

# **IGNITE**

## **Fellowship for Women of Color in the Social Sector**

### **2013-2014**

### **Fellow and Faculty Bios**



## Gaylon B. Alcaraz

Executive Director, Chicago Abortion Fund

Gaylon B. Alcaraz is an activist, organizer and champion of human rights. As the Executive Director of the Chicago Abortion Fund, she works within the reproductive justice/rights/health movement to advocate for low-income women seeking to control their reproductive freedom.

Among the many social justice accomplishments credited to Gaylon, she served as a founding board member of Affinity Community Services, a community organization that advocates for the rights of black lesbian and bisexual women in the Chicagoland area. During her board tenure at Affinity, she assumed increased leadership roles, across all areas of the organization's functions including the role of Vice President of the board, prior to the end of her final board service. Currently, she serves on the board of directors for Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health. She is also a past board member of the Midwest Access Project.

For more than ten years, she has worked on behalf of sexual minority women, anti-violence, gender equity, health prevention, reproductive rights, as well as race and culture issues. Gaylon has consistently applied her knowledge in practice toward quality improvement, increased access, and by challenging frameworks that do not allow for the exploration of diversity across multiple dimensions when working with, and on behalf of diverse constituencies. These passionate beliefs have led her to advocate on behalf of all women, black lesbians and children.

Also a published writer and poet, Gaylon's first book publication, "tales of a woojiehead" was released in 2002. She has been previously published in the *Sun Times*, *Tribune*, *Defender*, *Streetwise* and *Venus Magazine* out of New York.

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois she was awarded her BA and MA from DePaul University in 2008 and 2011. Gaylon begins her doctoral program at Roosevelt University in 2013.



## Tameeza Alibhai

**Policy Manager, AKDN, AKF-Afghanistan**

Tameeza Alibhai works for the Aga Khan Foundation conducting policy development and outreach for the Afghanistan Unit.

Prior to this she worked in management consulting for over 14 years delivering projects for multinational corporations both nationally and internationally.

Her primary areas of expertise include managing global business transformation projects, large-scale post-merger integration projects, optimizing and streamlining operations, and development of organizational governance.

Approximately four years ago she moved into the development sector working for organizations engaged in social and economic development, and humanitarian assistance.

Tameeza was born and bred in Kenya until moving to Dallas, Texas.



## Ramatu Bangura

**Program Director, GELI, Sauti Yetu Center for African Women**

Dr. Ramatu Bangura is the Program Director of the Girls' Empowerment and Leadership Initiative for the Sauti Yetu Center for African Women. She is responsible for the oversight of Sauti Yetu's youth programs; spearheading local and national advocacy around educational access for English Language Learners, early/forced marriage, and youth and female genital cutting; as well as raising funds and supervising all program staff.

Ramatu has dedicated nearly the last 15 years to advocacy and support of women and girls in vulnerable circumstances through the development of educational programming, informational campaigns and direct advocacy for survivors of sexual and family violence, immigrant women, and youth involved in the commercial sex trade.

Her doctoral dissertation, entitled *In Pursuit of Success: The Educational Identities and Decision-making of African Girls with Limited Formal Schooling* utilized African feminist perspectives to understand how immigrant girls whose education was truncated by conflict or poverty navigate schooling, college and decisions about marriage and motherhood.



## Sindy Marisol Benavides

**Director of Civic Engagement & Community Mobilization, League of United Latin American Citizens**

Sindy Marisol Benavides serves as the National Director for Civic Engagement and Mobilization for the League of United Latin American Citizens, the oldest Hispanic organization in the country.

She previously served as the Vice President of Field and Political Operations for Voto Latino and as Northern Virginia Political Director for the 2012 Kaine for Virginia Senatorial campaign. She has also served as the National Director of Community Outreach for the Democratic National Committee and Latino Liaison and Director of Board

Appointments for Governor Timothy M. Kaine.

Sindy received her Bachelor of Arts from Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, where she studied Political Science with a minor in Spanish and graduated Valedictorian of her class. She also attended American University for her MA in International Affairs.

Sindy is an alumna of the Sorenson Political Leadership Program through the University of Virginia and the Virginia Executive Institute and Minority Political Leadership Institute through Virginia Commonwealth University. She is an alumna of the 2009 class of the National Hispana Leadership Institute. Sindy obtained a Certificate in Executive Management and Leadership from Harvard Kennedy School in April 2009 and attended the Center for Creative Leadership in July 2009. She was also named among the Top 20 People to Watch in 2009 by *Richmond* magazine and among the Top 20 Latina Women of Excellence in 2010 by *Hispanic Business* magazine. In 2010, Sindy was selected by the American Jewish Committee to travel to Israel with a delegation of 13 national Latina leaders.



## Kia Chatmon

**Development Officer, National Organization of Concerned Black Men**

Kia began her professional career in public service as a member of the Children's Defense Fund's Black Student Leadership Network and the Freedom School program. Under the direction of visionary leaders, she learned what it truly means to be a "servant leader."

Kia has continued her journey in the social sector working for both national and local organizations including: the DC Rape Crisis Center, Public Allies-DC, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and, most recently, the National Organization of Concerned Black Men.

She gained deeper insight into what makes an effective organization by working with firms focused on building the capacity of nonprofits to reach their goals; and has shared this insight with smaller, grassroots organizations, acting as an independent consultant focused on program and fund development.

Kia is also involved with historical preservation efforts in her neighborhood, located in Washington, DC, acting as a "community historian." In this role, she works with her neighbors to chronicle the stories and accomplishments of its residents. These efforts include the creation of a brochure, book, heritage trail and a collection of oral histories from some of the neighborhood's most seasoned citizens.

Kia received her AB in Anthropology from Stanford University.



## Rosita Choy

**Director of Operations, National CAPACD**

Rosita Choy has worked on immigrant rights and social justice for a decade and half. She began her professional life as a bilingual Cantonese kindergarten teacher and a bilingual Spanish substitute teacher in the Oakland public schools in California, serving a diverse community of low-income students of color similar to the northeast Los Angeles neighborhood where she grew up.

Rosita transitioned from teaching to fundraising for a nonprofit community health center in California and later a domestic violence shelter in Massachusetts, both serving low-income Asian and Pacific Islander communities. She has stayed in nonprofit work ever since, gravitating increasingly toward advocacy and movement building until she found herself in Washington, DC, working for the American Friends Service Committee at the intersection of national policy, grassroots organizing and coalition building in regards to immigrant rights.

In addition, she has worked on Asian and Pacific Islander, women's and education issues in organizations such as Asian Health Services, the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, the National Immigration Law Center, Amnesty International and the American Association of University Women.

Currently Rosita is the director of operations at National CAPACD (Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development), located in Washington, DC, where she applies the lessons learned from her experiences in various organizations and coalitions and her experiences with varying functions from direct services to fundraising and from policy to organizational development.



## Elizabeth Clay Roy

**Chief Strategy Officer, Phipps Community Development Corporation**

Elizabeth Clay Roy has recently joined Phipps Community Development Corporation as the Chief Strategy Officer and will launch a new cradle to college pathway initiative in the South Bronx in partnership with Children's Aid Society.

From its founding in 2010, she was the Deputy Director of Opportunity Nation, a national campaign to promote economic opportunity and mobility. It is a coalition of over 250 organizations advancing opportunity for the rising generation through policy, research and community action.

