

## **Presenters/Facilitators**

### **Lenora Boehlert**

Dr. Boehlert has many years of experience in public education as a teacher, special education director, principal and assistant superintendent. Her most recent experience was in the central office in a large Westchester County school district for nine years. She received her doctorate from Vanderbilt University and has taught at the graduate level across the state for many years. She is currently a professor in the Educational Leadership program at Manhattanville College.

### **Peter Y.H. Chen**

Peter Y.H. Chen is the Director of the Centre for International Negotiations and Interpretations at National Taipei University, Taipei, Taiwan.

### **Ron Clamser**

Ron Clamser, Jr. is the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Human Resources at Mahopac Central School District. He received his BA from the University of Phoenix, his master's from SUNY Stonybrook, and his SDBL certification from the College of Saint Rose. He is currently pursuing his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at Manhattanville College. Ron is an active member of the New York State Association for School Business Officials where he serves on the Government Relations Committee and was a graduate of the SBO Leadership Academy.

### **Gloria Colucci**

Ms. Colucci completed nine years of successful service as the Superintendent of the Garrison Union Free School District prior to her retirement in January 2014. 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. She has also held a variety of administrative positions in White Plains Central School District and Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES. She began her educational career as an elementary and mathematics teacher. Throughout her administrative career, Gloria 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.

### **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.

### **Jonathan Costa**

Dr. Costa is currently the Director of School and Program Services for EDUCATION CONNECTION in Litchfield, Connecticut and a leading consultant in the field since 1990. Over the last 20 years, no individual has completed more strategic planning projects in the public school sector in the tri-state area than Jonathan. His more than three-dozen planning clients during that time period include public school districts from every demographic profile, private schools, non-profit 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 process that meets their needs and then facilitates it purposefully with a no-nonsense, pragmatic approach that balances engagement with practicality. Additional to his strategic planning experience, he is also intimately and actively involved in supporting key portions of the state of Connecticut's critical school reform agenda.

### **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.

### **Vincent DiGrande**

Mr. DiGrande holds a BA in Communications from Fordham University, a 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 Mahopac Middle School Principal, Vince 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.

### **Selena Fischer**

Dr. Fischer just 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 (NYCASE). 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.

**Joseph Fitzgerald** - serves as an Assistant Director for the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center. He has been with the LHRIC for 19 years serving the data and networking needs of school districts in his region and across the State. Most recently he has led the development of RIC One ([www.ricone.org](http://www.ricone.org)), a collaboration among all 12 RICs around data interoperability and privacy.

### **Julie Gherardi**

Ms. Gherardi has over 25 years of experience as an educator. She currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent for Learning in the Somers Central School District. She holds certification in elementary and special education as well as reading and graduated as a member of the first cohort of the Future School Administrators' Academy (now Future School Leaders Academy) – in partnership with Columbia University. She taught in the New York City and Mount Vernon Public School systems before coming to Somers in 1995 where she taught at Primrose Elementary School and served as a building administrator before moving into her current role. With a background and degree in Music Therapy from New York University, Julie is passionate about the arts and the social and emotional well-being of the students and adults she serves.

### **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.

### **Lois Gordon, Esq.**

Ms. Gordon is an attorney and the former Coordinator of Social Studies for the White Plains Public Schools. During her long career in education she has taught Criminal, Civil and International law. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at Manhattanville College where she teaches School Law in the Educational Leadership Department. A graduate of Pace University School of Law, she has combined her legal and educational backgrounds as a chief negotiator and Past President for the White Plains Administrators and Supervisors Association. She is a former

presenter for the Peace Education Foundation, an organization dedicated to reducing school violence through mediation. She has worked extensively to promote legal education among high school students most notably editing a student law journal and administering a law careers program. She has most recently served as an impartial hearing officer for student disciplinary hearings for the White Plains Public Schools.

### **Wendy Heslink**

Ms. Heslink has been employed by the Fredonia Central School District as Secretary to the Superintendent/District Clerk since 2004. She has worked in six different offices at four different school districts since joining the educational office field in 1990. As a member of the Chautauqua County and New York State Associations of Educational Office Professionals for over 20 years, she served numerous years on the Executive Boards for both organizations. As a member of the National Association of Educational Office Professionals (NAEOP), Wendy was asked to take a position on the NAEOP Executive Board as the Administrative Council Chairman in 2009. In July 2015, she will be installed as the NAEOP President-Elect. She has given presentations and workshops across NYS and in several places around the country for educational office professionals, non-teaching staff and students on various topics relating to education and self-development.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 13 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.

