



## **Broad Symposium Presenters**

**September 19, 2005**

### **Arlene Ackerman, Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District**

Dr. Arlene Ackerman was appointed superintendent of San Francisco Unified School District in 2000. Prior to her appointment, Ackerman served as the superintendent of District of Columbia Public Schools. She has more than 36 years of experience in public education as a teacher, principal, director of intervention services, assistant superintendent, and deputy superintendent. Ackerman received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Harris Stowe Teachers College and master's degrees in education from Washington University and Harvard University. At Harvard, she also completed the Urban Superintendents program and a doctorate in education.

### **Wanda Bamberg, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Aldine Independent School District**

Dr. Wanda Bamberg has worked in the Aldine Independent School District for nearly 20 years. Bamberg began her education career in 1977 as an English teacher. In 1987, she became the middle school language arts program director and in 1998 was promoted to executive director of curriculum and instruction. She assumed her current role as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction in 2001. Bamberg holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education from the University of Alabama. She also earned supervision and mid-management certifications and a doctorate in educational leadership from Sam Houston State University.

### **Melinda J. Boone, Chief Academic Officer, Norfolk Public Schools**

Dr. Melinda J. Boone is chief academic officer of Norfolk Public Schools. Previously, she was an executive director of elementary schools for the district, where she was responsible for general supervision and leadership and capacity development for 18 of the district's 35 elementary school principals. Boone initially pursued a career in clinical speech pathology and audiology, but after five years as a speech and language pathologist for the Suffolk Public Schools in Virginia, she was appointed director of special education and pupil services for Franklin City Public Schools in Virginia. Nearly seven years later, Boone returned to Suffolk Public Schools as coordinator of pupil personnel and testing, a position she held for two years until being appointed assistant superintendent for educational services with the Isle of Wight County Public Schools in Virginia. Boone holds a bachelor's degree in communication disorders from Hampton Institute (now University), a master's degree in audiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a doctorate in education from the College of William and Mary. Boone graduated from The Broad Superintendents Academy in 2003.

### **Chris Coxon, Deputy Superintendent, Boston Public Schools**

Chris Coxon is the deputy superintendent for teaching and learning for Boston Public Schools. He previously served as one of three instructional leaders for the district. Coxon came to Boston in 2001 after serving as Superintendent Tom Payzant's intern from Harvard University's Urban Superintendents Program. Before coming to Boston, Coxon worked as an elementary school principal at the Antilles Consolidated School System (ACSS) in Puerto Rico, a Department of Defense Education Activity school system. He also was the director for school improvement. Coxon has served in a variety of elementary teaching positions within ACSS and the Dallas Independent School District, where he started his teaching career. Coxon serves on the Technical Working Group of the Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement and is the chair of the Academic Division Advisory Council of the College Board's New England Region. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas and master's degrees in educational administration from the University of Phoenix and Harvard University. Coxon expects to complete his doctorate in educational administration, planning and social policy at Harvard University in June 2007.

**Tim DeRoche, Consultant, The Broad Foundation**

Tim DeRoche is an independent consultant whose clients have included The Broad Foundation, the World Bank, the National Center for Educational Accountability, and Los Angeles Unified School District. From 1999 to 2001, DeRoche served as executive producer of "Grandpa's Garage," a multimillion-dollar educational science series produced by Turner Learning and used as one component of a science curriculum for third- and fourth-graders. He previously held positions including director of strategic planning for Knowledge Learning Corporation, the fourth-largest child care company in the United States, and investment analyst for Knowledge Universe, the billion-dollar education company founded by Mike Milken and Larry Ellison. DeRoche has written on school finance and education reform for *Education Week*, the *School Administrator* and the *Washington Post*. He has a bachelor's degree in English literature from Pomona College.

**Chrys Dougherty, Director of Research, National Center for Educational Accountability**

Dr. Chrys Dougherty is director of research for the National Center for Educational Accountability. He authored *Asking the Right Questions about Schools: A Parents' Guide* and has written extensively on the value of longitudinal student data and the nine essential elements of statewide student information systems. Dougherty has been an elementary school science teacher in Oakland, Calif. and has taught statistics, economics, econometrics and education policy courses at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. He has a bachelor's degree from Antioch College, a master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs and a doctorate in economics from Harvard University.

**Carmen Fariña, Deputy Chancellor for Teaching & Learning, New York City Department of Education**

Carmen Fariña has been deputy chancellor for teaching and learning since March 2004. She began her career in education at the New York City Department of Education as a classroom teacher in Brooklyn 40 years ago. After 22 years as a teacher, she moved on to several administrative positions including curriculum coordinator, principal and regional superintendent. She has a bachelor's degree in education from New York University, a master's degree in bilingual education from Brooklyn College and a master's degree in educational administration from Pace University.

**Cecil Hutson, Principal, Aldine Senior High School, Aldine Independent School District**

Cecil Hutson is principal of Aldine Senior High School. He has been with the Aldine Independent School District for 20 years in positions including a high school teacher and coach and assistant principal. He began his career in education in 1976 teaching seventh and eighth grade science in Magnolia, Ark. before moving to Spring, Texas, where he taught physical science. Hutson holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Arkansas University and a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University.

