

## **DCPS Rising Leadership Committee: Biographies**

### **Gina Adams, Co-Chair**

Gina F. Adams is Senior Vice President for Government Affairs at FedEx Corporation. Ms. Adams is responsible for shaping and promoting the interests of all FedEx Corporation operating companies including FedEx Express, FedEx Ground, FedEx Freight and FedEx Services in the political and policy arenas. As a lawyer and the company's top lobbyist, she works with Administration officials, members of Congress, the diplomatic community and industry associations on domestic and international commerce and transportation issues. Ms. Adams also oversees one of the five largest corporate PACs in the United States for her company, which has 400,000 employees that serve over 220 countries and territories worldwide. Ms. Adams is extremely active in the Washington, D.C. community and supports numerous projects and events that target education, health, youth and the arts. She sits on a number of boards including the American University, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Town Hall Education Arts & Recreational Campus (THEARC), the National Museum of Women in the Arts and is a past chair of the DC Chamber of Commerce.

She received a Master in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University Law Center, her law degree from Howard University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from American University.

Ms. Adams and her husband, Eugene, have a son and live in Washington, DC.

### **Patricia McGuire, Co-Chair**

Patricia McGuire has been President of Trinity Washington University since 1989. Before coming to Trinity, Ms. McGuire was the Assistant Dean for Development and External Affairs for Georgetown University Law Center, where she was also an adjunct professor of law. Earlier, she was project director for Georgetown's D.C. Street Law Project. She was also a legal affairs commentator for the award-winning CBS children's newsmagazine "30 Minutes" and the Fox Television program "Panorama" in Washington.

President McGuire earned her Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude from Trinity College and her law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. She is currently a member of the boards of directors of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Washington Metropolitan Consortium of Universities, the D.C. College Success Foundation, the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, United Educators, and the Ameritas Mutual Holding Company.

She previously served on a governance advisory task force for the American Institute of Architects, and as a member of the Independent Governance Advisory Panel for the American Red Cross. She is a member of the Women's Advisory Board of the Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital.

She served previously on the boards of the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region, Goodwill of Greater Washington, the Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation, the Washington Hospital Center, the American Council on Education, the National Association of

Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Defense Intelligence College, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

In 2014, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan appointed President McGuire to the U.S. Department of Education Advisory Committee on Student Financial Aid, a position she held in 2014-2015. In 2000, President McGuire was appointed by D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams and the D.C. Financial Control Board to a special term on the Education Advisory Committee overseeing the D.C. Public Schools. In June 1998, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin appointed President McGuire to serve as a member of the first-ever citizens' advisory panel on coinage, the 8-member Dollar Coin Design Advisory Committee, which recommended the image of Sacagawea for the new dollar coin.

President McGuire has received honorary degrees from Georgetown University, Howard University, the College of New Rochelle, Liverpool Hope University, Mt. Aloysius College and the College of St. Elizabeth.

In 2016, the TIAA Institute honored President McGuire with the [Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence](#). In 2015, the Carnegie Corporation honored President McGuire with the [Carnegie Award for Academic Leadership](#), an award recognizes vision and commitment to excellence and equity in undergraduate education. In 2015, President McGuire received the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from [SOAR!](#) In 2012, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities recognized President McGuire's leadership in higher education with the [Henry Paley Award](#). In 2007, the Greater Washington Board of Trade named President McGuire the "[Leader of the Years](#)," the top business honor for this regional chamber of commerce. The Washington Business Journal included President McGuire among that publications list of "Women Who Mean Business." Washingtonian magazine has named her among the "150 Most Powerful People in Washington" and the "100 Most Powerful Women of Washington." She has also received honors and awards from the Washington Business Journal, D.C.College Access Program, Gallaudet University, Georgetown University Law Center, and other civic and educational organizations.

## **Tara Brown**

Tara Brown has been a DC resident for 15 years. She relocated from Waldorf back to DC when her daughter and nephew started Kindergarten. In their first grade year, Tara's involvement with DCPS began. She worked hard to help establish a PTO at Patterson Elementary school with a handful of dedicated parents and teachers. In her second year on the PTO, she served as Treasurer. During this time she also broadened her involvement by participating in activities sponsored by the amazing non-profit organization Turning the Page. This wonderful organization focuses on training parents at underrepresented schools, to advocate for their children's education.