Before joining Be the Change, Inc. she served in the Office of Governor Deval Patrick, as a Policy Advisor and then as Director of Grassroots Governance and Commonwealth Corps.

Elizabeth is the co-author of *Shaping Vibrant Cities*, a guidebook on effective community planning and political engagement for neighborhood organizations. It is based on community organizing work with Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy in Bangalore, India.

Elizabeth lives in Harlem, New York and volunteers locally with iMentor and New York Cares. She is on the Advisory Board for the International Honors Program and is the Vice President of the International Commission for Dalit Rights.





## Erika Seth Davies

**Director of Membership & Development, Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE)**

Erika Seth Davies is the Director of Membership & Development for the Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE). Erika has been a nonprofit development professional for over ten years and has also worked briefly in the private sector.

Prior to joining ABFE, she was the Marketing Associate for Credo Capital Management, an institutional investment management firm. Erika has spent the majority of her career working for both local and

national nonprofit organizations, including Associated Black Charities of Maryland, the Tavis Smiley Foundation, McDaniel College, and the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust.

In her role with ABFE, Erika has led major projects, including:

- SMART Investing, a new initiative focused on increasing access for minority- and women-owned investment management firms to opportunities for foundation endowment management; and
- Managing a series of regional briefings with regional and national funders to discuss racial equity grantmaking – discussions focused on strategies for dismantling structural racism through strategic philanthropic practices.

Erika has shared her knowledge and experience with colleagues, volunteers and other professionals, leading classes and workshops on fundraising and proposal writing as a presenter for NeighborWorks America and the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSCLE) among other conferences and institutes. She has also served as a consultant for a number of local and national organizations including The SEED Foundation and The SEED School of Maryland, Family Health Centers of Baltimore, and the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation.

In addition to her professional experience, Erika's volunteer work has included service on the Board of Trustees for McDonogh School and Douglas Memorial Community Church. She was a member of the inaugural class (2005-2006) of the ABFE Connecting Leaders Fellowship program.

Erika earned a BA in English and Certificate of African Studies from Georgetown University, and has also studied at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute.

Erika lives in Baltimore, Maryland and is mother of two amazing children, Ethan and Evelyn.



## Tonya S. Davis

**Program Director, Palladia Inc.**

Tonya S. Davis is the Program Director of Aegis Domestic Violence Program at Palladia Inc. where she leads the planning, development, coordination, implementation and evaluation of all program procedures.

As a manager with over 18 years of experience of progressively developed, administrative, supervisory and managerial skills in the field of social services, Tonya works with women survivors of domestic violence and is

intimately familiar with the challenges faced by families of color that struggle with meeting the basic standards of stability.

Prior to working with Palladia Inc., Tonya was employed at the NYC Administration for Children's Services where she honed her skills as program evaluator for 15 years. During her tenure at Children's Services, she cultivated a demonstrated and recognized record of assessing, analyzing and developing creative, yet pragmatic, solutions to problems, which led to successful measurable outcomes.

Tonya received her Master's from Fordham University Graduate School for Social Service with a concentration in research and a Specialization in Children and Family Services. She also holds a BS in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Most recently, Tonya completed the Seminar for Field Instruction (SFI) at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. Tonya is the recipient of numerous academic awards and honors including the ACS leadership Development Scholarship, Ronald E. McNair Scholarship and the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship.

Tonya's passion is people. Her desire is to inspire all of her clients to achieve their personal best; to begin to change the dynamic of their stories to not only include the hurt, trauma and suffering, but their triumph of healing, hope and reconciliation – not only for themselves, but for their children.



## Iliana E. Estévez

**Federal Programs Manager, Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute**

Iliana Estévez is an education professional committed to the professional and academic advancement of underserved and underrepresented students.

She serves as the Federal Programs Manager at the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute, formerly the Hispanic College Fund. In this capacity, she oversees the implementation of three workforce development and college retention programs, which include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology (MUST) Project, and the One Stop Shopping Initiative (OSSI) as well as the National Nuclear

Security Administration (NNSA) Leadership Project. Iliana joined the then Hispanic College Fund in 2011 to lead the development and implementation of the NNSA Leadership Project as its Project Manager.

Previously, as the Assistant Director of Georgetown University's Carroll Fellows Initiative, the university's flagship program for its most academically talented and ambitious undergraduates, Iliana managed outreach, recruitment and retention. She oversaw program development and advised over 120 students. She also managed the Lisa J. Raines Summer Research Fellowship and the Arrupe Scholarship for Peace.

In 2007, she was selected as Amnesty International's Ralph J. Bunche Fellow where she led a campaign to improve the working conditions of migrant farm workers. Through the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Public Policy Fellowship, she worked at the World Bank's Civic Engagement and Participation Group and at the Washington Office on Latin America.

Iliana served as Secretary and later Vice President of the Executive Board of the CHCI Alumni Association from 2010 to 2012. She received her BA from Boston College in 2004.



## Meredith Freeman

**Program Director, Fair Food Network**

Meredith Freeman is a highly skilled practitioner with extensive experience in nonprofit management and community development.

She attended the New School in New York City where she earned a Master's Degree in Management and Urban Policy.

While living in and loving New York, she became the Associate Director at Episcopal Charities of the Diocese of New York, and was a Community Programs Officer with Citibank Global Community Relations where she managed Citi's grants programs in 12 cities. Meredith also

served as an adjunct professor at the New School and Seton Hall University, where she taught graduate-level courses in nonprofit management.

After arriving in Detroit, Meredith was a Senior Program Officer with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) where she was responsible for program strategy and operations. Since 2009 Meredith has led Fair Food Network's Detroit program where she developed the Fair Food Fund, and helped build the capacity of community-based organizations and small food businesses. Through her consulting firm, MJK Community Partners, Meredith has worked with many organizations including Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Detroit Regional Workforce Fund, and the Detroit Food and Fitness Collaborative.

Often described as a maximizer and strategist with the ability to inspire individual and group excellence, Meredith's interests and strengths are in connecting systems and resources, program development, and executing the vision. Meredith brings a strong sense of purpose and intellect to her work, as demonstrated by an impressive career that has intentionally focused on strengthening urban communities.

Meredith completed her undergraduate studies at Michigan State University, and enjoys biking, reading and urban exploring. She is extremely proud of her active family and spends many afternoons at track meets, flag football games and taking dance breaks!



## Inez González

### **Executive Vice President, National Hispanic Media Coalition**

Inez González is the Executive Vice President at the National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC). In her tenure at NHMC she created the media policy program; opened the NHMC Washington, DC office; developed a funds development program; and implemented internal operational systems that have strengthened the organization.

Inez is based in the NHMC Pasadena headquarters and functions as the Chief Operating Officer with overall strategic and operational responsibility for all programs.

Prior to joining NHMC, Inez was the District Director for Congressman Bob Filner (D-51) where she managed the two district offices in San Diego and Imperial Valley that served over 650,000 constituents.

Inez' professional experience includes tenures as Public Relations and Communications Manager for a California health management organization; and Contract Compliance Officer for the public transportation agency in San Diego, CA where she managed Equal Opportunity Programs for the agency.

Inez is a fellow of Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) Leadership Training Institute, the Women's Policy Institute a program of the California's Women Foundation, and the National Hispana Leadership Institute.

She is a Board Member of the Center for New Community, a national organization committed to building community, justice and equality; and the National Immigration Law Center, an organization with a mission to improve the lives of low-income immigrants.

