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## 2021-2022 Board of Directors

**Neil Gupta, Board President:** Gupta serves as director of secondary education for Worthington Schools in Columbus, Ohio. He has a passion for leadership, coaching, and working with teams on collaborative leadership to foster learning communities focused on the whole child. Gupta holds a bachelor's degree from Miami University, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Ashland University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Ashland University.

**Avis Williams, Board Vice President:** Williams is the superintendent of Selma City Schools in Selma, Alabama. Her areas of expertise include educating children in poverty, culture transformation, strategic planning, instructional leadership and providing educational equity. She holds a bachelor's degree from Athens State University, masters degrees from Alabama A&M and Jacksonville State universities, and education specialist and doctoral degrees from the University of Alabama.

**Karen Baptiste:** Karen Baptiste is an international executive coach consultant to state, district, and school leaders with a focus on on school turnaround, anti-racist practices, and empowering mindset practices. Baptiste is passionate about special education, prison reform, eradicating the school-to-prison pipeline, and education policy. She is also the founder and director of Pre-school to Prison, LLC and is currently directing her first documentary on the preschool-to-prison pipeline.

**Patrice Dawkins-Jackson:** Dawkins-Jackson is an associate in networked improvement science and joined the Carnegie Foundation in 2017 as a networked improvement fellow. She has worked as an educator in Georgia at Fulton County Schools and at Sandy Springs Charter Middle School. She also served two terms as a U.S. Department of Education Classroom Teaching Ambassador Fellow, where she worked on recruitment and support of teachers of color. She holds a certified associate's degree in project management and bachelor's and master's degrees in early childhood education from the University of Central Florida.

**Bart Epstein:** Epstein is the chief executive of the nonprofit EdTech Evidence Exchange and a research associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Education. He currently leads the Edtech Genome Project, which is working to discover and quantify which “edtech implementation variables” are most important to student achievement. Epstein holds a bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton and a juris doctorate from the University of Virginia.

**Sandy Husk:** Husk is the chief executive officer of AVID Center, a California-based nonprofit focused on closing opportunity gaps and preparing all students for college and careers. Prior to AVID Center, she spent 17 years as an educator, serving as a teacher, counselor, principal, senior district administrator, and superintendent for Salem-Keizer Public Schools in Oregon and Mapleton Public Schools in Colorado. Husk holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Georgia, Athens and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Colorado Boulder.

**Christopher Koch:** Koch is the president of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, leading efforts to advance equity and excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning. His career in education started as a special educator teaching across four states before moving to the U.S. Department of Education to administer its correctional education and school-to-work transition programs. Koch held a number of administrative roles for the Illinois Education Agency and served as the State Superintendent of Education for nearly ten years. Koch holds a bachelor’s degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and master’s and doctoral degrees from George Washington University.

**Phyllis Lockett:** Lockett is a serial social entrepreneur who has led transformative efforts in the education, government and civic arenas. She is the founder and CEO of LEAP Innovations, an organization headquartered in Chicago that connects innovation and education to transform how students learn. Before starting LEAP, Phyllis was the founding president and CEO of New Schools for Chicago, where she helped raise more than \$70 million to support opening 80 new public schools. She previously served as executive director of the Civic Consulting Alliance (CCA), helping to shape the Chicago Transit Authority’s \$2.8 billion capital improvement program and the Chicago Housing

Authority's 10-year, \$1.5 billion Plan for Transformation. Lockett holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Purdue University and a master's degree from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

**Matthew Mingle:** Mingle is the superintendent of the Warren Township School District in Warren, New Jersey; a part-time lecturer in the Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education department at the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education in New Brunswick, New Jersey; and a former president of New Jersey ASCD. Mingle credits his selection as an ASCD Emerging Leader in 2011 as a transformational moment for his career that gave him access to some of the leading thinkers in the national education landscape.

**Jeremy S. Owoh:** Owoh is the superintendent of the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District in Jacksonville, Arkansas. His 18-year career in education started as a high school English teacher, and he has served as a dean; assistant principal; principal; assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction, and desegregation; and assistant commissioner of educator effectiveness and licensure. Owoh holds a bachelor's degree in English education from the University of Central Arkansas at Conway; and a master's degree in secondary education, educational specialist degree in educational administration, and doctorate of education in educational administration and supervision from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Noris Price:** Price is the superintendent of Baldwin County School District in Milledgeville, Georgia. Under her leadership, the district has seen the high school graduation rate increase from 66 percent to 85 percent. Across her 30-year career as an educator, Price has served as an elementary school teacher, assistant principal, principal, associate superintendent, and deputy superintendent. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from Wilmington College, a master's degree in education from Lehman College of the City University of New York, a certificate in educational leadership from George Mason University in Virginia, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

**Aaron Thompson:** Thompson is the president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, working to ensure that Kentuckians equal opportunities to improve their lives through postsecondary education. Prior to taking the helm of the Council on Postsecondary Education, he served as the organization's executive vice president and provost; as the interim president of

Kentucky State University; and as a faculty member and administrator at Eastern Kentucky University. Thompson is a published author of books and articles focused on cultural competence, first-year experience programs, retention, and student success. He holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Kentucky.

**Charles Badu Yeboah:** Yeboah is the founder and managing director of International Community Schools, an independent chain of schools in Ghana. Yeboah has grown a school that started in his living room with seven kids to four campuses in Kumasi and Accra serving more than 1,600 students. He is the chairman of School Leaders Summit-Ghana and serves on the National Inspectorate Board, an agency of the Ministry of Education that oversees school inspection registrations and accreditations. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Abidjan, a master's degree from Trinity International University, and a doctoral degree from Loyola University Chicago.

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