

Presenters/Facilitators 2018 - 2019

Lynn Allen

Dr. Lynn Allen, LMSW, Ed.D. is an Assistant Superintendent at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES. She currently oversees the educational, leadership professional development and communications programs at BOCES and serves as the facilitator of the PNW BOCES Regional Crisis Team, Administrators Regional Crisis Team and Suicide Safety in Schools Leadership Team. She was recently the recipient of New York State Council of School Superintendents' (NYSCOSS) Appreciation Award (March 2017), New York State Suicide Prevention Center's Excellence in Suicide Prevention Award (September 2017) and the Mental Health Association of Putnam County Distinguished Honoree Award (October 2017) for having a positive impact on the community in the area of crisis prevention, intervention and response. Additionally, she is a member of the Board of Directors for the Leadership for Educational Achievement Foundation, professional development arm of the New York State Council of School Superintendents, a member of the Board of Directors for the New York State Association of Women Administrators and an executive committee member of the New York State Association of School Personnel Administrators. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Bank Street College where she taught special education leadership courses.

Lauren Allan

Lauren Allan is the recently retired superintendent of the Ardsley Union Free School District. Since beginning her career as a world language teacher, Dr. Allan has served as an assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent in districts in the Lower Hudson Valley region. Dr. Allan's doctoral dissertation was focused on strategies for designing effective observation/evaluation processes, and she serves as a resource for the region around creating and communicating effective feedback.

Meg Benedetto

Meg Benedetto has been the Assistant Principal of Primrose Elementary in the Somers Central School District for the past two years. During her time at SCSD, she led the anti-bias work at the early elementary level and was instrumental in the school's recognition as a No Place for Hate School through the Anti-Defamation League. She joined the Somers team after serving as the Assistant Principal of Dows Lane Elementary in Irvington for three years. Her teaching career started at Austin Road Elementary in Mahopac, NY where she taught third and fourth grades. Meg attended Marist College as an undergraduate and went on to earn a Masters from Western Connecticut State University. Her administrative degree was completed through the Future School Leaders Academy at Bank Street College.

Carmela Bennett, EdD, MS, SC

Dr. Carmela Bennett teaches Embodied Leadership at Columbia's Teachers College and has worked in human development and primary and higher education for the past 30 years. A former elementary teacher at TASIS International School and lifelong dancer, Carmela holds an EdD in Leadership from Teachers College, a Masters in Counseling and has worked extensively with family and educational organizations as a counselor, educator, curriculum developer, and trainer.

As a certified executive and somatic coach, she now integrates her experience, research, and belief in human potential to maintain a successful executive coach and consulting practice with individuals and within for-profit and non-profit organizations, schools, and universities seeking to transform their professional and personal leadership. Clients include Educators 4 Excellence, Columbia Preparatory School, Stroudsburg U. Upward Bound, NYU Women's Leadership, Columbia Executive Education, U. of Maryland, Stanford University, NRDC, and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Marc Brackett

Marc Brackett, Ph.D., is founding director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and Professor in the Child Study Center at Yale University. His research focuses on the role of emotional intelligence in learning, decision making, creativity, relationships, and health, as well as the impact of emotional intelligence training on people's personal and professional lives. Marc has published 125 scholarly articles and is lead developer of RULER, an evidence-based approach to SEL that has been adopted by over 2,000 schools across the United States and in other countries. He consults regularly with corporations, including Facebook and Google on integrating EI into employee training and product design. He also holds a 5th degree black belt in Hapkido.

Gregory Brown

Gregory Brown is the Regional Coordinator for Social Studies and Blended Learning at Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES where he oversees a social studies curriculum project, utilized by more than 215 school districts in New York State, and an innovative blended learning high school program. Dr. Brown regularly provides professional development in the areas of curriculum development, instructional strategies, and assessment frameworks for teachers and administrators across the Hudson Valley and beyond. Additionally, he has presented at the local, state, and national levels on topics ranging from social studies to instructional leadership. For the past 15 years Greg has served in public education, as a collegiate professor, high school administrator, social studies teacher, and coach.