Inez has a Bachelor's in Computer Science from the University of San Diego, a Master's in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix, and a Master of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.



## Margarita Guzman, Esq.

Program Director, Day One

Margarita attended Georgetown University where she majored in English and minored in Women's Studies. She attended the George Washington University School of Law where she participated in the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, representing victims/survivors of domestic violence obtaining orders of protection from the DV Court in Washington, DC.

She was the recipient of the Maurice C. Shapiro Public Service Fellowship in her third year of law school, which funded her work at Ayuda Inc., representing asylum seekers in deportation

proceedings in Washington, DC.

Her introduction to the NYC-based DV advocates community was as an intern at the Community Law Offices of Legal Aid, Domestic Violence Unit, located in East Harlem.

Upon graduating from law school, Margarita was awarded an Equal Justice Works Fellowship to create a legal clinic for indigent Spanish-speaking mental health consumers in NYC. For three years, Margarita represented mental health consumers in a multidisciplinary setting combining social and legal services, and she represented clients in a wide array of civil legal issues, including disability benefits, housing, public assistance and Medicaid/Medicare.

After this, Margarita went on to serve the primarily Latina/o immigrant population of Washington Heights/Inwood at the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC). At NMIC, Margarita defended tenants against evictions and represented survivors of domestic violence in family court and housing proceedings as well as filing DV-based immigration petitions.

Margarita became the Program Director at Day One in 2010, where she supervises programming to address intimate partner violence, sexual assault and stalking among youth. At Day One, Margarita has led the development of a progressive interdisciplinary model combining social and legal services as well as preventive community education.



## Jennise Hall

Director of Finance, Turning Point

Jennise Hall is the Director of Finance for Turning Point, a multi-service agency providing housing, HIV/AIDS outreach, education and substance abuse treatment.

At Turning Point, Jennise is responsible for the overall direction of the fiscal department. She works closely with multiple stakeholders to develop and implement

policies that ensure compliance with contractual obligations and strengthen the soundness of the agency's Accounting structure.

Her extensive experience in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of organizations' Accounting cycles and internal controls, developing teams and coaching direct reports for greater efficiency comes as a result of ten years in financial management services.

Prior to joining Turning Point, she worked as a Supervising Senior Accountant at N. Cheng & Co., where she was responsible for managing the day-to-day accounting functions of various nonprofits across NYC.

Jennise is a graduate of Babson College in Wellesley, MA. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.





## Erica Hamilton

**Vice President & Executive Director, City Year**

Erica Hamilton joined City Year with over 15 years of experience managing programs and leading teams in the nonprofit and private sectors.

Prior to joining City Year, Erica spent over a decade managing the educational and professional development programs at several organizations including iMentor, Prep for Prep, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity and the Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship.

In her prior roles in the nonprofit sector, Erica has been responsible for defining and overseeing the growth, quality and innovation of programs serving thousands of students and working professionals.

And while working in the private sector Erica has lead teams in the US and abroad to drive business strategy, develop sales and marketing programs and implement strategic initiatives at Goldman Sachs and Citigroup. Erica's commitment to service as a full-time profession began after graduating from college, when she launched a college preparatory mentoring program for students at her high school alma mater in the Bronx. And while at Wharton, Erica launched the school's first-ever Nonprofit Board Leadership Program to motivate MBA students to contribute their time and knowledge to the community by joining local nonprofit boards.

Erica received her MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, her MPA from New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and her BA from Harvard University.

She is married and currently resides with her husband Bruce and two children, Alexandra and Coleman, in Brooklyn, New York.





## Nathalie de Los Angeles Hodge

**Program Director, NYCHA Resident Training Academy,  
Brooklyn Workforce Innovations**

Nathalie de Los Angeles Hodge is a Program Director at the award-winning nonprofit Brooklyn Workforce Innovations. She specializes in social sector project development focusing on planning, execution, and replicability, with an eye toward sustainability. She designs, implements and evaluates high-impact programs and projects.

Nathalie serves as founding Director of the NYCHA Resident Training Academy, a consortium of five New York-based nonprofits that provide holistic workforce development training and employment for residents of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). To date, the Academy has created employment opportunities for 900+ low-income adults. Nathalie uses data analysis, reports, and presentations to demonstrate positive outcomes across different projects. Her work has supported multiple grant renewals from the rigorous Robin Hood Foundation and Corporation for National and Community Service. In 2012, the New York City Employment and Training Coalition awarded her and the Academy the Employer/Community Based Organization Partnership Award, which recognizes an employer and organization that have established an innovative or high-impact program model for hiring and/or job retention. Nathalie enjoys the complexity of work within a public-private venture. She has strategized fiscal year programming and policy decisions with the New York City Housing Authorities VP of Strategy & Development and Adult Education Director. She has also worked closely with senior-level staff of renowned community-based organizations including Non-traditional Employment for Women and The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, among others.

Nathalie earned her BA from Wesleyan University, where she majored in Anthropology, and her MSSW from Columbia University, specializing in Social Enterprise Administration. Moving forward, Nathalie aims to work with social sector agencies to effectively plan and execute high-impact, high-investment projects by drawing upon her specialized knowledge of program development, New York City's socio-economic landscape, and her deep commitment to social justice.

Nathalie is a proud first-generation American. Her parents are Afro-Latinos; her mother hails from Limon, Costa Rica, and her father from the San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic. When she is not at work, Nathalie can literally dance bachata for hours. From Central America to Europe, she has not yet found a place quite like Brooklyn, New York where she was born and raised. She currently resides in Park Slope, Brooklyn.



## Jovian Zayne Irvin

**Managing Director, Regional Talent Recruitment and Strategy,  
Teach For America**

Jovian Zayne Irvin has always been a change agent. At an early age she became a leader among her peers – serving as high school Student Body Vice President and President, and ultimately as the first African-American woman to be elected as a senior class president at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

After leveraging her leadership and advocacy skills in a job at the Presidential Classroom in Washington, DC, she began her career in marketing with Black and Decker and was quickly recognized for her high performance. Despite this success, however, she could not suppress her longtime passion for improving education within her generation. That urge led Jovian to Teach For America (TFA), where she helped manage a number of large projects, including their “Sponsor A Teacher” campaign and the star-studded “Teach For America Week,” where celebrities and other notable individuals taught guest lessons in TFA classrooms. Jovian is now working as a senior leader focused on human capital development as a Managing Director of Talent Recruitment and Strategy.

A modern day renaissance woman, Jovian also showcases her creativity and leadership as the creator of the podcast “Side A Fries,” the widely loved blog, “Word Up, Haay!” and as an Official Chasemaster for Janelle Monáe and The Wondaland Arts Society. Jovian was named to Hello Beautiful’s “30 under 30” list, and was the director of Thrival’s 3.0 and 5.0 at the Idea Festival featuring dynamic speakers and performers including scientist Howard Bloom, tight-rope walker Philippe Petitie, Grammy-nominated artist Janelle Monáe, Star Trek’s Nichelle Nichols, and award-winning producer, Jon Landau. Jovian also serves on the board for The National Center for Global Engagement and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Student Advisory Board.

A frequent host, moderator and panelist on issues regarding professional development and women’s empowerment, Jovian has been a featured presenter at Columbia University, the Idea Festival and Hello Beautiful’s “Women in the Workplace” conference to name a few. Motivated by the need to inspire a generation, Jovian knows that finding one’s purpose often lies in our ability to encourage one another.



