



11th Annual DC Data Summit Presenter Profiles

Adam Dowell

**Athletics Data Systems Specialist
District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)**





Alexander Jue is a Policy Analyst at the DC State Board of Education (SBOE). Prior to joining the SBOE, Alexander served as the Director of Policy & Research at a DC-based education advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure that all students regardless of background have access to a high-quality education. In that role, he was charged with providing strategic advice to the organization's state-based teams as well as overseeing the production and creation of reports, memos, and one-pagers on a variety of education-based policies and topics. Alexander's previous work also includes time as a strategic researcher with one of the nation's largest labor unions, where he worked on eliminating inequities in the nation's healthcare system.

Alexander spends much of his free time mentoring students in DC Public Schools—he is currently a mentor with two DC-based non-profit programs that work one-on-one with low-income, underserved students to support them in both academic and social environments. Alexander is committed to ensuring every student and family in Washington, DC has equitable access to education resources and opportunities.

Born and raised in Cleveland, OH, Alexander has lived in Washington, DC since 2011. He currently lives in Ward 3 with his wife. Alexander holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and French from The College of Wooster.





Alexis Brown is the Director of Finance and Operations at Digital Pioneers Academy. She has a passion for education and opportunity equity, particularly in STEM. Alexis studied engineering in college, and is dedicated to increasing opportunities for young people of color to pursue and excel in STEM fields. Alexis' professional career began in Chicago as a founding charter middle school teacher with the LEARN Charter Network. Alexis then taught at NOBLE's Gary Comer Middle School. Moving back to the DMV, she taught at Glasgow Middle School in Fairfax, VA and served as a program manager of Ascend, a college persistence and career readiness program with Management Leadership for Tomorrow. Alexis has a B.S. in Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.





Ali Turro is the executive director of the ANet District of Columbia and Maryland networks. She and her team work alongside teachers and leaders at more than 200 schools across DC and Baltimore. Ali began her career in education as a bilingual teacher in Brownsville, Texas. Since then, she has served for more than a decade as a teacher, school leader, and leadership coach with ANet in district and charter school settings. Ali is a lifelong learner who is passionate about helping educators maximize their strengths and who believes that all children deserve the right to a high quality education.



Keina Newell





Andy Switzer

Department of Commerce





Aryan Bocquet has led partnership and engagement efforts with My School DC since its launch in 2013, developing and implementing targeted citywide outreach strategies, coordinating hundreds of community, government and LEA partners, and managing My School DC's communications vendors. She also spearheads EdFEST – the city's annual public school fair serving 7,000 attendees; steers the My School DC Parent Advisory Council – a voluntary parent policy council with representatives from each ward of the city; and manages the content for My School DC's website, social media accounts, and information campaigns. Prior to My School DC, Aryan worked at the DC Office of Human Rights, the Humanity United foundation and Digital Promise. Aryan holds a MPA in Policy Analysis and Evaluation from The George Washington University and a dual Bachelors Degree in Government and Politics and Communications from the University of Maryland at College Park.



Barrie Moorman

Alumni College Success Counselor at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School





Charlie Coglianese is the Founder & CEO of Schoolrunner, a Denver-based K-12 EdTech startup that helps teachers help kids using data. He formerly created similar solutions for hedge funds and other financial institutions in New York City. Charlie is focused on enabling professionals to make better decisions by presenting them the right information at the right time.





Chelsea Coffin joined the D.C. Policy Center in September 2017 as the Director of the Education Policy Initiative. She has over ten years' experience in early, K-12, and higher education at government agencies, foundations, non-profits, multi-lateral institutions, and schools.

Most recently, Chelsea supported planning for D.C.'s public charter sector with analyses of supply, demand, and other critical topics at the D.C. Public Charter School Board. She has also produced education case studies, evaluations, research, and monitoring tools for the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, and Educate! in Uganda. Chelsea began her career in education as a secondary school teacher with the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

Chelsea holds a Bachelor of Arts from Middlebury College and a Master of Arts from Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) in International Economics and Development.