Amelia Carpanzano

Amelia Carpanzano has been the Assistant Principal of Mt. Pleasant Blythedale School in Valhalla for the past eight years. Additionally she serves as the CSE Chairperson, Chief Informational Officer, and Transition Coordinator for the district. Prior to completing her administrative degree at the College of New Rochelle, she taught as the Literacy Specialist for five years in the district. Her teaching career started at St. Peter's School in Yonkers as a general education teacher where she taught third and fourth grade. Amelia attended Manhattanville College as an undergraduate and continued on in their graduate program to earn her Masters in Special Education and a certificate in Literacy.

Peter Yane-hao Chen

Peter Yane-hao Chen is a full professor of foreign languages and applied linguistics as well as international negotiations and interpretations at National Taipei University (NTPU) in New Taipei City, Taiwan. Dr. Chen has served as the Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Applied Linguistics (FLAL) and as the Director for the Center of International Negotiations and Interpretations (CINI) at NTPU. Additionally, he received a 2014-2015 U.S. Senior Fulbright Research Grant and was accepted as a Visiting Fellow at the ILR School at Cornell University.

Mary Civiello

Mary founded Civiello Communications Group (CCG), a leading executive communication consultancy 15 years ago. As a coach, Mary has provided presentation and media support to top executives at some of the world's most prominent organizations ranging from American Express, Blackstone, Morgan Stanley and Accenture to Harman, Merck, and Under Armour. She also supports leaders of not for profit groups ranging from the United Nations to Care and the US Military. Dubbed the corporate executive's "Communications Guru" by the New York Times, Mary is the author of *Communication Counts: Business Presentations for Busy People* and she just launched an eLearning platform by the same name.

Mary regularly contributes to FORTUNE on the topic of executive communication. In her two decades as a journalist, reporting and anchoring the news for NBC New York, Mary won six Emmys and the Sigma Delta Chi award for her coverage of corruption in the New York City school system. She has led communication seminars for Columbia University, Harvard Business Review and NYU, and is in demand as a TV news guest commenting on candidates' and CEOs' communication style.

Gloria Colucci

Ms. Colucci completed nine years of successful service as the Superintendent of the Garrison Union Free School District. Immediately prior to her Garrison experience, she served for twelve years as the Assistant Superintendent for the Pocantico Hills CSD where her responsibilities encompassed oversight of Business, Personnel and Instruction. Ms. Colucci has also held a variety of administrative positions in White Plains Central School District and Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES and started her educational career as an elementary and mathematics teacher. Throughout her administrative career, Ms. Colucci has provided professional development for administrators, faculty and staff; facilitated workshops for a variety of professional organizations; and presented at the Convention of the New York State School Boards Association. Ms. Colucci also currently serves as an Adjunct Instructor in the FSLA Program jointly offered by Bank Street College and Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES.

Kathleen Conley

Ms. Conley is currently serving as the Assistant Executive Director of the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (LHRIC). She has also served as a consultant CIO and Data Analyst for up to five districts simultaneously

and was a district-level leader in the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns. Additionally, Kathy served as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Personnel for the Yorktown School District and as a Principal, first for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-St. Anthony School and then at the Hendrick Hudson Buchanan-Verplanck Elementary School. She began her career in education as a mathematics and science teacher following 10 years as a corporate data analyst.

Tammy Cosgrove

Dr. Tammy Cosgrove is the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in the Lakeland Central School District, where she has administered Human Resources since 2006. Her extensive experience and rich background includes her early work as a School Psychologist and Assistant Principal, followed by her work as a Supervisor of Special Education and Director of Pupil Personnel Services in Orange County, New York. Dr. Cosgrove holds a BA in Psychology from The College of New Paltz, a MS in Education and School Psychology from Long Island University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Fordham University. In addition, she has many years of service as an officer of both the Lower Hudson Council of School Personnel Administrators and the New York State Association of School Personnel Administrators. Dr. Cosgrove is also a registered yoga teacher who enjoys bringing wellness and stress-relief practices to schools.