## Ayeola Kinlaw

**Director, Center for Public Research and Leadership**

Ayeola Kinlaw is Director of the Center for Public Research and Leadership at Columbia University. In addition to providing management support for the Center, Ayeola provides strategic support, advisory services, performance management, and leadership development expertise to state education agencies, school districts and nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving student outcomes.

Ayeola has served in a variety of leadership roles in the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors, including as a senior program officer at The Wallace Foundation where she managed strategic investments to improve the quality of school and district leaders in several states and major urban districts across the country. Prior to The Wallace Foundation, Ayeola held several positions at The College Board, most significantly leading efforts to increase access to college for minority and low-income students.

Ayeola has been a frequent speaker at national and regional conferences on issues of equity and access. She has also held positions in youth development and science education. Ayeola holds a BS in Biological Anthropology and Anatomy from Duke University and an EdM in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



## Raquel Lynch

**Director of Strategic Initiatives, Crisis Assistance Ministry**

Raquel Lynch, a native of Venezuela, is the Director of Strategic Initiatives for Crisis Assistance Ministry, Charlotte-Mecklenburg's leading agency geared toward providing assistance and advocacy to families experiencing financial crises. In this capacity she leads the strategic plan of the organization and oversees the agency's advocacy program, strategic projects, and technology.

Raquel has geared both her volunteer and work activities toward design, development, implementation and support of community programs that provide positive impact to immigrants and working families.

Her previous work focused on community and infrastructure development at two of Charlotte's leading immigrant rights organization, the Latin American Coalition and the International House, respectively.

Raquel is currently serving or has served on the following boards and committees: North Carolina Justice Center, State Advisory Panel of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Arts and Science Council's Project and Access Programs grants, Legal Services of Southern Piedmont and the Theatre Charlotte Diversity Task Force.

She has earned a BA in Communications Arts from Hofstra University. She is also a graduate of the American Leadership Forum and the Leadership Development Initiative.

Raquel shares her home in Charlotte, NC with her husband and their son.



## Shreya Malena-Sannon

**Program Director, Sadie Nash Leadership Project**

Shreya Malena-Sannon is originally from New Delhi, India. She brings 15 years of experience in youth work and educational program development.

She co-founded the Baltimore chapter of Peace by PEACE, a creative conflict resolution program. She also worked at Teens Against Gang Violence in Dorchester, MA, a culturally based youth activism program. In New York, she developed Teen Programming at the Incarcerated Mothers Program and led co-ed and single-sex leadership and activism groups at SAYA! (South Asian Youth Action). She has also assisted with curriculum development on sexual health and teen dating violence for organizations such as the Asian/Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA) and CONNECT, a family and gender violence prevention organization. Shreya has also worked at Global Action Project as a media educator, supporting youth in the creation of social justice documentaries and screenings.

Shreya currently works as a Program Director at Sadie Nash Leadership Project (SNLP), a young women's leadership and activism organization. She began her work at SNLP in the summer of 2003, as a faculty member creating a class on "Power, Identity and Privilege" which soon became a "core" class of the summer. She taught for five consecutive summers and in the Fall of 2007, joined full time as a Program Director. In this capacity, she oversees all programmatic aspects of SNLP including recruitment; program design; hiring, training and supervision of staff; curriculum development; program expansion and more.

Shreya received her BA from Barnard College, with a combined major in Psychology and Sociology and her MA from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, with a focus on Risk and Prevention in Adolescence.

She is also exploring feminism, social justice and leadership in the process of raising her toddler.



## Tiffany McQueen

**Director of Educational Programs, LINK Unlimited**

Tiffany McQueen joined LINK Unlimited Scholars in 2007 as Director of Educational Programs. As a savvy, results-oriented alliance builder, she is responsible for the design, management and execution of all of LINK's educational and college readiness programs.

Under Tiffany's leadership as a seasoned motivator, skilled in leading individuals to meet and often excel aggressive goals and objectives, she has: designed a robust outreach/recruitment strategy, resulting in a 75% increase in applications; expanded the college readiness curriculum to include four years of comprehensive college readiness programming for scholars and parents that has resulted in a 35% increase in acceptance to selective college, a two-point increase in the average ACT score, and over \$1 million in additional financial aid and scholarship dollars awarded. Tiffany has 15 years of experience working with adolescents in the educational and college access field.

As a proud recipient of the prestigious Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship and an active Advisory Board Member of the National Partnership for Educational Access, Tiffany consistently seeks opportunities for professional growth and empowerment and that drive and determination has recently earned her an acceptance into the prestigious New York University IGNITE Fellowship for Women of Color in the Social Sector.

Prior to joining LINK Unlimited Scholars, Tiffany was a Mentoring Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, in Church Falls, Virginia where she developed and managed a district-wide comprehensive mentoring program with participation by more than 103 elementary, middle and high schools.

She has also completed her course work for her PhD in Educational Counseling from George Washington University and holds a Masters in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Georgia and a BA in Psychology from Clark Atlanta University. Her academic background also includes coursework at the Northwestern University Center for Nonprofit Management.

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## Joy Messenger

**Deputy Director, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health**

Joy Messenger is a passionate community advocate whose life and career have been guided by a commitment to social and reproductive justice. Currently, she is Deputy Director at the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH), an organization dedicated

to transforming public consciousness and building the capacity of family, school and healthcare systems to support the sexual health, rights and identities of youth.

Joy began her career living and working in Upstate New York and Central North Carolina, gaining experience in youth development, sexual health education, HIV/AIDS support, violence prevention, student affairs and nonprofit administration.

She joined the ICAH team in August 2010 as an Organizing and Policy Intern and later transitioned to Project Manager and the Manager of Sexual Health Education. In her role as Deputy Director, she oversees ICAH's education & capacity-building initiatives and youth development programming, supports the Executive Director with evaluation and internal operations, represents ICAH on multiple local and statewide committees, and continues to train and educate adults who support the sexual health, rights and identities of youth in Illinois.

Joy is a NCHEC Certified Health Education Specialist with an MPH from the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health and an MSW from the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work.

Outside of her work at ICAH, Joy volunteers as a birth doula and devotes time to local and national feminist, Asian American and LGBTQ groups, currently serving as a Core Member of i2i: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago and a Board Member for the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance.

Joy was recently named to the *Windy City Times'* 2013 "30 Under 30" List and has also been honored with a Breaking Barriers Award from the CFW Asian American Leadership Council and a Civic Engagement, Community Service and Community Organizing Award from the UIC Gender and Women's Studies Department.



## Monique Miles

Deputy Director, Aspen Institute

Monique Miles is the Deputy Director of the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions at the Aspen Institute.

In her role Monique works with the Aspen team to accomplish the mission of the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions, which is to support community collaboration approaches, including collective impact, that enable communities to effectively address their most pressing challenges.

The Forum will achieve its mission by pursuing four complementary strategies including: 1) increasing awareness by promoting thought leadership; 2) mobilizing stakeholders through network development; 3) removing barriers by advocating for effective policy; and, 4) catalyzing investment by encouraging funder contributions to the Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund (OYIF).

Monique oversees the Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund – the first funding collaborative of the Forum for Community Solutions. The OYIF mission is two-fold: 1) to build strong evidence of success for utilizing the collective impact and community collaboration strategy to build and deepen pathways that achieve better outcomes in education and employment for Opportunity Youth; and 2) to make the case for increased adoption of the collective impact and community collaborative approach as an effective model for community health and systems change.

