

# Presenters/Facilitators

## **Laurie Bauer**

Laurie Bauer is a former Director of Special Education, Assistant Director and CSE Chairperson in the Bedford Central School District. Since retiring in September, 2014, she has served as an Interim Director, Consultant, Mentor, and Trainer in multiple districts in Westchester and Putnam. Prior to her administrative experience which began in the Lakeland Central School District as a special education supervisor for elementary and middle school programs, Ms. Bauer was a special education teacher for elementary and middle school students. Ms. Bauer was part of the first co-teach model in the Lakeland Central School District in the early 1990's.

## **Meg Benedetto**

Meg Benedetto has been the Assistant Principal of Primrose Elementary in the Somers Central School District for the past year. During her time at SCSD, she led the anti-bias work at the early elementary level and was instrumental in the school's recognition as a No Place for Hate School through the Anti-Defamation League. She joined the Somers team after serving as the Assistant Principal of Dows Lane Elementary in Irvington for three years. Her teaching career started at Austin Road Elementary in Mahopac, NY where she taught third and fourth grades. Meg attended Marist College as an undergraduate and went on to earn a Masters from Western Connecticut State University. Her administrative degree was completed through the Future School Leaders Academy at Bank Street College.

## **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.

## **Marc Brackett**

Marc Brackett, Ph.D., is the Director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and professor in the Child Study Center at Yale University. His grant-funded research focuses on the role of emotional intelligence in learning, decision making, relationship quality, physical and mental health, performance, and organizational climate. Brackett is the lead developer of RULER, an evidence-based approach to social and emotional learning that has been adopted by more than 1,200 public, charter, and private schools across the United States and around the world.

## **Gregory Brown**

Gregory Brown is the Regional Coordinator for Social Studies and Blended Learning at Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES where he oversees a social studies curriculum project, utilized by more than 195 school districts in New York State, and an innovative blended learning high school program. Dr. Brown regularly provides professional development in the areas of curriculum development, instructional strategies, and assessment frameworks for teachers and administrators across the Hudson Valley and beyond. Additionally, he has presented at the local, state, and national levels on topics ranging from social studies to instructional leadership. For the past 15 years Greg has served in public education, as a collegiate professor, high school administrator, social studies teacher, and coach.

**Dan Callahan**

Daniel Callahan was born and raised in the Westchester Putnam area. He has degrees from Siena College, Pace University, and the College of New Rochelle. A lifelong athlete, Dan first found his passion for education through sports and coaching. He started as a coach at Yorktown High School in the early 1990's and then worked his way through teaching social studies and computers before moving into building administration. Dan is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education at the Peekskill City School District where he is currently expanding programs in STEAM and the arts. He is the very proud father of 6 amazing children and spends his free time coaching youth sports.

**Peter Yane-hao Chen**

Peter Yane-hao Chen *is* a full professor of foreign languages and applied linguistics as well as international negotiations and interpretations at National Taipei University (NTPU) in New Taipei City, Taiwan. Dr. Chen has served as the Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Applied Linguistics (FLAL) and as the Director for the Center of International Negotiations and Interpretations (CINI) at NTPU. Additionally, he received a 2014-2015 U.S. Senior Fulbright Research Grant and was accepted as a Visiting Fellow at the ILR School at Cornell University.

**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 following 10 years as a corporate data analyst.

### **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.

### **Michael Doehty**

Dr. Mike Doughty is the Deputy Superintendent of the Greece Central School District outside of Rochester. With over 11,000 students in 17 schools, Greece is the ninth largest district in state. Prior to joining Greece, Mike was the Deputy Superintendent of Monroe 1 BOCES, in Fairport. He was an elementary school principal for nearly 10 years, has taught elementary school, high school math, undergraduate and graduate teacher education, and certification courses for aspiring school administrators. Mike has presented regionally and nationally on many topics including presentation skills, productivity and leadership.

### **Sylvia Fassler-Wallach**

Ms. Fassler-Wallach is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities and Operations for the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District. She is also an adjunct professor at Pace University and Long Island University. Prior to entering school district administration in 2001, Ms. Fassler-Wallach was a self-employed franchise owner and operator. Ms. Fassler-Wallach is a Certified Public Accountant. She began her career in public accounting.

### **Selena Fischer**

Dr. Fischer 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. 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.

### **Mary Keenan Foster**

Mary Keenan Foster has spent her career serving the Peekskill City School District as a special education teacher, building principal, and Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education. She has worked most recently with CUNY and the New York State Initiative for Emergent Bilinguals in two of the district's elementary schools. She co-facilitates the district K-12 ENL Council. She is a strong advocate for bilingual education and is studying translanguaging as pedagogical practice in dual language classrooms.

### **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 taught Criminal, Civil and International law. She has recently been on the faculty of Manhattanville College where, as an adjunct instructor she taught School Law in the Educational Leadership Department. She is currently employed by a White Plains law firm, where she is practicing education law as a part-time associate. A graduate of Pace University School of Law, she has combined her legal and educational backgrounds to present to groups as well as to school districts on the legal ramifications of many current school-related issues.

### **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. She has given presentations and workshops across NYS and 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.