Jonathan Costa

Jonathan Costa is currently the Assistant Executive Director of EdAdvance in Litchfield, Connecticut and a leading consultant in the field since 1990. Over the last 27 years, no individual has completed more strategic planning projects in the public school sector in the tri-state area than Jonathan. His dozens of planning clients include public school districts from every demographic profile, private schools, non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses. With a suite of internalized and data-based planning principles learned in the study of the Quality Sciences, he works with each client to customize a backwards design that focuses on critical student learning outcomes and then facilitates the process purposefully, with a no-nonsense, pragmatic approach. Additional to his strategic planning experience, he is responsible for multiple National Science Foundation grants and supervises the nationally recognized Skills21 challenge-based learning program.

Lisa Davis

Lisa Davis has been the executive director of the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association (WPSBA) since July 2008. During this time, she has worked to expand the depth and breadth of WPSBA's programming, advocacy, and outreach, and represents WPSBA on many regional boards and committees. A former Fellow (2010-11) of the NY Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP), Lisa's enthusiasm for the program led her to take on the role of Co-Coordinator for the NY Metro EPFP program, a position she has held since 2012. Lisa served on the Chappaqua Board of Education for nine years, from 1998 to 2007, including two years as board president. She was WPSBA president from 2005 to 2007. Additionally, she has served on the School Board Advisory Council to the Commissioner of Education; School Board Advisory Council to the Chancellor of Education; NYS School Board Association (NYSSBA) Task Force on School District Pension Alternatives (2006) and was a NYSSBA Legislative Representative. Her involvement with public education began with the Chappaqua PTA, where she served as president and chaired innumerable committees.

Vince DiGrandi

Vince is currently the Principal of North Salem Middle School High School. He has educational experience as a teacher and administrator at all levels K-12. Mr. DiGrandi holds a BA in Communications from Fordham University, an MA in Elementary Education from Fairfield University and a Professional Certificate in Administration from Sacred Heart University's College of Education and Health Professions. Before becoming the North Salem MSHS Principal Vince was the Mahopac Middle School Principal and held several administrative positions in the Wappingers Central School District including John Jay High School Assistant Principal, Wappingers Junior High School Principal and Fishkill Plains Elementary Principal. Prior to entering administration, Vince taught 1st and 5th grades in Westport, Connecticut.

Michael Doughty

Dr. Doughty is the Executive Director for Statewide Projects at Capital Region BOCES. He was Deputy Superintendent of Monroe 1 BOCES. He was an elementary school principal for nearly 10 years in Pittsford, has taught elementary school, high school math, undergraduate and graduate teacher education, and courses for

aspiring school administrators. He holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY Geneseo, a master's degree from SUNY Brockport, and a doctorate from the University of Rochester.

Sylvia Fassler-Wallach

Ms. Fassler-Wallach is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations for the Mamaroneck Union Free School District. She is also an adjunct professor at Pace University. Prior to entering school district administration in 2001, Ms. Fassler-Wallach was a self-employed franchise owner and operator. Ms. Fassler-Wallach is a Certified Public Accountant. She began her career in public accounting.

Selena Fischer

Dr. Fischer retired as the Director of Special Education from the Brewster Central School District after 35 years in the field of special education. Her extensive experience in special education includes her early work as a special education teacher, educational evaluator, CSE Chairperson, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and the Director of Pupil Personnel Services in the Enlarged City School District of Middletown. Selena holds a BS in Psychology from Mount Saint Mary College, a MS in Special Education from SUNY New Paltz, an SDA from SUNY New Paltz, and a PhD in Special Education Leadership from Capella University. In addition, she currently serves on the Board of Directors for the New York State Council of Administrators of Special Education. At the district level, she has been actively involved in the Special Education Task Force, Mental Health Task Force, and RtI Task Force. She has facilitated a variety of workshops on topics related to the field of special education.

Ken Freeston

Dr. Freeston has been the Superintendent of Schools for the North Salem Central School District since 2007. Prior to coming to North Salem he was Superintendent of Schools in the CT communities of Easton, Redding and Ridgefield, and twice named Connecticut Superintendent of the year. He is co author of the popular book Welcome to Club Dad and as written numerous articles for The New York Times, Educational Leadership and other journals.