Prior to joining the Aspen Institute Monique was the Director of Postsecondary Achievement at the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC). In her role at NYEC, Monique oversaw the Postsecondary Success Initiative, a three-year national pilot that supported ten community-based organizations (CBOs) across the country to design and implement postsecondary programming, in partnership with local institutions of higher learning, for students who were disconnected from education. The CBO and college partnerships were designed to reengage disconnected students through bridge programming, including the delivery of developmental education and social supports during the first year of college. In this role Monique also developed and oversaw a strategic plan that included writing policy briefs, convening planning, data collection and the delivery of technical assistance to programs across the country.

Monique began her career in education reform working as a Case Manager at Youth Opportunity Boston. In this role Monique worked directly with students remanded to the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services to design and deliver youth and career development curriculum. Monique went on to serve the same population of students through political advocacy initiatives at the Commonwealth Corporation.

Monique holds a Bachelor of Science from Springfield College and a Master's in Education, Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.





## Parisa Norouzi

**Executive Director, Empower DC**

Parisa Norouzi has over 15 years of experience working with nonprofit organizations and organizing communities.

After an early career as an organizer in the environmental movement, Parisa co-founded the city-wide community organizing group Empower DC in 2003, an organization which works to build the confident self-advocacy and organized political power of low- to moderate-income DC residents with a focus on fighting the displacement of residents amid DC's gentrification boom.

At Empower DC she has led the organization's Child Care for All Campaign and the People's Property Campaign, leading to victories including winning funding for child care vouchers in 2005 that ended the city's waiting list for those services, and changing DC law to provide opportunity for public input into the "surplus and disposition" process for public property.

Since 2001, Parisa has worked alongside the historic Ivy City community to record previously undocumented history through the Ivy City History Project, and work towards revitalization without displacement in that community. Most recently she led a successful environmental justice lawsuit that halted the operation of a polluting tour bus parking lot at a cherished African-American historic site in the heart of the Ivy City community, which already suffers from poor air quality.

Parisa graduated with honors from Marlboro College in Vermont with a degree in Environmental Policy and Interest Group Politics, and later completed a Master's in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University.

She was a founding member of the Ella Jo Baker Intentional Community Cooperative, an affordable housing cooperative for community activists. Parisa is passionate about social, racial and environmental justice, is a lover of nature, animals and all things vintage.

Of mixed Iranian-American heritage, Parisa seeks to build bridges among groups of people around shared goals in order to bring about improvements for the whole. She has received several awards for her work, including the Ella Baker Award, awarded by Mentors of Minorities in Education; the I'll Be There Award, awarded by DC Jobs with Justice; and the Exemplary Community Activist Award, awarded by the Federation of Citizens Associations of DC.



## Nicole Y. Oglesby

**Project Director, IUPUI Community Learning Network**

Nicole Y. Oglesby currently serves as Director of Diverse Community Partnerships at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). This position is shared between the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Community Learning Network at IUPUI.

For over three years, she has directed the Martindale Brightwood Alliance for Educational Success, which is a university-assisted community school initiative serving three elementary schools within Indianapolis Public School District.

Her professional background includes multicultural affairs, community outreach, student services and student activities, and campus programming while her present responsibilities entail bridging connections and creating opportunities for deeper engagement between the university and diverse communities. Further, she is interested in building strong collaborative partnerships along the education continuum.

For several years, Nicole served as advisor of the Black Student Union at IUPUI, on several other minority scholarship programs, and the Executive Committee of the Black Faculty and Staff Council.

She is a graduate of Hanover College located in Hanover, IN where she received her Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's in Higher Education Administration from Southeast Missouri State University located in Cape Girardeau, MO.

She is the proud mother of four sons whose ages range from teenager to toddler. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, traveling and being with family.



## Rachelle C. Olden

**National Director, Roosevelt Institute | Pipeline, Roosevelt Institute**

Rachelle C. Olden is the National Director of Roosevelt Institute | Pipeline, an organization whose mission is to support and cultivate emerging progressive leaders in producing innovative ideas and solutions that address the most pressing social and economic issues at the local, national and global level. As National Director, Rachelle is responsible for oversight of Pipeline's mission, values and strategic vision.

Rachelle has significant advocacy and policy experience in the international development, public and nonprofit sector. She most recently worked with World Vision International, where she was the Regional Advocacy Officer for the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office based in San Jose, Costa Rica. For 14 national offices, she facilitated the implementation and scale-up of Citizen Voice and Action (CVA), a local-advocacy and social accountability methodology which promotes dialogue between citizens and their governments to improve public services, especially those affecting the lives of children. She also served as regional lead policy advisor on the United Nations Post-2015 development agenda.

As a former US Peace Corps youth development volunteer in the Dominican Republic, Rachelle went on to manage the implementation of a Parent Teacher Association initiative for the UN World Food Programme in Liberia, West Africa. Rachelle founded Global Community Ambassadors Inc. (GCA), a social venture that empowers tomorrow's global leaders through civic engagement, social entrepreneurship and cultural exchange; GCA was a 2012 and 2013 Echoing Green Semi-Finalist.

Along the way, she also assisted President Clinton's Chief of Staff as a Fellow at the Clinton Foundation in New York. Rachelle is a veteran Youth Development Facilitator (Rap Director) with College Summit Inc. and advisor to the Brooklyn Steppers Inc. She is a former Leland Hunger Fellow at the Congressional Hunger Center.

Born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Columbia, SC, Rachelle earned a BA in Corporate Communication and Spanish from the College of Charleston.



## Krystal Portalatin

Co-Founder, FIERCE

Krystal Portalatin is a Co-Founder of FIERCE and graduate of the University of Hawaii, where she majored in community organizing.

After college, Krystal worked in the HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, and LGBT youth development fields.

As a former member of FIERCE, Krystal rejoined FIERCE as a staff person in January 2008 maintaining her commitment to her community in New York City, where she was born and raised. Krystal stepped into her current position as Co-Director in June 2011.



## Imelba Rodriguez

**Senior Program Director, Bridge Street Development Corporation**

Imelba Rodriguez is the Senior Program Director at the Bridge Street Development Corporation (BSDC), a not-for-profit founded in 1995 by the Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest continuing African-American congregation in Brooklyn.

The BSDC's mission is to build partnerships with businesses, government, and other community stakeholders to provide civic and economic opportunities to the residents of central Brooklyn.

As the Senior Program Director Imelba oversees five distinct but related program areas: Affordable Housing, Senior Services, Economic Development, Homeownership and Financial Education/Counseling, and Civic Engagement. The BSDC's programs help improve residents' lives through financial literacy, property and business ownership, and senior services. Imelba is passionate about creating sustainable communities across income classes and envisions a future where financial management is a common practice in all households.

During her four-year tenure at BSDC, Imelba has been promoted from Foreclosure Counselor to Senior Program Director. Some of Imelba's key achievements include obtaining BSDC's HUD approved Housing Counseling designation, facilitating approximately 100 educational workshops for over 2,500 attendees and building the BSDC's brand through designing and coordinating the following BSDC's signature daylong events:

- "Empowerment Sunday" a faith-based initiative where churches throughout Central Brooklyn participate by sharing a unified message of financial and spiritual empowerment;
- "Senior Savvy Expo," where seniors in the community are educated and provided with resources to age in place and promote a healthy lifestyle; and
- "Fresh Start Home Resource Expo," where homeowners and renters have been connected to resources available to them in the community. Additionally, created a bi-weekly program, "Fresh Start Clinic" where homeowners are educated on the New York State path of foreclosure, the Government Programs available, their options on preserving or transitioning out of their homes and provided information on foreclosure prevention or intervention.