**Stephen C. Jones, Superintendent, Norfolk Public Schools**

Dr. Stephen C. Jones was appointed superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools in July 2005. Previously, Jones was superintendent of the Syracuse City School District in New York, a position he held since 1999. Before his appointment to Syracuse City Schools, Jones was the executive director of Community of Caring. He worked in Baltimore County Public Schools for a number of years in positions including area and associate superintendent, coordinator of the office of minority education, middle school principal and high school assistant principal. Jones began his career in 1970 as a social studies teacher. He has a bachelor's degree in history, a master's degree in educational administration and supervision and a doctorate in urban educational leadership, all from Morgan State University in Baltimore.

**Dan Katzir, Managing Director, The Broad Foundation**

Dan Katzir has worked with numerous school districts, universities, corporations and community organizations to improve leadership in urban K-12 schools. He has been with The Broad Foundation since its formation in 1999. Previously, Katzir was executive director of the UCLA School Management Program, a university-based nonprofit school leadership initiative run jointly by UCLA's School of Education and School of Management, was the founding Los Angeles regional director for Sylvan Learning Systems, and was the chief operating officer of Teach For America. Katzir also was a consultant with Bain & Company, an international management consulting firm that assists Fortune 500 companies with business strategy and operational performance. Katzir received his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a master's in business administration from Harvard Business School.

**Joel I. Klein, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education**

Joel I. Klein was appointed chancellor of the newly reorganized New York City Department of Education in July 2002 by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. Prior to his appointment, Klein served as chairman and chief executive officer of Bertelsmann, Inc. and as assistant attorney general in charge of the U.S. Department of Justice's antitrust division. Klein is a product of the New York City public school system. He earned a bachelor's degree at Columbia University and a juris doctorate from Harvard Law School. During a brief leave of absence from law school, Klein also studied at New York University's School of Education and taught math to sixth grade students in Queens.

**Laura Kotch, Executive Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, New York City Department of Education**

Laura Kotch is executive director of curriculum and professional development for the New York City Department of Education and has been an educator for more than 35 years, serving as a teacher, staff developer, director of education initiatives, and deputy superintendent. Kotch is the co-author of the *Studies Handbook* published by Scholastic professional books. She has a bachelor's degree from Hofstra University in Hempsted, NY, a master's degree in urban education from New York University and a master's degree in supervision from Bank Street College of Education in New York.

**Nadine Kujawa, Superintendent, Aldine Independent School District**

Nadine Kujawa is superintendent of Aldine Independent School District. Prior to her appointment as superintendent, Kujawa served as deputy superintendent of human resources and instruction. A graduate of Aldine High School, Kujawa has worked in the district for 40 years in numerous roles including teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and deputy superintendent. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Sam Houston State University and a master's degree from the University of Houston.

**Jacqueline Lain, Director, Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services**

Jackie Lain has overseen the public affairs efforts for Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services since 2001. Prior to joining Standard & Poor's, Lain was a White House Fellow in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, where she served as the liaison to state and local elected officials on education issues. After her fellowship, Lain joined the White House Fellows program staff in a dual capacity as director of public relations and interim director. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., she represented Texas school districts on legal and legislative matters. She also edited a monthly legal journal for Texas school administrators and school board members. Lain earned a bachelor's degree and juris doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Cathy J. Lassiter, Senior Director, Leadership & Capacity Development, Norfolk Public Schools**

Dr. Cathy J. Lassiter serves as senior director of leadership & capacity development for Norfolk Public Schools, where she is responsible for instruction, curriculum and staff development. Lassiter is also an adjunct professor at George Washington University, where she teaches master's level courses in educational leadership. She previously served as a principal, assistant principal and teacher in Norfolk Public Schools. Lassiter holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Old Dominion University and a doctorate in education from George Washington University.

**Jay Mathews, Education Columnist, Washington Post**

Jay Mathews has been an education reporter and online columnist with the *Washington Post* for 34 years. He has reported from China and California, and covered the stock market in New York. Mathews has written books about China, disability rights, Los Angeles math teacher Jaime Escalante, and the lack of challenge in most American high schools. His rating system for U.S. high schools, the Challenge Index, has been cited in hundreds of newspapers and has appeared four times in *Newsweek*, the latest in the May 16 *Newsweek* cover story. Mathews' most recent book, *Supertest: How the International Baccalaureate Can Strengthen Our Schools*, co-authored with Ian Hill, describes the International Baccalaureate program's success in transforming ordinary schools, particularly Mount Vernon High in Fairfax County. He is working on another book on the unusual achievements of the KIPP schools in low-income neighborhoods throughout the country. Mathews won the Education Writers Association National Education Reporting Award for a series on retraining auto workers and the Benjamin Fine Award for Outstanding Education Reporting for his articles on standardized testing. A native of California, Mathews attended Occidental and Harvard Colleges and served with the United States Army in Vietnam. Mathews has a bachelor's degree in education from Harvard College and a master's degree in East Asian studies from Harvard University.