Christie Joesbury

Data Support Specialist

Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School





Dan Wick currently serves as a Student Performance Specialist on the EdOps Data team and leads the Product and Tech team's efforts to create more efficient reporting for our school clients. He also works directly with school leaders to help them better utilize EdOps reports to improve student achievement. Prior to joining EdOps, Dan completed a Strategic Data Project Fellowship with New Haven Public Schools and the Connecticut RISE Network where he focused on building early warning systems to identify at-risk students. He holds an MPA from Princeton University and a B.A. from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN.



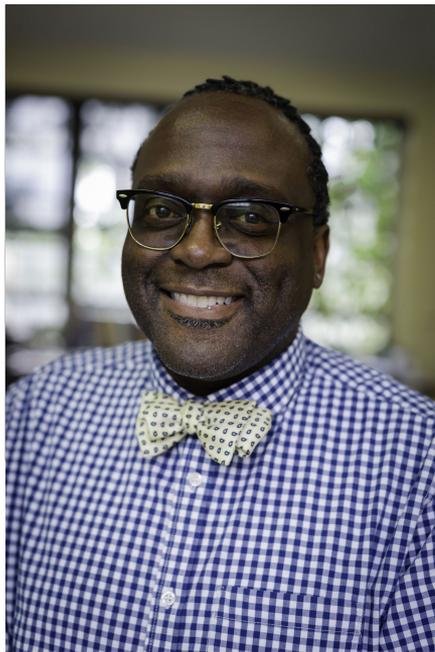


Darren Fleischer is a Policy Analyst at the DC State Board of Education (SBOE). Before moving to Washington DC. in 2015, Darren spent nearly 10 years teaching middle and high school students in Japan, Ghana, as well as Florida, his home state. As a Floridian, Darren enjoyed beekeeping, scuba diving, and running an after-school cooking club with his middle school students.

Now in Washington, DC., Darren is raising a two-year-old toddler and a three-year-old-dissertation on Education Support Professionals (e.g., bus drivers, food service workers, custodians, etc.) and how important they are to school climate, student engagement, and their experiences acting as caring adults and mentors to our community's students. Darren previously served as a Legislative Fellow for a Florida Congressman, as well as an education policy intern at both the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the National Education Association (NEA). His passion is to ensure that every student receives a world-class education and parents feel that they are part of the school and their child's learning and development.

Darren holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in science education from Florida State University and is currently working on his Ed.D. in education policy at George Washington University.





Dwayne Smith is the Info. Systems Specialist at the Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School. He is a creative and solutions-oriented data analytics and evaluation professional who is adept at designing actionable data reports and tools, creating surveys, building data literacy, developing thorough program evaluations, and providing exceptional client professional development and analytical and logistical support. He loves bike riding, sports video games, cooking, and taking photos of clouds.





Jeff Heyck-Williams is a founder and director of curriculum and instruction at Two Rivers Public Charter School in Washington, DC where he has worked since 2004.

At Two Rivers, he has helped to develop an inclusive, dynamic learning community that is dedicated to providing students more than basic skills and knowledge. Specifically, Jeff has helped lead the school's emphasis on a broader definition of student success. In addition to the traditional core content and basic skills, this definition includes critical thinking & problem solving skills, collaboration & communication skills, and development of character.

In addition to his work on these deeper learning outcomes, Jeff has led the schools' effort to build a culture of math through professional development with staff, sessions with parents, teaching algebra in the middle school, launching and maintaining the Mathematical Wizardry Prize, and leading citywide professional development on Learning and Loving Math.

Jeff lives in Arlington, Virginia with his wife and two kids.





Jenna Umansky is the founder of the Umansky Education Group. With more than 22 years' experience in DC area schools and abroad, Jenna Umansky works successfully with students, families, teachers and administrators.

Jenna began her career as a teacher and behavior support specialist at schools serving students with intellectual disabilities and Autism. She then moved to administration, working with teachers and staff to support neurodiverse learners.

In her roles as an educator and administrator, Jenna has worked with students ages 3-22 with disabilities ranging from ADHD to Specific Learning Disabilities to Emotional Disorders. Her vast experience has allowed Jenna to become an expert in special education processes and procedures, IEPs (Individual Education Plans), inclusion models, and special education teaching methods. In the course of her career Jenna has led or attended more than 500 IEP meetings.

Through these meetings she has learned that collaboration by adults is the key to success for students.



