



ASPEN INSTITUTE ASCEND FELLOWS

CLASS OF 2015

 **ASCEND**
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

MEET THE 2015 ASPEN INSTITUTE ASCEND FELLOWS

The Aspen Institute Ascend Fellowship identifies and invests in a new generation of leaders who are committed to building an intergenerational cycle of opportunity. Ascend Fellows are entrepreneurial visionaries with big ideas and concrete solutions for advancing economic security, educational success, and health and well-being for children, parents, and their families.

Collectively, they will advance the dynamic national conversation around a two-generation approach and accelerate innovation and collaboration across communities and sectors. The Ascend Fellowship lifts up leaders that reflect the diversity and talent of our country.



John Annis
Sarasota, FL

Annis is the Senior Vice President of Community Investment at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, which provides grants in the areas of education, health and human services, the arts, animal

welfare, and the environment. The foundation made over \$19 million in grants and scholarships last year.



Dr. Laurie Miller Brotman
New York, NY

Brotman is the Bezos Family Foundation Professor of Early Childhood Development and Professor of Population Health and Psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine. She is also the Director of the Center for

Early Childhood Health and Development in

the Department of Population Health at NYU Langone Medical Center. Dr. Brotman is the developer of ParentCorps, a family-centered, school-based universal early childhood intervention for low-income, minority children.



Melvin W. Carter III
Minneapolis, MN

Carter is the Director of the Office of Early Learning at the Minnesota Department of Education. The Office of Early Learning oversees programs that support children's development and assist in preparation for kindergarten

entry, including Head Start, for children birth to five years and their families.



Betsy Delgado
Indianapolis, IN

Delgado is Vice President of Mission Advancement at the Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc., a social enterprise serving 29 central Indiana counties and employing more than 3,000 people. Goodwill's

approach links value-added resources that include access to education, employment, and health services for first-time parents that many families need to begin breaking the cycle of poverty.



Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick
Phoenix, AZ

Harper-Marinick is Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost for the Maricopa County Community College District. The ten Maricopa Community Colleges support the economic needs of Arizona

and the Greater Phoenix area by providing degree and workforce training programs in response to the needs of the community. More than 265,000 students attend Maricopa Community Colleges.



Dr. Raquel Hatter
Nashville, TN

Hatter is the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services. The department is responsible for administering more than 20 types of services throughout Tennessee, including Families First, Food Stamps,

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid/TennCare, Child Support, Child Care, Adult Protective Services, and Rehabilitation Services. The department has more than 120 office locations, a budget of \$3 billion, and approximately 5,400 employees.



Ann Kalass
Inkster, MI

Kalass is the CEO of Starfish Family Services, a private non-profit agency serving vulnerable children and families. Starfish is a leading provider of early childhood development and parenting programs, children's mental health services, after-school

programs, and an emergency shelter for teens and youth in crisis. Starfish operates more than a dozen programs at service sites throughout metropolitan Detroit, employs 400 people with a \$35 million dollar budget that serves more than 10,000 at-risk children and families each year.



John Hudson III
Birmingham, AL

Hudson is President of the Alabama Power Foundation and Vice President of Public Relations and Charitable Giving at the Alabama Power Company. The Alabama Power Foundation and the company's overall charitable

giving efforts focus on developing and supporting innovative initiatives and programs that will energize the whole state of Alabama with the goal of creating lasting positive impact for those in need.



Kirsten Lodal
Washington, DC

Lodal is the Co-Founder and CEO of LIFT. Each year LIFT helps thousands of people in its centers in Boston, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. build the strong personal, social, and financial

foundations they need to get ahead. LIFT's model helps families build the confidence they need and tap into a network of support to get on and stay on solid ground. Since its inception, LIFT has served more than 100,000 families across the nation.



Dr. Myra Jones-Taylor
Hartford, CT

Jones-Taylor is the Commissioner of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood was established in 2013, dedicated to the healthy development of children from birth to age five. The office has 120 staff

and a budget of \$365 million to coordinate and improve the various early childhood programs and components in the state to create a cohesive high quality early childhood system.



Dr. Dipesh Navsaria
Madison, WI

Navsaria is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and practices primary-care pediatrics at a community health center. He is deeply involved

in Reach Out and Read, a national initiative that makes literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric primary care, so children grow up with books and a love of reading. He is also involved with early brain and child development leadership with the American Academy of Pediatrics and public health education with medical students.



Kevin Jordan
Washington, DC

Jordan is the Senior Vice-President for National Programs at the Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC) and directs their Family Income and Wealth Building work. Working in 30 sites across the country, LISC equips struggling communities with

the capital, strategy, and know-how to become places where people can thrive.