With Turning the Page's recommendation and support, Tara applied for and was accepted as a Ward 8 representative on Chancellor Henderson's Parent Cabinet. As a proud member of the cohort, she got to learn a lot about the goals, efforts strategies and people, driving DCPS's

staggering success. She became excited about the wonderfully enriching Cornerstones Program and the revolutionary Common Core curriculum transition. Tara has broadened her advocacy for the children of Ward 8 by testifying in front of the City Council, encouraging other Ward 8 parents to testify, and by interacting with other stakeholders in the education community.

Tara Brown earned a Degree in English and History at the 323 year old College of William and Mary, where the importance of a challenging, thought provoking education was instilled in her. She hopes to continue her efforts to help DCPS do the same for our children.

### **Rosa Carrillo**

Rosa L. Carrillo is the Language Service Program Director at the Multicultural Community Service. Ms. Carrillo was born in Lima, Peru. She is a graduate of Trinity College in Washington, DC with a BA in International Studies and a minor in History. Ms. Carrillo is a trained interpreter (English/Spanish) and teacher. She was an instrumental part of the Language Access Coalition, which worked to pass the Language Access Act in Washington, DC. Ms. Carrillo is a member of the Access For All Committee for the Transportation Planning Board of the National Capital Region developed to guide the language access plan for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Ms. Carrillo also served as the treasurer for the Life Skills Center in Washington, DC. Before joining MCS as Language Services Program Director, Ms. Carrillo worked as a tutor in Spanish for R & J Engineers in Virginia, where she prepared materials designed to improve the Spanish-speaking skills of engineering staff working with the South American market. Before immigrating to the United States, she was the coordinator of the Language Department at Giordano Bruno School in Lima, Peru, where she developed, edited and promoted curricula and other educational materials in Spanish and tutored English to elementary school. Ms. Carrillo has lived in Washington DC for more than 20 years, and has a daughter attending a DCPS school.

### **Liz Davis**

Elizabeth A. Davis, president of the Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) and 40 year highly effective, award-winning educator, has always been at the forefront of public education advocacy and reform. Dedicated to advancing and promoting quality education, improving teaching and learning conditions and aggressively protecting teachers' contractual and professional rights, Elizabeth believes that the WTU can reimagine itself to become a powerful, social justice, solutions-driven union of professionals that is highly respected by its members and the DC community at large.

Elizabeth's writing about social justice teaching and teacher leadership has been published in three nationally acclaimed books; ***Putting the Movement Back Into Civil Rights Teaching***; ***Writing for A Change*** and ***How Teachers Become Leaders***.

Elizabeth is a member of:

- WTU/DCPS Contract negotiation team (chief negotiator)
- The National Save Our Schools Coalition

- Jobs with Justice Executive Board
- Mayor's Statehood Coalition
- DC Labor Management Partnership Council
- Metro Labor Council Executive Board
- American Federation of Teachers Program and Policy Council for Teachers
- Delta Kappa Gamma International
- City-wide Community School Task Force
- Advisory Panel to the National Commission on Writing
- Ward 5 Resident and member of the Ward 5 Education Council

### **Kevin Dillard**

Kevin Dillard is a 12th grade honor roll student at Woodson High School. He plays varsity baseball and is the president of the Student Government Association (SGA). He transferred to Woodson after attending TC Williams in Virginia. He is a model student.

### **Michaela English**

Michaela English was named President & CEO of Fight For Children in 2006. Prior to joining Fight For Children, Ms. English served as president of Discovery Consumer Products and president and COO of Discovery.com. She has held senior positions with the National Geographic Society, Marriott Corporation, and McKinsey and Co. Throughout her professional life, Ms. English has held leadership roles in a variety of education, youth-related, and other non-profit and corporate initiatives, including managing the K-12 education programs at both Discovery and National Geographic.

Ms. English is Chairman of the Board of the Educational Testing Service (ETS); she is a member of the Boards of The Corcoran Trust (formerly Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art and Design), DC Preparatory Academy Public Charter School, DC Public Education Fund, and the Gladstone Companies. She is a member of the Leadership Council of Raise-DC, the District of Columbia State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council (SECDCC), and the Foundation Board of William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science. She has served as Co-Chair of Mayor Bowser's Education Transition Committee, Chairman of the Board of Sweet Briar College, President of the Women's Forum of Washington DC, Member of the Yale School of Management Board of Advisors, Director of the NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education, Director of Riggs National Corporation, and Director of the Potomac KnowledgeWay.