Imelba is a member of the Brooklyn Board of Realtors; the National Board of Realtors; the Brooklyn Multiple Listing Services; the Residential Stabilization Association (RSA); and an associate member of the Institute of Real Estate Management and the National Association of Residential Property Manager. Imelba's background also includes certifications by NeighborWorks America for Homeownership Education and Counseling.

She received her Bachelor's in Psychology from Hofstra University.



## Pamela Saelieb

**Advisory Services Consultant, Taproot Foundation**

Pamela Saelieb has dedicated her career to the vision that community engagement and collective responsibility can truly drive social change. A natural arranger and creative thinker, Pamela focuses on developing solutions that create value for both the corporate and nonprofit sectors.

As the Taproot Foundation's first Advisory Services Consultant based in Los Angeles, she works directly with leading companies to design impact-oriented and strategic pro bono programs that meet business, philanthropic and social responsibility goals. Some of her current and past clients include The Walt Disney

Company, Citi Group, GAP Inc., and Deloitte.

In her previous role as Program Manager, Pamela oversaw a portfolio of over \$1.5 million in pro bono services, redesigned the process of nonprofit outreach, and developed the local pro bono marketplace to present events such as Pro Bono Speed Consulting and Change Orchestration for Nonprofits.

Prior to joining Taproot, Pamela served as a Program Director with Volunteer Los Angeles, where she developed a variety of corporate engagement strategies, managed medical responders for LA County Department of Public Health, and led the Operation Welcome Home Volunteer Generation Project, a state-wide capacity building initiative geared toward veteran-serving organizations.

Pamela graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California, Los Angeles with a BA in International Development Studies. She spends her free time reading, exploring new restaurants in Los Angeles, and with her dogs Max and Ruby.



## Aleatha Simon, RhD

**Vice President of Programs & Policy, Greenhope Services for Women**

Dr. Alethea Simon, RhD, CRC, has 19 years of professional experience including staff development, university teaching, serving women and youth, and working with the criminal justice community.

Aleatha holds a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and a doctorate in Rehabilitation Counseling from Southern Illinois University of Carbondale and a MA from New York University in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling.

Aleatha is the Vice President of Programs and Policy for Greenhope Services for Women. She formulates and administers clinical services, develops grants, devises program policies, plans long-range goals and objectives, and reviews data to determine department or division progress toward stated goals and objectives.

She has been adjunct professor at New York University, NYACK College and The College of New Rochelle teaching topics such as research methods and statistics, career counseling, and medical aspects of disabilities. As an educator, Aleatha is constantly seeking creative ways to foster a dynamic learning environment and promote creative thinking in the classroom.

On behalf of Greenhope Services for Women, she serves as a liaison for the New York City Alternative to Incarceration Coalition and is a member of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's executive committee "Work for Success," employment initiative for the formerly incarcerated. She is co-director of the Manhattan Recovery Community Coalition.





## Simone N. Sneed

**Director of Development and External Affairs, Inwood House**

Simone N. Sneed believes that the path to real change is innovative resource management and she has dedicated her career to making this a reality. She combines her expertise in nonprofit management, sustainability and fundraising with her dedication to individual wellness and joy to lead and transform individuals and social impact institutions.

Known for her electric energy and positive passion, she is currently a member of the Executive Team at Inwood House, a 183-year-old nonprofit utilizing a holistic youth development approach to interrupt cycles of intergenerational poverty. As the Director of Development and External Affairs she is developing opportunities and infrastructure to help employees and supporters direct their dedication to the agency's work. She also plays a pivotal role in the creation and management of strategic initiatives.

Simone began her career as the Board Co-chair for Holding Our Own Women's Foundation in Albany, NY, and developed her expertise in fundraising and nonprofit management in service to often-neglected communities with the Astraea Foundation, Girl Scouts of America, Community Access and the New York Women's Foundation. She has also worked collaboratively with the One Percent Foundation, Brown Boi Project and other entrepreneurial social impact projects to provide insights on strategy and sustainability. As a committed pioneer and thought leader Simone writes, facilitates and speaks often on leadership, success and sustainability.

Fueled by curiosity and a dedication to excellence, Simone is a frequent contributor to Huffington Post, Huffington Post Live and Levo League. She has also been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Journal of Governmental Finance and Public Policy*, *Ebony Magazine*, *The Advocate*, *Loop21* and other notable publications.





## Juhu Thukral

**Director of Law and Advocacy, The Opportunity Agenda**

Juhu Thukral is a leading expert on the rights of low-income and immigrant women in the areas of sexual health and rights, gender-based violence, economic security, and criminal justice.

She is a founder of numerous ventures supporting women and LGBT people, and has been recognized as one of “21 Leaders for the 21st Century” 2012 by Women’s eNews and a 2013 Trailblazer by the National Council for Research on Women. She was also selected as the inaugural Lecturer for the Anita Hill Lecture Series.

Juhu is the Director of Law and Advocacy at The Opportunity Agenda, where she leads strategic communications and policy initiatives on immigrant, criminal justice, and gender and sexuality concerns.

Prior to this, Juhu was the founder and Director of the Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center in New York City, where she continues to act as a Senior Advisor. She founded the Sex Workers Project in 2001, after recognizing the strong need for an organization that protects the legal and human rights of sex workers. She is also a founding Steering Committee member of the NY Anti-Trafficking Network. In 2010, she co-founded the NYC Women’s Salon. Juhu has extensive experience in developing policy and programmatic initiatives, fundraising and donor education, and managing successful partnerships with diverse arrays of collaborating organizations seeking to make a shared impact.

Juhu has spoken widely on issues of gender and sexuality, and has authored articles that have appeared in *Race-Talk*, *RH Reality Check*, *On the Issues*, *Research for Sex Work*, and *SIECUS Report*, in addition to in-depth research reports involving human rights documentation and communications research.

She has served as an expert source for a wide range of media outlets, including the *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, Women’s eNews, NPR, Democracy Now, Good Morning America, NY1, *Village Voice*, AlterNet and numerous other venues.

She obtained her JD from the University of San Francisco School of Law, where she was awarded the Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for Women in Health Care Law, and her BA from Rice University.

# **IGNITE Institute Faculty and Staff**



## Holly Delaney Cole

**Co-Director, Community Resource Exchange**

Holly joined Community Resource Exchange's staff in 1995. She is a social worker and has worked in a variety of human service settings in direct service and administrator positions. Within CRE, Holly has served as Deputy Director for Programs and Head of Consulting. She is a skilled facilitator and is well-regarded for her strategic and program planning abilities. Currently, Holly serves as Co-Director of Community Resource Exchange, along with her colleague Valyrie Laedlein.

Immediately before CRE, Holly was a freelance consultant for human services and grant-making organizations, with an emphasis on program evaluation, program development, and proposal writing. Holly was a member of the program staff at the New York Community Trust from 1983 through 1989, managing grant programs in youth services, employment and aging. Holly sits on the Board of Computers for Youth.

She holds a BSW from Adelphi University and a Master's from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. Holly is co-author of *Working With Teen Parents - A Survey of Promising Approaches* with Phyllis Smith Nickel (1985).