James Girvin, Esq.

Mr. Girvin concentrates his legal practice in the areas of Education Law, Private and Public Sector Labor and Employment Law and Litigation. He is experienced in collective bargaining, mediation, fact finding, arbitration, improper practice and unfair labor practice proceedings, and other labor relations matters. He also has extensive experience in employee and student discipline proceedings, unemployment and Workers' Compensation hearings, administrative hearings, and state and federal court proceedings. Jay is a frequent speaker on labor and employment matters and regularly addresses the New York State Association of Towns, the New York State Personnel Association, the Association of School Business Officials and Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES.

Erica Fuller

Erika Fuller is the Supervisor of Human Resources in the Arlington Central School District where her daily work addresses hiring practices for all staff, State reporting, and problem solving within the district. She has 20 years of experience working in a school district and previously served as Supervisor of Special Education, Middle School Assistant Principal, and School Psychologist. Erika's work complies with law, regulation, policy, practice, and contracts. She brings professionalism, high expectations, compassion, empathy, and positivity to collaborative working relations in order to serve students. Erika has a bachelor's degree in psychology, professional diploma in school psychology, and master's degree in educational administration.

Lois Gordon, Esq.

Lois Gordon is an educator and attorney with over 30 years of experience. She taught secondary social studies in the White Plains, New York Public Schools for 20 years and served as the Coordinator of Social Studies for that district for 12 years prior to her retirement in 2014. Ms. Gordon holds a law degree from Pace University and is admitted to practice law in New York and Connecticut. During her public school teaching career, she taught criminal, civil, constitutional and international law. She also spent many years as an Adjunct Lecturer at Manhattanville College where she taught school law in their Educational Leadership Department, a department in the Graduate School of Education. Ms. Gordon also practiced education law for the firm of Keane and Beane, P.C. Currently, Ms. Gordon is an educational consultant and lecturer who conducts workshops for school administrators and teachers throughout the tri-state area. Her presentations focus on law-related educational issues such as the rights of transgender students, the legal ramifications of social media and the rights of undocumented students. Ms. Gordon brings the unique perspective of teacher, school administrator and attorney to her presentations.

Dr. Jennifer Harriton-Wilson is the BOCES' Education Technology Coordinator. In this role she supports educational technology agency wide, collaborating with all programs as well as the 18 component districts. Prior to coming to BOCES, Jennifer served as Haldane's Director of Special Education and CIO. She recently completed her doctorate through Manhattanville College.

Thomas Higgins

Dr. Higgins is currently an adjunct professor at Pace University and serves as the Coordinator of Educational Leadership programs at Pace University's Pleasantville campus. Tom spent ten years as a history/social studies teacher (middle school, high school and alternative high school), ten years as a building administrator (assistant principal and principal), ten years as a district level administrator (assistant superintendent and superintendent) and thirteen years as the Assistant Superintendent for Administration at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES. In addition to his work at Pace University, Tom has served as an adjunct professor at Fordham University and Bank Street College.

Rehana Huq

Rehana Huq's experience in training and organizational development spans domestic and international settings, corporate, educational, community and NGO environments. She brings a "strengths" and "diversity" sensitivity to individual, group and organization development. Her work in recent years has focused on building cross-cultural competencies at the individual level and in using cross-cultural lenses to approach diversity and inclusion aspects of workplaces. Rehana has a bachelor's degree in biology from Calcutta University and an MS in HR and OD from Xavier Labour Relations Institute, India.

Tim Kaltenecker

Tim Kaltenecker is the Deputy Superintendent of the Byram Hills Central School District in Armonk, NY, and previously served as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Director of Mathematics. He has presented workshops in a variety of topics, including, elementary mathematics, classroom action research, student empowerment, cultural proficiency, and technology integration, and Tim ran a School Leaders Fellowship program for NYC school leaders at Math for America. He taught mathematics for 17 years at various schools before entering administration.

