastery Charter School – Mann Campus (Pennsylvania)

Served as founding cohort member of the Relay National Principals Academy Fellowship (NPAF)

One of a select number of leaders to complete the NPAF program “With Distinction” for proficiency in implementation

Leads as assistant principal of instruction at Mastery Charter School – Mann Campus



Michelle Koyama

Principal, Skinner Middle School, Denver Public Schools (Colorado)

Had the third highest overall median growth percentile of all the DPS traditional middle schools in 2012–2013; increased median growth percentiles in Writing in all three grade levels, including an overall increase of 17% for English Language Learners

Honored with prestigious 2015 Leadership Lamp award by DPS for going above and beyond, as Mile High Teacher of the Year in 2005, and as Teacher of the Year in 2001

Published “Retaining Mexican American Special Education Teachers in Texas” in the Journal of Hispanic Higher Education, presented at the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies Conference and the 45th Biennial Convocation of the KDP International Honor Society in Education



Nicole Veltze

Associate Dean School Leadership Programs, 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 Veltze's leadership, Skinner outpaced all expectations for school turnaround

Served as principal of North High School, recognized during her tenure as a High Growth School by Denver Public Schools in both 2012 and 2013

Received the 2013 Game Changer Award by A+ Denver, an education advocacy organization



Nikki Bridges

Associate Managing Director, Uncommon Schools (New York)

While serving as founding principal at Leadership Prep Ocean Hill, the school tied for #1 in the state on the 2015 Math exam, and was the only non-selective school to have 100% of students pass the 3rd and 4th grade Math exams, with 85% scoring at the advanced level

Co-designed an introductory college-level writing curriculum and taught an introductory college composition class at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Selected to be part of the K-4 Reading Working Group that led to publishing of *Great Habits, Great Readers*



Paul Powell

Associate Managing Director, Troy Prep, Uncommon Schools (New York)

Helped students at Troy Prep reduce the achievement gap in 6th and 8th grade Math by an average of 21.5 percentage points, outperforming the state in 8th grade ELA by 4 percentage points

Named a Sue Lehmann Regional Finalist, a Teach for America (TFA) award given to just six TFA teachers nationally

Spent two years as a program director with Teach for America New York City, managing and training secondary Math and Science teachers throughout several boroughs of the city



Rhonda Dale

Principal, Sci Academy, Collegiate Academies (Louisiana)

Served as an academic dean, culture dean, and as an English teacher at Sci Academy prior to becoming principal; 20% of the population at Sci Academy has special needs, 93% are eligible for free and reduced lunch, and 95% are African-American

Sci Academy is the #1 non-selective school in the district, and it was ranked as the #2 high school in Louisiana by US News and World Report in 2014

Honored by the Louisiana Public Charter School Association in 2009 as Teacher of the Year



Sabrina Pence

Chief Academic Officer, FirstLine Schools (Louisiana)

Served as a New Leaders for New Schools program resident and school co-director at Arthur Ashe, which has become one of the top three most requested schools in the New Orleans Recovery School District

Moved overseas to Qatar in 2006, where she worked as a Science consultant and taught Qatari teachers to implement standards-based Science instruction

Earned a B.A. from Georgetown University and a Master's degree from LSU in Educational Administration; in 2013 began her PhD in Educational Administration at the University of New Orleans



Serena Savarirayan

Associate Managing Director, North Star Academy (New Jersey)

Served as founding principal of North Star Academy Vailsburg Middle School, which ranked in the top 2% of schools in New Jersey state test results in all content areas; met or exceeded the NJ statewide average with 90% of students in grades 5, 6, and 7 scoring proficient or advanced in Math, and 90% of 7th graders scoring proficient or advanced in ELA

Taught 5th grade Language Arts, 8th grade English, and served as an instructional leader and grade level leader at North Star's Clinton Hill Middle School

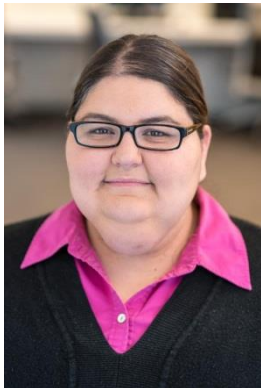


Sondra Jolovich-Motes

Executive Director, North Zone, Ogden School District (Utah)

Served as principal in the Ogden School District for over ten years; as principal, achieved growth of 28% in Math and 39% in ELA at a school that had previously ranked last in the state for student performance

Selected for the UVA Darden-Curry Partnership for Leaders in Education Program



Teresa Khirallah

Program Officer, Teaching Trust (Texas)

Served as primary school principal at Peak Preparatory, leading the campus to significant gains and becoming one of 14 schools to receive the Excellence in Urban Education Award from the National Center on Urban Transformation

Coached many of her school leaders to gains of more than 20% in her role at Teaching Trust

Taught in Southern Methodist University's Master of Education Leadership with Urban School Specialization Program



Tom Weishaupt

Principal, Mastery Frederick Douglass 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

Taught for two years as a second grade teacher at Achievement First Bushwick, and taught sixth grade Math at KIPP Philadelphia

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