**Thomas W. Payzant, Superintendent, Boston Public Schools**

Thomas Payzant was appointed superintendent of Boston Public Schools in August 1995. He previously served as President Clinton's Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, where he worked closely with the administration to enact passage of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, the Safe Schools Act and the School-to-Work Opportunities Act. Previously, Payzant served as the superintendent of Eugene Public Schools in Oregon from 1973 to 1978, Oklahoma City Public Schools from 1979 to 1982 and the San Diego Unified School District from 1982 to 1993. In 1992, Payzant was awarded the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education, and in 1999 the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents named him Massachusetts Superintendent of the Year. Payzant received a bachelor's degree in American history and literature from Williams College and master's degree in teaching and a doctorate in education from Harvard University. He holds honorary doctorate degrees from Williams College, Claremont Graduate University and Lesley College.

**Linda Rodriguez, Area Superintendent, Aldine Independent School District**

Dr. Linda Rodriguez has 21 years of experience in the field of education and has spent 19 of those years in Aldine. She was named area superintendent for the Aldine High vertical area in June of 2005 after serving as principal at Keeble EC/Pre-K Center. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Texas-Pan American, her master's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University and her doctorate degree in educational leadership from Sam Houston State University in 2002. She is certified as a mid-management administrator.

**Jean Rutherford, Director of Educational Initiatives, National Center for Educational Accountability**

Dr. Jean Rutherford is the director of educational initiatives for the National Center for Educational Accountability. In this position she has provided national leadership in research on educational best practices and worked with the U.S. Department of Education to provide the Title I series for the No Child Left Behind legislation. Prior to joining NCEA, Rutherford served as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for Highland Park Independent School District in Dallas, where she designed and implemented a full curriculum management system. Rutherford has also served as principal at secondary schools in Illinois and Texas, directed special education and guidance services, and taught at the middle and high school levels. She received a bachelor's degree from Millikin University, a master's degree from Northern Illinois University, an Administrative Certificate from Illinois State University, and a doctorate in education from Northern Illinois University.

**Abelardo Saavedra, Superintendent, Houston Independent School District**

Dr. Abelardo Saavedra was named superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, the nation's eighth-largest district, in December 2004. Prior to his appointment as superintendent, Saavedra served as executive deputy superintendent and as a regional district superintendent for Houston's Southeast District. He previously served as superintendent of Corpus Christi schools, where his district received state and national recognition for its "Real World Academic Standards" in all grade levels. A native of Corpus Christi, Saavedra has also served as a public school teacher, adjunct professor at Texas A&M University, assistant principal, principal, director of secondary school management, assistant superintendent for school management, assistant superintendent for general education and associate superintendent for business support services. Saavedra holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in educational administration from Texas A&I University and a doctorate in school administration from the University of Michigan. He graduated from The Broad Superintendents Academy in 2002.

**Denise K. Schnitzer, Former Interim Superintendent, Norfolk Public Schools**

Dr. Denise K. Schnitzer was interim superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools from July 2004 through July 2005. Prior to her appointment as superintendent, Schnitzer had served as chief of staff and chief operating officer under Superintendent John O. Simpson. Schnitzer has more than 30 years' experience as a teacher and administrator in Virginia public schools. She taught language arts at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. As an administrator, she wrote curricula and planned and led professional development sessions for elementary teachers, secondary teachers, principals, parents, and community persons. She has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., a master's degree in reading education from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. and a doctorate in education leadership from Vanderbilt University.

**Laura Schwalm, Superintendent, Garden Grove Unified School District**

Dr. Laura Schwalm was appointed superintendent of the Garden Grove Unified School District in 1999. Schwalm joined the district's administrative ranks in 1979 as an elementary instructional specialist. She later served as principal of Bryant Elementary School, assistant principal of Garden Grove High School, director of K-12 educational services, director of employee relations, director of administrative services, and assistant superintendent of personnel. Schwalm holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Riverside, a master's degree from California State University, Fullerton and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern California.

**Christopher J. Steinhauser, Superintendent, Long Beach Unified School District**

Christopher J. Steinhauser is the superintendent of Long Beach Unified School District. A product of the Long Beach Schools and 20-year veteran of the district, Steinhauser has earned a well-deserved national reputation for improving student achievement in Long Beach. He began his education career as a teacher at an inner-city elementary school in Long Beach and eventually became a principal. In 1999 he was appointed a deputy superintendent in the district, and he was unanimously appointed superintendent in 2002. During his tenure as deputy superintendent, students in all major racial and ethnic groups made unprecedented gains on rigorous state tests. Steinhauser attended Long Beach City College and California State University – Long Beach, earning a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies and a master’s degree in educational administration.

**Watson Wright, Principal, Stovall Middle School, Aldine Independent School District**

Watson Wright has been a middle school principal since 2002. He has been with the Aldine Independent School District since 1995 and worked in positions including assistant principal and principal. Wright began his education career in 1974 as an eighth grade social studies teacher and athletic coach in Brownville, Texas. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Tarleton State University and a master’s degree in education from Texas Southern University.