Sally Klingel

Ms. Klingel is the director of labor-management relations programming for the Scheinman Institute of Conflict Resolution in Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, where she teaches, trains and provides organizational change consulting services to labor and management groups nationwide. She specializes in the design and implementation of conflict and negotiation systems, labor-management partnerships, work redesign, strategic planning and change processes, and leadership development. Sally holds a MS in Organizational Behavior from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and a BA from the University of Michigan. She has authored articles, monographs and book chapters on innovations in labor-management relations.

Brian Ladewig

Dr. Brian Ladewig has served as the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for the Harrison Central School District for the past twelve years. In this role, he has implemented comprehensive reforms to the district's human resources protocols and procedures to make HR systems more efficient and effective. He has extensive experience in contract negotiations and labor relations, recruitment and hiring, professional development and employee accountability, and policy development. Dr. Ladewig has served as the President of the New York State Association of School Personnel Administrators and was the 2016 recipient of the NYSASPA Mort Thau Award for distinguished leadership and service in the field of human resources. For the past ten years Dr. Ladewig has also served on the executive board of the Lower Hudson Council of School Personnel Administrators. Dr. Ladewig's leadership and teaching experience also include serving as an English Curriculum Supervisor and English teacher.

Michael Lambert, Esq.

Mr. Lambert is a partner at Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, where he is actively involved in representing school districts in all aspects of general counsel and labor relations services including special education impartial hearings, negotiations, arbitrations, PERB proceedings, Section 3020-a Education Law proceedings, Section 75 Civil

Service Law proceedings, Section 3214 Education Law student disciplinary proceedings and litigation. He is the First Vice President of the New York State Association of School Attorneys and a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Michelle Lieblein

Ms. Lieblein works as Vice President of Client Services at ESI Employee Assistance Group (EAP) where she is responsible for overseeing accounts, as well as providing in-house consultation on work-related issues such as harassment and workplace violence prevention. In addition to more than 15 years of clinical experience, Michelle is a highly skilled presenter and trainer. She has presented hundreds of keynote speeches, seminars and workshops on a wide variety of topics for professional and community groups as well as EAP seminar presentations to employees and their families on such topics as Alcohol & Drugs in the Workplace, Stress Management, Sexual Harassment Prevention, Managing Change, Coping with Grief and Communication in the Workplace.

Rob Lieblein

Rob is an educator with over 20 years experience working with youth and adults of all ages and backgrounds, and in a variety of roles. He considers the Mindful School curriculum as the foundation of his work with students and teachers. He has years of experience working in the environmental and outdoor education area at several outstanding educational institutions such as New York Botanical Garden, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park Conservancy, and The Fresh Air Fund. Rob is also a certified yoga teacher.

Hank Linden

Mr. Linden works as Vice President of Client Services with ESI Employee Assistance Group (EAP). Previously, he was the Director of Program Development for the Threat Assessment Group, Inc. of Newport Beach, California where he provided workplace violence prevention training and threat assessments for Fortune 500 and other large companies. He is a former Vice President/Health Services Director for the American Express Company. In this capacity, he was responsible for the operation of the medical departments, health and fitness centers, employee assistance program, and corporate safety and ergonomics program for 70,000 employees worldwide.

Jeremy Luft

Dr. Jeremy Luft is currently the Director of Learning and Innovation for the Putnam Valley Central School District. Prior to joining Putnam Valley CSD, Dr. Luft served as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District. He began his teaching career in the North Rockland Central Schools where he taught High School Physics and Earth Science. After leaving the classroom, Dr. Luft served as the Director of Technology and Chief Information Officer for the Ossining Union Free School District. Throughout his career, Dr. Luft has presented at numerous local, regional, and state conferences on a variety of topics ranging from data inquiry teams to best practices for technology integration. In 2011, Dr. Luft was named a Pioneer Award winner and in 2012 received the NYSCATE Outstanding Technology Leader Award.

Nicole Mangiere

Nicole Mangiere is the Assistant Principal at Putnam Valley Middle School. She began her career in education as a 2008 Teach For America Corps Member in New York City. After two years teaching third and fourth grade in a traditional public school, PS 110x, she moved to KIPP Academy Middle School, a public charter school in the Bronx, where she taught fifth, sixth and eighth grades and held a variety of leadership positions. While at KIPP, Nicole discovered her passion for middle level education. Nicole is a graduate of Cornell University and Bank Street College of Education. She looks forward to beginning her doctorate at Manhattanville this fall.