Dr. Aisha Nyandoro
Jackson, MS

Nyandoro is the founding Executive Director of Springboard To Opportunities, a nonprofit organization focused on helping residents of affordable housing advance themselves in life, school, and work. Springboard's programs

are fundamentally resident-driven and based on the needs of the community to create resources that support and empower families.



Dr. Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
New York, NY

Rodríguez is President of Queens College of the City University of New York. Queens College is one of the senior colleges in the CUNY system, located in the nation's most ethnically diverse county and has students from more than 150

countries. Queens College was cited in a report published by the Education Trust as being one of only five colleges in the U.S. that excel at serving low-income students.



Dr. William Serrata
El Paso, TX

Serrata is President of the El Paso County Community College District (EPCC). EPCC currently offers more than 130 academic programs and more than 350 personal enrichment/continuing education courses at five campuses located throughout

El Paso County. The College also offers cutting-edge technology, ultra-modern training facilities, and innovative learning options. EPCC is nationally recognized in awarding associate degrees to Hispanic students and in total associate degrees awarded to students.



Dr. Darius Tandon
Chicago, IL

Tandon is an Associate Professor at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, where he is also the Associate Director of the Center for Community Health within the Institute for Public Health and

Medicine. His recent work has focused on the development of mental health interventions aimed at preventing the onset and worsening of depression among low-income mothers in home visitation programs.



Dr. Sarah Enos Watamura
Denver, CO

Watamura is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Denver where she directs the Child Health & Development Lab and co-directs the Stress, Early Experience and Development Research Center. She has longstanding interests in

children's physiologic regulation, their development within caregiving contexts, and in understanding mechanisms and trajectories from early life stress to

later physical, mental health, cognitive/educational, and socio-emotional outcomes. Her work examines the unique stressors and buffers in families experiencing poverty and among newly immigrated families, and includes testing promising intervention approaches.



Dr. Sherece Y. West-Scantlebury
Little Rock, AR

West-Scantlebury is President and CEO of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, a private, independent foundation. The Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of all Arkansans in three interrelated areas: economic development; education; and

economic, racial, and social justice.



Roxane White
Denver, CO

White is President and CEO of Nurse-Family Partnership, which is a maternal and early childhood health program that fosters long-term success for first-time moms, their babies, and society. An

evidence-based community health program, Nurse-Family Partnership's outcomes include long-term family improvements in health, education, and economic self-sufficiency. Nurse Family Partnership serves families in 43 states, 6 tribal nations, and 6 foreign countries.



Ann Silverberg Williamson
Salt Lake City, UT

Williamson is Executive Director of the Utah Department of Human Services. The department has a committed workforce of over 4,000 employees that provide support and services to Utah's most vulnerable children, families, and adults.



Dr. Katharine W. Winograd
Albuquerque, NM

Winograd is President of Central New Mexico Community College (CNM). CNM is New Mexico's largest post-secondary institution in terms of enrollment, with 30,000 students, and offers more than 100 degree, training, and certificate programs.

Poverty and inequality are the central economic, political, and moral issues of our time.

-Walter Isaacson, CEO of the Aspen Institute

ASPEN INSTITUTE ASCEND FELLOWSHIP

The Ascend Fellowship is a central part of the Aspen Institute's commitment to advancing opportunity and equality in the America.

Each Aspen Institute Ascend Fellow commits to an 18-month Fellowship experience, highlighted by four convenings and an action plan that will advance their two-generation solution.

INCREASING IMPACT AND SPURRING ACTION

Building on the Institute's 50+ year history of investing in leadership, the Aspen Institute Ascend Fellowship supports visionary leaders with entrepreneurial mindsets who can think across systems and issues. We seek leaders poised to make quantum leaps in their work to translate big ideas into action for children, parents, and families, especially those ideas that help children and parents succeed together. Specifically, the Fellowship:

Invests in values-based leaders

- Engage with outstanding faculty and moderators;
- Leverage the Aspen Institute's wealth of leadership experience and resources.

Amplifies voices and action

- Participate in signature Aspen Institute convenings, publications, and media platforms;
- Tap the power of networks.

Catalyzes change

- Join a national two-generation network ready to make a real difference in the lives of children and families;
- Execute action plans to spur new partnerships, scale approaches, and fuel creative strategies.

ABOUT ASCEND AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Ascend is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children and their parents toward educational success and economic security. We embrace a two-generation approach and a commitment to racial equity and a gender lens.

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The Skillman Foundation
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The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute has campuses in Aspen, Colorado, and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also maintains offices in New York City and has an international network of partners.

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