Ms. English graduated from Sweet Briar College and earned a Master of Public and Private Management degree from Yale School of Management. She lives in Washington, DC with her husband Rob Quartel and Australian labradoodle Charlie and has two grown children Eleanore and Will.

### **Ed Fisher**

Ed Fisher is an emerging leader in business and community development in Washington, D.C. He has been acknowledged by the District of Columbia government and various civic

associations for his dedication and tireless efforts to improve the economic and social standing of his community. He has used his background in legislative and regulatory affairs as a director at the Council of the District of Columbia as well as his experiences as a small business owner to promote entrepreneurship and encourage economic growth in underserved communities.

In addition to being a proud alumnus of DCPS's Eastern High School, Ed is also a graduate of Hampton University's Buckman School of Business and The Catholic University of America Columbus Law School. Prior to his tenure in numerous capacities at the Council of the District of Columbia, he gained experience in the financial services sector before working in litigation at various agencies in the Federal government. He currently serves as the Director of Community Affairs for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

Active in the community, Ed is a member of the Eastland Gardens Civic Association, a board member of the D.C. Promise Neighborhood Initiative, former board member of the Lee Montessori Public Charter School, Advisory Board Member for Girls on the Run-DC, and recently received the 2012 Community Leadership Award from the nationally distributed Uptown Magazine. A father of two young boys, Ed spends much of his time volunteering with The Lifting As We Climb Foundation, Inc. where he mentors and tutors teenage students. After parenting, he views this as one of his most important personal responsibilities. Ed is a Ward 7 native of the Deanwood community and currently lives in Eastland Gardens.

### **Denise Forte**

Denise Forte is the Staff Director for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce - Minority, providing strategic advice and counsel to the Ranking Member, Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA) and management direction to 22 professional staff. She returns to the Committee where she previously worked for over ten years and held the position of Education Policy Director for Chairman George Miller (D-CA) from 2006 to 2011 where she managed policy staff and provided direction for the legislative agenda. Denise worked for Congressman Scott early on in her Capitol Hill career, starting in 1994 when she received a congressional fellowship from the Women's Research and Education Institute. During her time with Congressman Scott, Denise worked on various policy initiatives including juvenile justice reform, elementary and secondary education, and higher education.

Prior to returning to the Committee in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, she was the Vice President for Policy Leadership at Leadership for Educational Equity, a leadership development organization supporting current and former teachers in public leadership. Denise also served in the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Education from 2011-2013 where she held multiple positions in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development including Acting Assistant Secretary. Denise received her B.S. in Computer Science from Duke University in 1986, and a M.A. in Women's Studies from the George Washington University in 1996.

## **Nicky Goren**

Nicky Goren is president and CEO of the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, which pursues and invests in solutions to build an equitable Greater Washington community in which people who are economically vulnerable thrive.

Founded in 1944, the Meyer Foundation is a leading supporter of local nonprofit organizations serving the DC region. Each year, the Foundation provides grants totaling more than \$7 million to more than 150 organizations working in the interconnected areas of affordable housing, education and workforce development, and financial security. In addition to funding, the Foundation works to build the capacity of partner organizations, serves as a convener and advocate on critical issues, and promotes cross-sector collective action to advance solutions to community challenges.

Before being selected to lead the Meyer Foundation in 2014, Nicky served for four years as president of Washington Area Women's Foundation, which focuses on increasing the economic security of women and girls in the DC region.

Prior to joining Washington Area Women's Foundation, Nicky spent 12 years in senior positions at the Corporation for National and Community Service—the nation's largest grantmaker supporting service and volunteering. She served as chief of staff from 2006 to 2008 and as acting CEO from 2008 to 2010, overseeing a federal government agency with a staff of 600 and a budget of \$1.1 billion.

A graduate of Brandeis University and Cornell Law School, Nicky began her career as assistant general counsel in the Congressional Budget Office, and then served as counsel at the newly established Office of Compliance of the U.S. Congress. She currently serves on the Raise DC Leadership Council; on the boards of the American Association of State Service Commissions, District of Columbia College Access Program (DC-CAP), Federal City Council, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Trinity Washington University, and Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers; and is a member of Leadership Greater Washington's Class of 2013.

Nicky lives in the District with her husband and two sons.