## Trena Dayton

**Assistant Dean, Finance and Operations, NYU Wagner**

Presently the Assistant Dean of Fiscal Operations and Human Resources, Trena Drayton has 17 years of finance, investment, human resources and operations experience. She is responsible for directing and implementing a financial and human capital strategy that incorporates global, mission-driven objectives for various stakeholders. She also serves on the executive leadership team responsible for determining NYU Wagner's core strategy.

Prior to joining NYU Wagner, Trena was an Associate at Relativity Capital where her primary responsibilities included financial analysis, due diligence management, and investment recommendations for lower-middle market private equity acquisition targets. Her background also includes small business advisement and real estate investing along with terms at UBS Investment Bank in London and JP Morgan & Co. Incorporated. She was a high-yield research analyst and leveraged finance due-diligence team lead after her career began at JP Morgan & Co. Incorporated as an Audit and Compliance Analyst and Diversity Director.

Trena is an active board member of the Success Charter Network, a grouping of progressive charter schools in New York City. She earned an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a BS in accounting from Hampton University. She is a native New Jersey and has two children: Creed (8) and Chase (4).



## Tara Dowdell

Principal and Principal, The Tara Dowdell Group

Tara Dowdell is a highly accomplished business and political strategist. She is the Founder and Principal of the Tara Dowdell Group, a strategic consulting and marketing firm focused on helping socially-conscious businesses and

organizations grow. Propelled by Tara's work ethic, passion and extensive network in government, the private sector and the media, the Tara Dowdell Group has cultivated an impressive list of clients ranging from an award-winning "green" real estate development firm to a local government agency that offers programs to help small business owners.

In addition to her consulting practice, Tara is a respected television commentator and speaker. She appears weekly on CNN, the Fox News Channel, and the Fox Business Network where she provides progressive insight and analysis on a range of political, government and business topics. She can also appear regularly on MSNBC, Fox 5's Good Day New York, WWOR-TV My9 News at 10pm and Hot 97 Street Soldiers. Tara has also addressed several major conferences and organizations, such as the Rutgers University Annual Women of Color Symposium, the National Urban League Conference, and the Environmental Protection Agency Women in Science and Engineering.

Tara has an extensive background in government, having previously served as the Senior Manager of Government and Community Relations for the international shipping arm of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In this capacity, she was responsible for directing the government and public relations strategy for the multi-billion-dollar redevelopment of the Port of New York and New Jersey. Prior to joining the Port Authority, Tara served as Director of Appointments in the Office of the New Jersey Governor. She was appointed to this position at age 25, making her the youngest person and the first African American to serve in this high-level role. As Director of Appointments to then Governor James E. McGreevey, Tara managed the selection, nomination and appointment of individuals to over 550 statewide boards and commissions. She began her career in government serving as a District Representative to Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.

Additionally, Tara has served in senior positions on several high-profile federal, state and local campaigns including managing an advocacy campaign for Emily's List, one of the largest Political Action Committees in the nation.

In 2010, Tara was selected by the American Swiss Foundation as one of 25 Americans to attend their prestigious Young Leaders Conference in Switzerland. Tara has also been honored by the NAACP, *The New York Times*, the Political Action Committee BALLOT, and the child advocacy nonprofit Project Re-Direct. Tara also serves on the Steering Committee for the Center for American Women in Politics "Ready to Run" Conference and is a Trustee on Board of the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey. She is also a member of Bethany Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey. Tara is a graduate of the University of Virginia where she earned a BA in Government.



## Irshad Manji

Director, Moral Courage Project, NYU Wagner

Irshad Manji is founder of the Moral Courage Project, a multi-media program that guides individuals to take thoughtful risks for life-changing rewards.

Her newest venture is Moral Courage TV, a YouTube channel that tells the stories of people around the world who are standing up when others want them to sit down.

As a Muslim reformer, Irshad puts moral courage into practice. Her latest book, *Allah, Liberty & Love*, is a how-to guide on reconciling faith and freedom in our repressive world. *O, The Oprah Magazine*, describes *Allah, Liberty & Love* as “an audacious, thoughtful call for people of all religions to move beyond hate, fear and intolerance.”

Irshad's previous book is the global bestseller, *The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith*. In between her books, she spearheaded the Emmy-nominated PBS documentary, *Faith Without Fear*.

Ultimately, Irshad's mission is engage people about their wholeness, especially those who feel limited by cultural, religious or societal norms. She aligns with questioning individuals, giving them a platform to share their stories so that they can inspire others.



## Sonia M. Ospina

**Faculty Director, Research Center for Leadership in Action and  
Professor of Public Management and Policy, NYU Wagner**

Dr. Sonia M. Ospina is a Professor of Public Management and Policy at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She is also a co-founder and the Faculty Director of NYU Wagner's Research Center for Leadership in Action.

A sociologist by training, she applies organization and management theories to public problem solving and governance, in the United States and in Latin America. These interests are reflected in three areas of scholarship: leadership and social transformation (exploring the civil society side of governance); change in public management systems (exploring the State side of governance); and the craft of qualitative research (exploring research solutions to studying these areas and their intersections).

She is the author of numerous referred journal articles and book chapters on these areas, and has produced six books, among them, *Illusions of Opportunity: Employee Expectations and Workplace Inequality* (1996), *Results-oriented Evaluation for a Modern and Democratic Public Management: Latin American Experiences* (2003, in Spanish; co-authored), and *Advancing Relational Leadership Research: A Conversation Across Perspectives* (2012, co-edited).

Over the past decade, Sonia directed a Ford Foundation-sponsored multi-year, national research project, partnering with 92 social change organizations in the United States to study their leadership and contributions to democracy.

Sonia has been the President of the Inter-American Network of Public Administration Education (INPAE), and a member of the Executive Boards of the Association of Public Policy and Management (APPAM) and the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). She sits in several international boards on public management and higher education in various Latin American countries and was recently elected Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration in the United States.

Presently, she is co-editor of the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, co-editor of the book review section of *Public Administration Review*, and member of the editorial board of several other academic journals, including four in Latin America.

She has a PhD in Sociology and a Master's in Public Policy and Management from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.





## Patricia Hayling Price

Executive Coach and Leadership Strategist, LiveWorkStrategize

Patricia Hayling Price is an executive coach and leadership strategist supporting individuals and organizations wishing to reach higher levels of effectiveness and reward. As a innovative thought partner, she has delivered value for an array of clients from companies and institutions such as Target, Goldman Sachs, MasterCard, Fannie Mae, TIAA - CREF, Ernst and Young, Rutgers University MBA Program, Pace University Center for NFP Management, Right Management, Viacom, MERCK, Mercer, Marsh McLennan, Clorox, Google, Reed Elsevier (Lexis Nexis) and Ambassador Andrew Young's Good Works International Leadership Team.

Patricia has been a valued speaker and facilitator for business audiences including Dun and Bradstreet (Global Sales Conference in Budapest and Lisbon), Forbes Woman in Leadership Conference, the Executive Leadership Council's Black Woman on Wall Street Symposium, MasterCard's Woman's Global Summit, The Westchester/Fairfield Executive Society, Google's DNG Panel and Clorox Professional Development Initiative. In the media realm, Patricia has written a quarterly coaching column for the *Network Journal* and served as a featured guest on a segment of NPR's "All Things Considered" where she conducted a live coaching session on air.