Andrew Marotta

Andrew Marotta is the energetic and passionate Principal at Port Jervis HS in Orange County, NY. A dedicated husband and father, Andrew also is a leader on the courts as a division one men's college basketball official and first time author with his breakout book on leadership: [The Principal: Surviving & Thriving](#). He invigorates you with his message of enthusiasm, organization, and pointed tips on leadership while stressing the importance of developing meaningful relationships. His work with fellow administrators, school leaders, and teachers is practical, meaningful, and heartfelt.

Robert Monson

Dr. Monson is an associate professor of educational leadership at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York. He is also an adjunct associate professor of education leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University where he teaches in the doctoral program for Urban Education Leaders. Also at Teachers College, Dr. Monson coordinates the Education Policy Fellowship Program in the Department of Education Policy & Social Analysis. He is a post-doctoral fellow and instructor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He holds a B.A. in political science and Ph.D. in Educational Administration. Across seven states he has served public school children in the capacities of teacher, high school assistant principal, high school principal, assistant superintendent, and four superintendent.

Margaret Muenkel

Margaret Muenkel is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources for the Arlington Central School District in LaGrangeville, NY and has served the district in many aspects of Human Resources for the past 17 years. Prior to working in Arlington, Margaret prior experience have been the Director of Mathematics for the Newburgh Enlarged City School District, a mathematics teacher at Dutchess Community College, an elementary school teacher as well as consultant work in the area of mathematics with middle school students. Her recent focus in her HR role in the Arlington Central School District is on diversity and equity. Margaret has a bachelor's degree in general science with an education concentration and a master's degree in educational administration. She has also completed a number of certification programs the area of labor relations at the Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

Ralph Napolitano

Ralph Napolitano recently retired from Yorktown Central School District after serving as the Superintendent of Schools there for 11 years in a 43 year career. He began his educational career as a science teacher in the Bronx where he taught General Science, Biology, Earth Science and Chemistry.

After five years of teaching science, Ralph went on to teach on the college level where he taught Educational Psychology, Reading in Content Areas as well as Methods of Teaching to future teachers. After spending eight years at the College of Mt. St. Vincent, where he was also Chairperson of the Education Department, Ralph became a high school principal, first in the Bronx and then in Pleasantville. He served as a high school principal for 17 years before moving on to the District Office, first as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at Irvington School District and then as Superintendent of Schools in Yorktown.

Katrina Nobles

Katrina Nobles is the Education and Communications Manager for the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution at the Cornell University ILR School, focusing on educating the next generation of neutrals and practitioners on campus and in the workplace. Ms. Nobles designs curriculum, instructs professional programs, and facilitates discussions for organizational workplace conflicts. She also works with faculty and extension associates to coordinate programs, contracts, and grants. She has practiced mediation for several years, and prior to her employment at Cornell, Katrina was the Cortland County Coordinator for New Justice Mediation Services. During that time, Nobles mediated hundreds of community, child custody/visitation, child support, and family disputes. Katrina holds a Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Engagement from Antioch University Midwest.

Linda Ochser

Dr. Ochser began her career in the NYC public schools as a teacher of Social studies and Health Education. She left NYC to accept a position in the Yonkers Public Schools and served as a Health Educator and Director of a Drug and Alcohol Awareness Prevention Program and later, the Director of Health Education and Services. Seeking an additional challenge, she moved to Armonk, NY to the Byram Hills School District as the Director of Personnel and Special Services. She concluded her career in public education as the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, where she served for 15 years' prior joining the faculty of Mercy College as an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership. During her 12 years at Mercy College she taught various courses in Human Resources, School Law and Supervision of Administrative Interns. She served on a variety of college and school committees, was a Senator in the Faculty Senate representing the School of Education, a board member for the Faculty Association, and a mentor to many of her students.