## **Hope Harrod**

Hope Harrod began her teaching career in DCPS fifteen years ago, and this year marks her eighth at Burroughs Education Campus. Ms. Harrod is constantly perfecting her craft through a variety of leadership roles and professional development opportunities. She mentors teachers through the DC Teaching Fellows Program, coordinates school book fairs, organizes mathematics labs for students after school, and has served as a faculty member for a research institute through the Teaching America History project where she helped high school history teachers integrate the use of primary sources in the classroom. Ms. Harrod takes students on extraordinary adventures using literacy. Her class discussions are engaging and student centered. Ms. Harrod fosters relationships that "transform" students. She helps them connect with their strengths and teaches them how to use them in ways that catapult their learning.

## **Maurice Kie**

Maurice Kie is a native Washingtonian who has worked most of his career providing program, guidance and information to boys and men of color in the District of Columbia. He has worked with groups of young men from as young as 3 years old and as old as 25 years old. Maurice believes that part of his mission in life is to ensure that all boys and males of color have the tools and confidence to succeed and achieve their goals and aspirations.

## **Jonte R. Lee**

Jonte' Lee is a 5th year science teacher at Woodrow Wilson Senior High School and a college business instructor. Before becoming a teacher, Mr. Lee worked for INROADS, Inc., where he placed college students in paid internships with fortune 500 companies that would lead to full-time employment upon graduation. Prior to INROADS, Inc., Jonte' worked in corporate America in the marketing department. While working for a fortune 500 company, Mr. Lee became a Big Brother and would read to his little brother, at a local school, over his lunch break. Mr. Lee's little brother scored in the 95th percentile on the state reading exam. No matter what industry Jonte' worked in, he always sought ways to educate his colleagues and students. Mr. Lee believes that every child is capable of learning at the highest of levels. His belief is what attracted him to the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). Jonte' wants to ensure that every student has a teacher who believes in their potential and looks beyond their circumstances. Jonte' holds a bachelor of science in biology from Southeastern Louisiana University, a master's of science in marketing from Texas A&M University, and a secondary science education certification from Howard University.

## **Thomas Penny**

Thomas Penny is the General Manager of the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center. Under his leadership, the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center has consistently ranked in the top Courtyards in the world in RevPAR (revenue per available room).

Prior to joining the Courtyard, Thomas was the Assistant General Manager of the 532-room Holiday Inn Capitol. While serving in this capacity, Thomas played an instrumental role in the hotel ranking in the top ten Holiday Inns worldwide in RevPAR, achieving multiple brand Quality Excellence awards. Upon being promoted to the position of F&B Director at this hotel at the age of 25 years old, Thomas was at the time the youngest and only African-American member of InterContinental Hotel's Group Food and Beverage Council with responsibility for establishing and evaluating food and beverage standards for Holiday Inns worldwide. After having started in the hotel industry at the age of 17 years old and having assumed many leadership positions in full and select service hotels, Thomas believes that you learn the next job shortly after mastering the one you have. Thomas is presently one of the 5 African-American hotel General Managers out of 143 hotels in the Washington, DC. Through his experience of starting as a dishwasher in the hotel industry, Thomas travels the city and region sharing the rich and diverse growth opportunities that exist within the hospitality industry. His message is simple, "If

he can, you can.” Thomas spends endless hours speaking to District, Maryland and Virginia residents at various community-based organizations, schools, universities, community and faith-based meetings.

Over the past 24 years, Thomas has worked to support District residents getting jobs in the hospitality industry through direct and indirect partnerships with Greater Washington Urban League, CSOSA, DOES, UDC-Community College, UDC, Trinity University, Potomac Job Corps, Goodwill of Greater Washington, So Others May Eat (SOME) and DC Central Kitchen. Thomas is presently a member of the Mayor’s Workforce Investment Council (WIC).

In January of 2014, Thomas became the 2nd African-American to ever serve as Chair of the Board of the Hotel Association of Washington, DC and the first to ever Chair the Board, while in their 30s. He is the Co-Chair of DC NAF Hospitality Executive Advisory Board—a body of hospitality executives charged with exposing high school students to the hospitality business from operations to ownership. Presently, Thomas works with the leadership at the DCPS Central Office and schools in support of NAF Hospitality Academies at Ballou HS, Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC), Wilson HS and Maya Angelou Public Charter High School. In addition, Thomas was a founding board member of Hospitality High School, where he served for 17 years prior to the students transitioning to the DC NAF Hospitality Academies.