### **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** – is a Director of Curriculum & Instruction in the Hastings School District, Jeremy spent seven years as a High School Physics Teacher and Instructional Technology Coordinator for the North Rockland Central School District before joining Ossining Union Free School District as the Director of Technology and Chief Information Officer for the past eight years.

### **Kathy Mason**

Kathy Mason, former K-12 teacher, high school principal and assistant superintendent of instruction, currently serves as a consultant, staff developer and coach in school districts throughout the tri-state area. She is an Executive Coach for Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, a facilitator for the Tri-State Consortium and a member of the National School Reform Faculty. Mrs. Mason is available to provide professional development and onsite support in the areas of: Leadership development, professional learning communities, instructional rounds, walkthroughs and alternative observation protocols, strategic planning, curriculum and program development/evaluation and alternative and performance-based assessment.

### **Mary Rose McCarthy**

Dr. McCarthy recently retired from the School of Education at Pace University where she had served as department chair, program coordinator and associate dean. She taught foundation and methods courses in the adolescent program. She is the co-author of the book, *Critical Issues in Education*. For the last five years, Mary Rose has worked with members of the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center and Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES to develop the simulated data set as a teaching tool for educator preparation programs. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Buffalo.

### **Kenneth Mitchell**

Dr. Mitchell, retired Superintendent of the South Orangetown Central School District, has been an educator for 37 years. After a long tenure as an English teacher in Nyack, he had a fifteen year career as a middle school principal that included the experience of planning and opening the Seven Bridges School in Chappaqua. Ken then served as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in Bedford. He has a range and variety of professional experiences and areas of expertise and has been actively involved in research and advocacy initiatives at the local, state and national levels. In January 2015, Ken joined the faculty of the Manhattanville College Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership.

### **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 is a faculty member in the Cahn Fellowship for Distinguished New York City Principals. Also at Teachers College, serves on doctoral dissertation committees, coordinates the Education Policy Fellowship Program in the Department of Education Policy & Social Analysis. From 2000 to 2009, he was a senior lecturer and program coordinator in education leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University. He holds a B.A. in political science, an M.A. in curriculum and instruction, and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Saint Louis University. In 1977, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. 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 positions in Ohio, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York. From 1990 to 2000 he taught in Lesley University's national curriculum and instruction masters degree program. From 1990 to 1992, he served as a member of the advisory board of the Harvard Principals Center. In 1997, he was a visiting faculty member at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In recent years he has served as a consultant for ASCD, *Public Agenda*, the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, and the Tri-States Standards Consortium. He is consultant to the University of Cambridge (UK) International Examinations and has been engaged in principal professional development initiatives in Bhutan, India, Nicaragua, the UAE and China. He has co-authored two volumes on performance assessment for Zephyr Press and has published numerous journal articles on curriculum, assessment, and literacy education. His professional interests lie in leadership development, curriculum and learning, and public engagement.

**Katrina Nobles**

Katrina Nobles is the Education and Communications Manager for the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution at Cornell University's ILR School.

**Linda Ochser**

Dr. Ochser is currently a Professor of Education at Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, New York. Her areas of expertise include Human Resources Management, School Law and mentoring of administrative interns. Prior to becoming a college professor, Linda retired from the White Plains Public Schools in New York as the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. She received her doctorate in Educational Administration from New York University along with a Master's Degree from the same institution. She has also taught leadership courses at New York University, SUNY New Paltz and Fordham University. She has presented at various conferences on the national, state and local levels and has assisted local school districts with a variety of leadership challenges and human resources audits.

**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.

**Margaret (Terry) Orr**

Dr. Orr is on the faculty of Bank Street College, where she co-directs the Future School Leaders Academy. She co-chairs the long-standing joint UCEA/LTEL-SIG Taskforce on the Evaluation of Leadership Preparation Programs. She has researched the impact of leadership preparation on graduates and alumni, comparing innovative and conventional practices, regionally and nationally. Terry has also conducted numerous regional and national studies over the last 30 years on school and district reform initiatives. Her primary focus is on leadership preparation and school restructuring. She is president of the statewide organization for colleges with leadership preparation programs and has authored numerous articles and books.