While at IBM Patricia ascended for over two decades through domestic and global leadership roles in sales, operations, consulting and marketing, but it was her highly recognized work in leadership development that inspired her to launch her leadership practice. Her background includes work on television and stage, which translates to a keen sense for "professional image" and "communication effectiveness" to shape the presentation and brand of her clients. Patricia "meets client where they are," supporting them to relate, communicate and develop their signature brand with clarity, confidence and courageous authenticity.

Patricia also serves as Managing Director for Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT), where she has built and leads its Career Advancement Program (CAP) for rising, diverse, mid-level executives from an array of Fortune Companies. This elite full-year program, now matriculating its fifth cohort, was originally funded by Yale School of Management. It has been under Patricia's leadership from conception in 2008 until today.

Her contributions to community include board directorships with the American Heart Association of Westchester, Westchester Medical Center Board (nominated by Governor Pataki), International Marketing Research Association, The National Forest Foundation and Gala Committee for the Bruce Museum of Greenwich Connecticut and the Harlem Junior Tennis and Education Program. She is a Charles P. Dana Fellow, a Thomas J. Watson Fellow and a graduate of Colgate University. Patricia resides in Westchester County, where she and her husband Dr. Thomas Price have raised their daughter and son. Patricia is part of a proud heritage of community servants and civil rights leaders that include among others, her father Dr. William Hayling, first President and Co-Founder of 100 Black Men of America. To find out more about her practice, visit [liveworkstrategize.com](http://liveworkstrategize.com).





## Deepa Purohit

Voice and Speech Coach/Writer/Actor

Deepa Purohit is a voice and speech coach and a theater artist who passionately believes that personal stories are the building blocks to a leader's development and telling them out loud to others, is a powerful force for change in our society. As a teacher, an artist and a voice and speech coach, she has been engaged in social justice work working in organizations based in low-income communities across the United States for over 20 years.

Deepa is the Founder and CEO of her consulting company, Finding Your Authentic Voice, Inc. She uses her extensive training as an actor, writer and producer in the theater combined with her ongoing work in education reform to coach senior education leaders (clients include Explore Charter Network, D79 School District (NYC DOE), Broad Superintendents' Academy) who work on behalf children and families living in low-income communities on how to use storytelling and public speaking techniques to inspire people to take action and make change in their communities.

She also works on staff at Teach For America as the Director of Voice and Speech Coaching supporting senior leaders (the CEOs, senior VPs and regional Executive Directors) in the organization to communicate complex messages effectively with their own staff and external audiences. She runs voice workshops for staff tailored to their roles and the skills and techniques they want to acquire.

Deepa is the co-founder and a member of the Board of Directors of Rising Circle Theater Collective, a theater company dedicated to developing and producing the unheard stories of people of color on the American stage. As the Artistic Director of her theater company for 12 years, she oversaw the development and/or production of 20 original plays written by playwrights of color, the reconstitution and development of a new Board, the expansion of programming for Q Up, a five-day arts intensive for Asian American high school girls from Queens, the development of Rising Circle's, INKtank, a 12-week writers lab for writers of color, currently in its 4th year, and a new play development program called The Refinery, bringing plays from page to the stage. All of these programs were/are supported by grants from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (2010-present), The Asian Women's Giving Circle (Q Up), The Nancy Quinn Fund (INKTank 2010-present) and the Puffin Foundation (INKTank/PlayRISE 2010).

Deepa is a 1992 Teach For America alumna and taught 6th and 8th grade English for 3 years in Baltimore City Public Schools. She has lived in New York for 18 years and has taught writing and theater to students of all ages living in low-income communities across the city of New York both in school and for after-school programs. Deepa continues to act in both television and film. She is currently writing her fourth full-length play, Flight, which was mounted as a staged reading sponsored by the Kupferberg Center for the Arts in June 2013. She received her BA from Northwestern University and a Master's in Public Health from Columbia University.



## Angela Hendrix Terry

**Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Senior Fellow, Research Center for Leadership in Action, NYU Wagner**

Angela Hendrix Terry is an independent consultant to nonprofit and government organizations. Her practice is primarily focused on issues of change and leadership. Angela assists leaders in clarifying mission, task and role; building collaborative work groups to facilitate change; and developing systems which align with change efforts. She brings her knowledge of group process

and action learning to this work to optimize the effectiveness of change initiatives and collaborative efforts .

Prior to her consulting work, Angela spent over 20 years in leadership positions that exposed her to innovative leaders as well as challenging projects. She served as Chief of Staff at the New York City Economic Development Corporation during the consolidation of several economic development agencies in the early '90s and as Special Assistant to the Dean of NYU's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service during key leadership changes at the university and at the school. Angela also managed the NYC Department of Juvenile Justice's planning process for two new state-of-the-art juvenile facilities and served as part of the implementation team for a national demonstration project, NYC City Volunteer Corp, focused on urban youth.

Angela holds an MA in Political Science from Northwestern University. She also received a post-graduate certificate in Organizational Consultation and Development from the William Alanson White Institute where she also serves as a faculty member of the Organizational Program. Angela also serves as adjunct faculty at NYU Wagner where she co-teaches *Reflective Practice* and *Developing Management Skills*.



## Toni A. Harris

**Director, IGNITE Fellowship for Women of Color in the Social Sector**

Toni A. Harris is the Director of the IGNITE Fellowship for Women of Color in the Social Sector through NYU Wagner's People of Color Leadership Network.

She is also the Director of Career Services and Alumni Relations at NYU Wagner, ranked # 6 among graduate schools of public affairs by *US News and World Report*. In this capacity, she oversees a comprehensive suite of career development, leadership development and alumni engagement initiatives as well as departmental operations and communications.

Toni specializes in coaching mid- to senior-level professionals on short-term and long-term career development strategies. These include evaluating personal and professional goals, career planning, building professional networks, negotiation and managing workplace challenges. She also designs and delivers leadership development programs for public service professionals while consulting to organizations across all sectors on strategies to engage, recruit, develop and retain diverse talent.

Toni's professional background is in nonprofit and health care management, with a focus on program administration, operations and strategic growth. She is an active board member of COOL Kids, a new nonprofit that supports young people in creating a legacy of service-minded leadership. Toni also serves as a member of Echoing Green's Work on Purpose Advisory Council.

A proud alumna of Temple University, Toni also holds a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University, where she specialized in social enterprise administration.



## Michelle Ceran

**Program Coordinator, NYU Wagner's Research Center for Leadership in Action**

Michelle Ceran is a Program Coordinator for NYU Wagner's Research Center for Leadership in Action (RCLA) and a full-time Management student in the MPA Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy program at NYU Wagner.

At RCLA, Michelle assists with the design and delivery of the IGNITE Fellowship for Women of Color in the Social Sector, in addition to other leadership and fellowship programs, including the Bloomberg Innovation Delivery Fellowship offered in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Before NYU Wagner, Michelle spent two years as the Project Coordinator for the Legal Clinic for Homeless at the City Bar Justice Center where she managed welfare cases and advocated for homeless families.

After graduating from Columbia University with a dual BA in History and Francophone Studies, she worked in the School Crimes Bureau at the Kings County District Attorney's office and served as a youth facilitator at the Harlem Community Justice Center.

Michelle is a mentor for NYU Wagner's Urban Assembly Mentor Program. In her spare time she enjoys traveling and running health education programs for young adults in Haiti. Upon completing her MPA, she plans to work in urban education and community engagement.