### **Tim Kaltenecker**

Tim Kaltenecker is the Deputy Superintendent of the Byram Hills Central School District in Armonk, NY, and previously served as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Director of Mathematics. He has presented workshops in a variety of topics, including, elementary mathematics, classroom action research, student empowerment, cultural proficiency, and technology integration, and Tim ran a School Leaders Fellowship program for NYC school leaders at Math for America. He taught mathematics for 17 years at various schools before entering administration.

### **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.

### **Alex Levine**

Alex Levine has been in the field of education for 12 years. He has served as an educator and administrator at both the elementary and secondary levels. Alex is currently in the Mahopac CSD where he is Assistant Principal of Mahopac Middle School. He also held various leadership roles, including Chair of Instructional Support Teams, Elementary Science Expo Coordinator and Instructional Technology Coach, through which he designed professional development courses in Google Apps for Education and facilitated learning of interactive whiteboard technologies. Alex

attended Fordham Graduate School of Education to receive a M.S.T. in Elementary Education and received his M.S. in Educational Leadership at the Bank Street College of Education. He is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Education with Manhattanville College.

### **Jackie Levine**

Jackie Levine is the Hudson River Teacher Center Director of PNW BOCES. She received her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Miami and her Masters in Education from Fordham University. In 2016, she completed her Educational Leadership program at Manhattanville College, through which she is currently pursuing her doctorate in Educational Leadership.

### **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 15 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**

Dr. Jeremy Luft is currently the Director of Learning and Innovation for the Putnam Valley Central School District. Prior to joining Putnam Valley CSD, Dr. Luft served as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District. He began his teaching career in the North Rockland Central Schools where he taught High School Physics and Earth Science. After leaving the classroom, Dr. Luft served as the Director of Technology and Chief Information Officer for the Ossining Union Free School District. Throughout his career, Dr. Luft has presented at numerous local, regional, and state conferences on a variety of topics ranging from data inquiry teams to best practices for technology integration. In 2011, Dr. Luft was named a Pioneer Award winner and in 2012 received the NYSCATE Outstanding Technology Leader Award.

### **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.

### **Dan McCray**

Dan McCray, Esq. is the Director of Labor Relations Programs and Deputy Director, Cornell University's Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution, a position he has held since February 2011. He develops, administers and teaches Labor Relations, Collective Bargaining, and Conflict Resolution programs for management and unions. Mr. McCray is also an arbitrator and mediator in New York City. Prior to working at Cornell University, he served as Director of Labor Relations for several organizations and practiced law. Mr. McCray is a graduate of NYU School of Law and Macalester College.

### **Kenneth Mitchell**

Dr. Mitchell, retired Superintendent of the South Orangetown Central School District, has been an educator for over 41 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 teaches in the doctoral program for Urban Education Leaders. Also at Teachers College, Dr. Monson coordinates the Education Policy Fellowship Program in the Department of Education Policy & Social Analysis. He is a post-doctoral fellow and instructor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He holds a B.A. in political science and Ph.D. in Educational Administration. 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.

### **Laura Neier**

Laura Grosselfinger Neier is an assistant principal at Hendrick Hudson High School. Neier began her educational career as an English teacher via the NYC Teaching Fellows and spent ten years working for the NYC Department of Education, as a teacher, assistant principal, and educational specialist for the Office of Teacher Effectiveness. Neier has been an adjunct professor for the University of Phoenix, and worked as a Clinical Specialist, supervising student teachers for Pace University.

### **Katrina Nobles**

Katrina Nobles is the Education and Communications Manager for the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution at the Cornell University ILR School, focusing on educating the next generation

of neutrals and practitioners on campus and in the workplace. Ms. Nobles designs curriculum, instructs professional programs, and facilitates discussions for organizational workplace conflicts. She also works with faculty and extension associates to coordinate programs, contracts, and grants. She has practiced mediation for several years, and prior to her employment at Cornell, Katrina was the Cortland County Coordinator for New Justice Mediation Services. During that time, Nobles mediated hundreds of community, child custody/visitation, child support, and family disputes. Katrina holds a Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Engagement from Antioch University Midwest.

### **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.

### **Debra Osofsky**

Debra Osofsky received a B.S. from Cornell University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1989. She litigated with Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge in Washington, D.C. for four years, then advocated, negotiated and trained for the Air Line Pilots Association for ten years. In 2004, Debra moved into non-profit executive leadership positions, first as Executive Director of a medical faculty association, then as the National Director of News and Broadcast for the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Since 2011, Debra has been a freelance consultant and trainer, working with such clients as the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution, the NYC Office of Collective Bargaining and the Atlantic Council's Veterans Take Point Initiative. In addition to her training and negotiation consultancy, Ms. Osofsky serves as Of Counsel at the Herbert Law Group in Englewood, NJ.