Jennifer Carpenter currently serves the District of Columbia through her work at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education. In her role as a special education training specialist, Jennifer provides professional development for special education school leader and teachers in order to improve special education programming and instruction across the District. Over the course of her career, Jennifer has served students with disabilities – and those without – at every stage, from preschool through college.

Jennifer enjoys spending time outdoors with her family, binge reading long-form news articles, and traveling to new places.





Jill Kahane is the Manager of Reporting and Data Science at DeansList, where she partners with school leaders to design and build reports and data tools. Before joining the DeansList team, she spent six years at UP Education Network in Massachusetts, first as a founding data and operations manager at UP Academy Boston and then as the network's data analyst. Prior to that, she lived in and worked at a high school in Boston as a member of the Match Corps.





Katrina Gagliano is the Instructional Quality Program Coordinator at AppleTree Institute. As a member of the Research & Impact team, Katrina supports the Institute's current research initiatives in early childhood assessment, social-emotional development, and equity in early childhood education. Katrina holds a Master's degree in Developmental Psychology from George Mason University and has been working in the early childhood education field for 10 years.





Kelley Scholl started in the Office of Research, Analysis, and Reporting at OSSE in 2015 as an Education Pioneer. Over the past five years, she has grown her technical skills and understanding of DC's unique education landscape, with the goal of effectively analyzing and communicating data in order to serve the students of the District of Columbia. Currently she manages a mighty team of four analysts that support the work of the Division of Systems and Support, K12 and the Division of Teaching and Learning.

Over the past 18 months she has worked alongside Jennifer Carpenter and others at OSSE on the Students with Disabilities Working Group, whose work culminated with the Students with Disabilities Landscape Analysis and commitments from OSSE to make good on their strategic plan goal to accelerate the improvement of outcomes for Students with Disabilities across the District of Columbia.

Kelley holds a BA in Biology and Sociology from the University of Delaware and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan. She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who had the honor of serving in Guatemala.





Kendra Johnson-Tesch is a data analyst at The SEED Foundation. Her work includes data analysis, assessment management, data visualization, and training. She is passionate about using data to understand and improve educational outcomes and equity. Kendra earned her master's degree in education policy and management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and received her bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College, where she studied mathematics, statistics, and management. In her spare time, Kendra enjoys traveling, biking, doing puzzles, and trying new foods.





Kenli Okada is a Partner at EmpowerK12. Before joining EmpowerK12, Kenli led the data team at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, an award-winning school serving just under 1,200 students in Washington, DC. Through his tenure at E.L. Haynes, he worked in a range of functions, including operations, enrollment, strategy, performance management, and accountability, and he utilizes his broad understanding of school dynamics to focus on the key data needed to improve both instructional and operational practice. Kenli's main interest is in helping schools develop systems to fully understand how they are progressing against their goals - not just their assessment goals, but also their more nuanced goals such as culture, family engagement, and equity. He believes that developing an objective, complete picture of a school's performance is the first step to helping leaders take the highest impact actions.

Outside of the data world, Kenli manages a running club for Kenyan high school students and enjoys watching American Ninja Warrior with his two daughters.





Lara Burt is the Academic Coordinator at AppleTree Early Learning PCS. In this role, Lara supports with qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis to measure program effectiveness, guide resources and improve practices. She also supports with programming and events at AppleTree. Prior to coming to AppleTree in 2017, Lara earned her Master's in Social Work at the University of Chicago where she focused on community-based treatment of youth and family support efforts, as well as on program evaluation.





Laura Lund currently leads our team of data specialists in the Washington, DC region. She joined EdOps in 2017 as a Data Specialist, with a focus on providing actionable data analytics to schools. Prior to EdOps, she worked as Evaluation Manager at Teaching Trust in Dallas, TX, where she examined the quality and effectiveness of leadership development programs. She has also worked with the Achievement Network and MATCH Public Charter School in Boston, MA. Laura has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in Psychology.





Marisa Tersy is the Educational Improvement Specialist and facilitator of Educator Continuous Improvement Networks for EmpowerK12. Her passion for urban education began during her time at Georgetown University and continued as she pursued her Master's in Education Policy and Management at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Prior to joining EmpowerK12, Marisa spent 5 years as an early childhood teacher with KIPP DC, teaching both PreK-4 and Kindergarten. While at KIPP, she also spent time coaching and mentoring first-year teachers, led her school's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee, and became a CLASS certified observer. Marisa is passionate about supporting teachers in using data to inform their practice in order to improve outcomes for their students, and thinking broadly about how to solve the most pressing issues in urban education.