**Adam Pease**

Dr. Adam Pease holds a BS in Biology, an MA in Secondary Science Education, a PD in School Administration and Supervision and a Doctorate in School Leadership. He has attended Mercy College, Columbia University Teacher's College and PACE University. Prior to becoming the Mahopac High School Principal, Adam spent five years as a House Principal at Mahopac High School. Before entering administration, he taught science at John Jay High School in Katonah, New York. He holds New York State certifications as a teacher, K-12 school administrator and district administrator. Adam is the President of the Northern Westchester Putnam Principals Association as well as the Association for Mahopac Administrators.

**Diane Rosen**

Diane Rosen is an attorney with Sanders, Ortoli, Vaughn-Flam, and Rosenstadt LLP, and a mediator and conflict coach.

**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 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. 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.

**Diane Scott**

Diane Scott has been a teacher and counselor and consultant to districts in many states on a wide range of topics include office operations.

**Michael Sellet**

Mr. Sellet conducted hostage negotiations, protected the President and worked in counter-terrorism. As the Regional Safety Coordinator for Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, he brings that expertise and more to school districts by providing technical assistance with emergency response plans, safety training, school threat assessments and a host of other related programs. A retired member of the United States Air Force, Mike has 29 years of safety and security experience. He has received extensive training from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Air Force. Among other things, he has created emergency drills for school administrators, teachers and support staff, conducted indoor and outdoor environmental investigations and developed and implemented school safety plans. Since his election to a local Board of Education in 1998, Mr. Sellet has focused his attention on school security by working with law enforcement agencies to develop a variety of school safety programs. He holds numerous professional certifications and has received many recognitions and awards including the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

**Mark Samis** - has worked at the LHRIC for 16 years and has been the lead for technology innovation in the State of New York. When districts asked to be able to view data to help students in 1998, he created the first educational Data Warehouse in the State that could be accessed through the web. Eventually, this turned into a State-mandated program for all districts.

**Ellis Scope**

Dr. Scope is an advisor/instructor in the Leadership Department at Bank Street College of Education. She worked for the New York City Department of Education for 30 years in various positions. She worked with children from kindergarten to high school as both a teacher and educational leader. Her last position was principal of a high school, a position from which she retired to work with aspiring leaders at Bank Street College of Education. She teaches courses in instructional supervision, meeting the needs of diverse learners, and mentors students in the principal preparation program. She has a BA from Lehman College, an MS from Brooklyn College, and earned a PhD in Educational Psychology from Fordham University.

**Jeff Shepardson**

Jeff Shepardson is the Community Dispute Resolution Center Director of Training & Facilitation Services in Ithaca, NY.

**Jackie Taylor**

Dr. Jackie Taylor is a retired superintendent of the Byram Hills School District. Jackie has served the region for over 40 years as a special educator, director of special services, deputy superintendent for curriculum and personnel and coach for leadership development. Jackie's passion is for life-long learning, associated with system-wide continuous improvement through respect and acquisition of skills and behaviors. Jackie is a PNW BOCES trainer for APPR lead evaluator of teacher training and recertification. She serves as the PNW BOCES representative for the STLE (Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness) strand of the New York Statewide Professional Development Framework. She is available for on-site consultations regarding inter-rater reliability for observations, effective feedback, leadership development, and executive coaching. She is also available to partner in special education program reviews. She believes leading and learning are inseparable for effective administrators.

**Andrea Terrillion, Esq.**

Ms. Terrillion brings more than 20 years of diverse, relevant experience and professional commitment to her clients and their objectives and challenges. As a management-side labor and employment attorney for more than ten years, Andrea represented private, education and government sector clients in a variety of labor relations and employment matters and proceedings, including employment litigation, arbitrations and collective bargaining. From 2000-2009, Andrea served as the Director of Labor Relations and Legal Studies at the Outreach Division of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. In that role, she was the portfolio manager and curriculum architect for legal and labor relations education and consultation, serving a national and international client base. During her time at The ILR School, Andrea created and taught multiple Labor Relations certificate programs for Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, creating practical, meaningful learning opportunities for more than 100 school district administrators. Most recently, she served as Director of Labor Relations at Yale University where she was responsible for developing institutional labor relations strategy and implementing labor relations practices that served operational objectives and promoted positive labor-management relations.

**Jennifer 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 C10. She is currently working on her doctorate through Manhattanville College.

**Susan Wollin**

Susan Elion Wollin has a wide range of high level executive, managerial, administrative, and entrepreneurial experience spanning the profit, non-profit, and public service sectors. She was also Board of Education President for the Bedford Central School District from 2007-2015.

**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.