### **Anna Marie Paolercio**

Anna Marie Paolercio grew up in Indiana where she graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Special Education. After teaching two years in Indiana as a special education teacher, she moved to New York in 1980. She completed her Masters of Science in Special Education and Certificate of Advanced Study in School District Administration at SUNY New Paltz. After completing fifteen years in the classroom, Anna Marie was appointed as Support Services Administrator at Dutchess BOCES. As a result of a reorganization of Dutchess BOCES, she accepted the challenge of creating a new BOCES division entitled Communications and Grants Research (CGR) and became its director. She was instrumental in developing its first Public Information Service, offering a variety of key communication services internally as well as to its 13 component school districts.



**Diane Rosen**

Diane Rosen has been of counsel to Ortolini Rosenstadt LLP (formerly Sanders Ortolini Vaughn-Flam Rosenstadt LLP) since 2013. Formerly of Weil Gotshal & Manges; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Alter & Rosen LLP. Diane specializes in real estate and corporate transactions, has expertise in US copyright law and is a mediator and conflict coach. In addition to practicing law and mediating, she teaches mediation and conflict resolution skills to lawyers and other business groups. She is a graduate of Cornell (BS, 1978), Georgetown University Law Center (JD, 1981), NYU Stern School of Business (MBA, 1994) and University of Pennsylvania (MAPP, 2016). She is the author of *The Grownup's Guide: Living with Kids in Manhattan* and was the Founding Vice President of Girls Learn International, a non-profit organization that works to combat the global crisis in girls' education.

**Mark Samis**

Mark led the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center's Data Warehouse project at its inception in 1999. His team developed the first online data reporting environment in NY State for teachers. He presently leads the Data Services team which consists of State Reporting, Testing Services and Data Analysis. Previously, he was a classroom teacher for 12 years, a network technologist and a trainer.

**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 also 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 and Connecticut. 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.

**Ellis Scope**

Ellis Scope, Ph.D. is a program director in the Leadership Department at Bank Street College of Education where she mentors aspiring leaders and teaches courses in reflective supervision and meeting the needs of diverse learners. She worked for the New York City Department of Education for 30 years. During this time she worked with, and supported leaders and teachers who work with students with disabilities from kindergarten to high school as both a teacher and educational leader. Her last position was principal of a high school for students with moderate to severe disabilities, a position from which she retired to join the faculty at Bank Street. Her interests are meeting the needs of all learners in inclusive settings, adult development, and the use of reflective practices to improve instruction.

**Jeff Shepardson**

Jeff Shepardson, Community Dispute Resolution Center (CDRC) Director of Training & Facilitation Services, has served CDRC as staff member, mediator and trainer since 2005, mediating and facilitating cases in a wide variety of settings, including workplace, home, public forums, nursing facilities, local government, schools and social service centers. Jeff provides Mediator, Facilitator & Conflict Resolution Skill Trainings on a local, state and national level. As a veteran mediator-trainer and the recipient of intensive and advanced trainings, Jeff holds a deep belief in the power of alternative dispute resolution skills to transform conflict interaction. Jeff is a certified mediator with the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, New York State CDRC Certified Trainer

(in process), adjunct instructor at Hofstra Law School and Cornell School of Industry & Labor Relations and holds degrees in Literature, Communications and Theology.

### **Dena Simmons**

Dena Simmons, Ed.D., is an activist, educator, and student of life from the Bronx, New York. She serves as the Director of Education at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. She writes and speaks nationally about social justice pedagogy and creating emotionally intelligent and safe classrooms within the context of equity. Dena has been profiled in the Huffington Post, the AOL/PBS project, MAKERS: Women Who Make America, and a Beacon Press Book, *Do It Anyway: The New Generation of Activists*.

### **Aimee Skiff**

Aimee Skiff has been with Management Advisory Group of New York, Inc. (MAG) since 1993. She has been in a wide variety of positions and since December 2009, has assumed leadership of the firm as President and Chief Executive Officer. In addition to her management responsibilities at MAG, she provides a number of consulting services to school districts and BOCES.

### **Christine Chambers Szafranski**

Christine Chambers Szafranski is a veteran of special education having been in the field for four decades. As a graduate of Marymount College and Fordham University, she acquired diverse instructional experience in a range of programmatic models serving the needs of both special and general education students. After receiving SDA certification from SUNY New Paltz, she transitioned into increasingly responsible district leadership positions in New York and Connecticut, and has also served as a clinical supervisor and professor at Pace University in the Graduate School of Education. For the past eight years, she has been Director of Pupil Services for the Carmel Central School District retiring in the fall of 2017. While in leadership there, special education programming received recognition for excellence by NYS for work in autism programming and in transition services, including the award of a three career development and work readiness grant. Balancing innovative programming for students through a lens of fiscal has been a passion throughout her career.

### **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.

### **Adrienne Viscardi**

Adrienne Viscardi is the Director of ESOL Programs in Bedford Central School District, where she also supervises the Dual Language Bilingual Education Program at Mount Kisco Elementary School. Additionally, Ms. Viscardi is an adjunct faculty member of the Graduate School of Education at Manhattanville College. She completed her MA in TESOL at Simmons College and earned her Ed.M. in Administration and Supervision at the Bank Street College Future School Leaders Academy. Ms. Viscardi has presented twice at the TESOL International Convention as well as at the NYS TESOL Annual Conference.

**Jennifer Wilson**

Dr. 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.

**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.