Marlene Tempchin is the Director of School Success at DeansList. Marlene is dedicated to improving outcomes for all students. After college, she joined Teach for America as a New York City corps member and spent two years teaching high school special education in the Bronx. Marlene joined the DeansList team in 2014. She loves getting to spend her work days making the jobs of educators easier.





Michelle Yan is the director of data and strategy for My School DC, the common application and lottery for over 200 public schools and public charter schools in the District of Columbia. She is responsible for executing the annual lottery, analyzing data trends and policy implications, and evaluating strategic programmatic initiatives. Prior to joining The Broad Residency, Michelle was a consultant with Bain & Company, where she worked with clients across the private and social sectors to develop strategic growth plans and improve organizational effectiveness. She started her career as a middle school math teacher in St. Louis through Teach For America. Michelle graduated from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and from the University of Missouri – St. Louis with a master's degree in secondary education.





Po-yee Pang is the **Data and Assessments Manager** at **DC International School**. Po-yee supports the school's work through assessment coordination, and in data collection and analysis for various stakeholders of the school. Prior to her role at DCI, she taught middle school mathematics in DC, finding great value in using data to inform and better instructional practices. Po-yee earned a bachelor's degree from **The Ohio State University** and a **Masters in Public Administration** from **American University**, focusing on education policy, specifically on secondary education equity and access.





Roseanna Silva has worked in education in the district for nearly a decade. She is currently an instructional coach at the AppleTree Public Charter School Oklahoma Ave. campus. Before she began coaching, she taught preschool, PreK, Kindergarten and second grade. She also tutors older elementary students in literacy and math. Graduating from the University of Delaware with a double major in English in Psychology, she worked in the world of public affairs for a few years before finding her passion in education. She earned her Masters of Science in Educational Studies from Johns Hopkins in 2017 with a Certificate in Leadership for School, Family and Community Engagement. As a coach, she believes the whole-child approach is critical to ensure student success and that teachers must also be nourished and surrounded with academic, emotional, and social support to provide high-quality education.





Sanjay Mitchell is the Director of College & Alumni Programming at Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School. He works to ensure that 100% of his seniors are accepted into college, 98% of them complete the FAFSA application, and 90% enroll in college immediately after high school. Thurgood Marshall Academy also boasts a more than 60% college retention and graduate rate among alumni.

Mitchell has worked in the college admission and counseling profession for more than 10 years, beginning his career at the University at Albany (SUNY), where he served as the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions. He has also presented and served on several committees with the New York State Associate of College Admissions Counseling (NYSACAC), the National Association of College Admissions Counseling (NACAC), the National College Access Network (NCAN), and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS).

Mitchell earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Albany.





Sarah Sandelius is the founder of The Ability Challenge (ABC), a non-profit organization transforming how schools serve students with diverse learning needs by building a reliable and trusted framework, metrics, and tools to support meaningful and personalized school improvement. Sarah also works as a consultant and trusted advisor to education-focused organizations through FlipTurn Education Consulting, crafting policy and building effective systems achieving sustainable results on behalf of all students. Starting her career practicing education law and litigation, Sarah has also spent time working in policy and operational roles for the New York City Department of Education and Teach For America.



Shalanda Holmes Lobban

**National Charter School Executive Account Manager
NWEA**





Simone Wright recently completed her first year as an Educational Leadership Doctoral Candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Before coming to HGSE, Simone served as Director of Academics for one of the lowest-performing campuses within a high performing charter, YES Prep Public Schools. With a focus on leader and teacher development, she was able to lead the campus to increase the campus statewide accountability rating from a D to a B within 18 months. Before coming to YES Prep as a Dean of Instruction, Simone served for five years in Houston Independent School District. She first came to HISD as a Teach for America Corps member in one of the nine lowest-performing schools that were a part of a turnaround pilot by the name of Apollo 20 as a high school Chemistry teacher. Simone would remain at the campus for five years and eventually coach and lead the science team. Simone is excited to expand her thinking around Education Reform as a Policy Fellow; she believes that this experience will contribute significantly to how she leads for change as an aspiration Education systems leader.