Jeff Olefson

Mr. Olefson has designed and implemented human resources training programs for Fortune 500 companies, not-for-profit organizations, governmental units and suburban school districts in 20 states. Jeff is a frequent speaker at state-wide educational conferences. As a consultant to school districts, he has conducted organizational and systems studies with the aim of improving efficiency, service delivery and customer satisfaction.

Nigel Pugh

In 2003, as founding principal, Nigel Pugh opened the Queens High School of Teaching, a school that became nationally recognized for its effective D75 partnership to foster inclusivity. From 2008-2012 he worked as Assistant Superintendent at the NYC Department of Education to support school networks, new schools, leadership development and the roll out of the citywide reform of special education. In 2012 he assumed leadership of a Focus school and brought the school off the SED Focus List. He now works as an educational consultant.

Elizabeth Radday

Liz Radday, Ed.D, is currently a research specialist at EdAdvance working on three National Science Foundation grant projects. She taught high school math and special education for ten years and middle school math for six years. She spent 6 months in Finland as a Fulbright Scholar researching special education and the vocational school system. She is trained in using the Critical Thinking Assessment Test from Tennessee Tech.

Pete Reilly

Pete Reilly has devoted his entire professional life to empowering students, teachers, and administrators to fully utilize their unique gifts and talents. A decades long career as an educational administrator, classroom teacher, and master somatic coach, he brings a unique presence and perspective to enabling women in education to develop their leadership as teachers and administrators.

Pete's years of experience have made him keenly aware of the challenges present in education and specifically those facing women administrators and teachers. He is the author of "A Path with Heart: The Inner Journey to Teaching Mastery" (2015), and "In the Garden of Hearts: Meditations, Consolations, and Blessing for Teachers" (2016) – books specifically focused on integrating a holistic, embodied approach to development for educators. A graduate of Columbia Teachers College with an MS in Communications, Computing, and Technology, Pete began his career as a classroom English teacher before transitioning to educational administration. He is the former Director of the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center, the founder of the widely acclaimed Technology Leadership Institute and past President of the New York Association of Computers and Technology for Education (NYSCATE).

Pete currently facilitates educational workshops, online courses, and coaches educational leaders throughout the United States and Canada. He writes extensively on educational issues and methodology and has guest blogged for District Administrator Magazine's site, "The Pulse", and Education Week's nationally known blog, "LeaderTalk". His essay, "When the Classroom Door Swings Inward" was published in the anthology, "Being Human at Work" published by North Atlantic Press.

Diane Rosen

Diane Rosen has been of counsel to Ortolí Rosenstadt LLP (formerly Sanders Ortolí Vaughn-Flam Rosenstadt LLP) since 2013. Formerly of Weil Gotshal & Manges; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Alter & Rosen LLP. Diane specializes in real estate and corporate transactions, has expertise in US copyright law and is a mediator and conflict coach. In addition to practicing law and mediating, she teaches mediation and conflict resolution skills to lawyers and other business groups. She is a graduate of Cornell (BS, 1978), Georgetown University Law Center (JD, 1981), NYU Stern School of Business (MBA, 1994) and University of Pennsylvania (MAPP, 2016). She is the author of *The Grownup's Guide: Living with Kids in Manhattan* and was the Founding Vice President of Girls Learn International, a non-profit organization that works to combat the global crisis in girls' education.

Mark Samis

Mark Samis led the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center's Data Warehouse project at its inception in 1999. His team developed the first online data reporting environment in NY State for teachers. He presently leads the Data Services team which consists of State Reporting, Testing Services and Data Analysis. Previously, he was a classroom teacher for 12 years, a network technologist and a trainer.

Jane Sandbank

Dr. Sandbank brings to the Center for Educational Leadership not only her experience as a retired Superintendent of Schools in the Brewster Central School District but also her work at the university level at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, Teacher's College and SUNY New Paltz. As CEO of janesandbankgroup, she offers consulting services in Leadership Development, Coaching and Strategic Planning and has worked with many districts in the Lower Hudson Valley Region and Connecticut. Jane earned her doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Columbia University and her Administrators Master's Degree from Fordham. She is the perfect combination of education scholar with years of practical experience.