Thomas serves on the DC Public Education Fund Board where the Board is working to raise funds to support the innovative and transformational work of DC Public Schools. Thomas is a member of the Raise DC Council and DC-CAN, a group of government, non-profit and business leaders working to ensure education gains continue through multiple administrations. Thomas served on the District’s city-wide Task Force on High School Credit Flexibility. The principal objective of the task force was to develop recommendations for flexibility in awarding of high school credit. In addition, Thomas serves on the Board of Downtown Business Improvement District, an organization charged with ensuring the downtown corridor is clean and inviting to those who live, work, shop, stay and visit.

Thomas has been the recipient of numerous awards. Some include the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH) Howard University Chapter’s (2008) Legacy of Achievement Award, (2009) The Network Journal’s Top 40 Under Forty Award, (2010) Washington Business Journal’s Minority Business Leader Award, (2010) 100 Black Men of Greater Washington’s Legacy Award for Mentoring, (2011) Visitors Service Center’s Charles A. Horsky Civic Leadership Award, (2014) Courtyard Marriott National Academy Foundation Partnership Award (2015) Court Services Office of Supervision (CSOSA) Making a Difference Award, (2016) DC Morehouse Alumni Chapter’s E.B. Williams Excellence in Business Award, (2016) American Hotel and Lodging Association Education Institute’s “Lamp of Knowledge Award” for Outstanding Workforce Partner and (2016) National Academy Foundation (NAF) Advisory Board Champion Award.

Thomas graduated with a degree in Business from the University of Maryland College Park and is the proud father of two beautiful children. Thomas is a voracious reader of history and

leadership books and is presently working on finishing his own book titled, “Hope, Help and Hospitality”, chronicling his life story and experiences within the hotel industry.

### **Victor Reinoso**

Victor Reinoso is an entrepreneur with 15+ years of experience building and transforming private and public sector organizations. His experience includes politics, business, education, technology, and civil rights advocacy. Founder of Hopscotch Ventures, Victor is a mission driven investor, advisor & manager with a diverse portfolio of technology, real estate, and community development projects.

Previously, Victor was Senior Advisor on Innovation to the President of Georgetown University and an elected member of the DC Board of Education. As Deputy Mayor of the District of Columbia (2007-2011), he oversaw the city’s education agencies and a \$1+ billion operating budget. Before public service, Victor was COO of the Federal City Council, founder of RadioFutura (an early streaming media company), and a consultant to leading brands including AOL, PBS & Verizon. Victor is a member of the Aspen Global Leaders Network and serves as a Trustee of the District of Columbia Public Library. He is a graduate of Georgetown University and MIT. Victor lives in Ward 4 and is a DCPS parent. The son of Peruvian immigrants, Victor grew up in a Spanish-only household.

### **Maria Tukeva**

Maria Tukeva founded Columbia Heights Education Campus (formerly Bell Multicultural High School and Lincoln Middle School) thirty years ago as an alternative school. She recognized that children who were learning English faced academic challenges that put them at a disadvantage. Nonetheless, she set high expectations for her students and continues to push her students to reach their academic goals. Principal Tukeva was the 2011 DCPS Principal of the Year.

### **Wayan Vota**

Wayan Vota is a digital development entrepreneur. He is on the forefront of utilizing new and emerging technologies to magnify the intent of communities to accelerate their social and economic development.

Wayan is the Senior Mobile Advisor at TechLab, the technology innovation team at FHI 360. He is the co-founder of ICTworks, Technology Salon, Fail Festival, MERL Tech, JadedAid, ICT4Djobs, ICT4Drinks, Kurante, OLPC News, EduTech Debate, and a few other things. He is also an adjunct professor at John Hopkins SAIS, a Technology Museum Laureate, Global Social Business Incubator Alumni, DevEx International Development Leader and on the advisory board of Souktel Digital Solutions and the organizing committee for Beyond Access.

In his 20+ years of international experience, Wayan was senior staff at Development Gateway, Inveneo, Mercy Corps, IESC Geekcorps, and consulted with Cisco Systems, Hewlett-Packard, PricewaterhouseCoopers, USAID, UNICEF, the World Bank, the Government of Jordan, and was a board member of VSO International.

Wayan has addressed the Clinton Global Initiative, the International Telecommunications Union, the the World Summit on Information Society, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and the Government of Queensland on sustainable technology deployment methodologies.