Jeff Shepardson

Jeff Shepardson, Community Dispute Resolution Center (CDRC) Director of Training & Facilitation Services, has served CDRC as staff member, mediator and trainer since 2005, mediating and facilitating cases in a wide variety of settings, including workplace, home, public forums, nursing facilities, local government, schools and social service centers. Jeff provides Mediator, Facilitator & Conflict Resolution Skill Trainings on a local, state and national level. As a veteran mediator-trainer and the recipient of intensive and advanced trainings, Jeff holds a deep belief in the power of alternative dispute resolution skills to transform conflict interaction. Jeff is a certified mediator with the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, New York State CDRC Certified Trainer (in process), adjunct instructor at Hofstra Law School and Cornell School of Industry & Labor Relations and holds degrees in Literature, Communications and Theology.

Dena Simmons

Dena Simmons, Ed.D., is the Assistant Director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. She received her B.A. from Middlebury College, her M.S.Ed. from Pace University, and her M.A. and Ed.D. from Teachers College, Columbia University. Prior to her work at the Center, Dena served as an educator, teacher educator, diversity facilitator, and curriculum developer. She has been a leading voice on teacher education and has written and spoken across the country about social justice pedagogy, diversity, education reform, emotional intelligence, and bullying in K-12 school settings, including the White House, the United Nations, the inaugural Obama Foundation Summit, two TEDx talks, and a TED talk on Broadway. She earned her doctorate degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, where she now teaches at the Summer Principals Academy. Dena's research interests include teacher preparedness to address bullying in the K-12 school setting and social and emotional learning (SEL) interventions—all in an effort to ensure and foster justice and safe spaces for all. She enjoys cooking, biking, and writing creatively.

Aimee Skiff

Aimee Skiff has been with Management Advisory Group of New York, Inc. (MAG) since 1993. She has been in a wide variety of positions and since December 2009, has assumed leadership of the firm as President and Chief Executive Officer. In addition to her management responsibilities at MAG, she provides a number of consulting services to school districts and BOCES.

Adam VanDerStuyf

Adam VanDerStuyf currently serves as the Director of Pupil Personnel Services for the North Salem Central School District, a position he's held since 2015. Prior to his time in North Salem, Adam served as a Teacher, Principal, and Director of Special Education & Guidance and Child Study Center at Putnam|Northern Westchester BOCES over a span of 13 years. After a short career in pharmaceutical manufacturing as an engineer/supervisor at Merck and Company, Adam made a career change to education and completed his Masters of Science in Exceptionalities at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. Adam has also completed a second Masters in Educational Leadership from Bank Street College in New York through the Future School Leaders Academy, and is currently enrolled in the Manhattanville College Doctoral Program.

Adrienne Viscardi

Adrienne Viscardi is the Director of ESOL Programs in Bedford Central School District, where she also supervises the Dual Language Bilingual Education Program at Mount Kisco Elementary School. Additionally, Ms. Viscardi is an adjunct faculty member of the Graduate School of Education at Manhattanville College. She completed her MA in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at Simmons College and earned her Ed.M. in Administration and Supervision at the Bank Street College Future School Leaders Academy. Ms. Viscardi has

presented three times at the TESOL International Convention as well as at the New York State TESOL Annual Conference.

Joseph Wooley, Esq.

Mr. Wooley is an attorney with a private practice acting as a hearing officer in administrative hearings. He was elected to the Southern Westchester BOCES Board in 1998 and is currently the Board President. Prior to that, he served on the Greenburgh Central 7 Board of Education for 6 1/2 years, including a 2 year term as President of the Board. He was a member and Board member of the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association serving as President during the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 school years.

Scott Wynne

Scott Wynne currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the Eastchester Union Free School District. Prior to assuming this role, he held the roles of Middle School Principal, Middle School Assistant Principal, Dean of Students, Mathematics Department Chair, AIS Services Coordinator and teacher in the Eastchester, Carmel and Yorktown School Districts. Mr. Wynne holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, Economics and Education from Lafayette College, a Masters Degree in Special Education from Pace University, a Masters Degree in Administration and Supervision from Bank Street College and is slated to complete his Doctoral Degree in Education Leadership from Manhattanville College in the summer of 2018.