

## Speakers & Chairs

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### David C. Banks



David C. Banks is President of The Eagle Academy Foundation, which supports The Eagle Academy for Young Men, a network of innovative, all-boys public schools in New York City. He is the Founding Principal of the first Eagle Academy, which opened in 2004 in the Bronx. At that time, it was the first all-boys public high school in New York City in 30 years. Because of Banks' effective leadership, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg asked him to co-chair a new Young Men's Initiative focused on providing young men with better opportunities and social services.

Banks graduated from Rutgers University and received his J.D. from St. John's University School of Law. He earned his Educational Administration and Supervision Certification in one semester by attending three colleges simultaneously.

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### Donnell Butler



Donnell Butler is a Research and Client Lead for NAEP Questionnaires at ETS. He recently completed his American Education Research Association—Educational Testing Service Postdoctoral Fellowship. Before arriving at ETS, he earned his Ph.D. in sociology from

Princeton University. His dissertation examined the consequences of racial and ethnic segregation in high school on students' preferences for and experiences with racial and ethnic diversity in college.

Butler continues to research how segregation and diversity influence education outcomes. However, his latest research involves studying the effectiveness of activities and programs designed to encourage and prepare adolescents to pursue college.

Butler's previous professional experiences include Project Director for the Campus Life in America Student Survey, evaluation specialist for the Princeton University Preparatory Program, senior policy research analyst at APPRISE Incorporated, senior business advisory services professional at Ernst & Young, and intern in the Office of Communications Research of the White House.

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### Vivian L. Gadsden



Vivian L. Gadsden is the William T. Carter Professor of Child Development and Education and Director of the National Center on Fathers and Families at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research and scholarship focus on learning and literacy — from early childhood through adulthood. In particular, she focuses on children, parents and families at the greatest risk for academic and social vulnerability by virtue of race, gender, ethnicity, poverty and immigrant status. She also studies father involvement within African-American communities.

Gadsden has published more than 100 journal articles, book chapters and reports, as well as books on literacy and African-American youth; re-entry of incarcerated parents in the lives of children, families and communities; and risk, equity and schooling. A forthcoming book volume will concentrate on children of incarcerated parents. She serves or has served on multiple editorial boards, research advisory boards and federal review panels that focus on these topics.

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### Edmund W. Gordon



Edmund W. Gordon is the John M. Musser Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, at Yale University, and the Richard March Hoe Professor, Emeritus of Psychology and Education, at Teachers College, Columbia University. His distinguished career spans professional practice and scholarly life as a minister, clinical and counseling psychologist, research scientist, author, editor and professor. Gordon has been recognized as a preeminent member of the behavioral science disciplines and has been named one of America's most prolific and thoughtful scholars. He is the author of more than 200 articles and 18 books.

### Shaun R. Harper

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Shaun R. Harper is a member of the faculty of the Graduate School of Education, Africana Studies, and Gender Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on race and gender inequities in U.S. higher education, Black male college access and achievement, and the effects of college environments on student behaviors and outcomes.

He has published nine books and more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters and other academic publications. *The Journal of Higher Education*, *Journal of College Student Development*, *Teachers College Record*, *American Behavioral Scientist* and several other well-regarded journals have published Harper's research.

Harper's professional honors include the 2008 Early Career Award from the Association for the Study of Higher Education, the 2010 Early Career Award from the American Educational Research Association (Division G: Social Context of Education), and the 2010 Outstanding Contribution to Research Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Harper earned a Ph.D. in higher education from Indiana University.

### Rochelle Hendricks

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Rochelle Hendricks, Acting Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education, has more than 20 years of experience working on education issues in the state. She joined former New Jersey Gov. Tom Kean's Department of Education in 1987 and has served in various

capacities within the department, including as the Director of the Office of Vocational-Technical, Career and Innovative Programs and Director of the Office of Innovative Programs and Schools. Hendricks also managed the Charter School Unit within the Office of Innovative Programs and Schools.

Prior to joining the Department of Education, Hendricks worked for more than 15 years at Princeton University in

numerous positions, including Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Educational Opportunities Program and Interim Director of the Women's Program. Hendricks began her career as a teacher at the Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School District, where she taught for three years.

### Jerlando F. L. Jackson

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Jerlando F. L. Jackson is an associate professor of Higher and Postsecondary Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also serves as coordinator for the Higher, Postsecondary, and Continuing Education Program

and as a faculty affiliate for the Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education. In addition, he serves as Director of Wisconsin's Equity and Inclusion Laboratory (Wei Lab).

Jackson's central research interest has been exploring workforce diversity and workplace discrimination in higher education. He is credited with more than 90 publications and 125 presentations. He also has published the following books: *Introduction to American Higher Education* for Routledge (2010); *Ethnic and Racial Administrative Diversity: Understanding Work Life Realities and Experiences in Higher Education* for Jossey Bass (2009); *Strengthening the African American Educational Pipeline: Informing Research, Policy, and Practice* for SUNY-Albany Press (2007); and *Toward Administrative Reawakening: Creating and Maintaining Safe College Campuses* for Stylus Publishing (2007).

### Kurt M. Landgraf

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Since joining ETS as President and Chief Executive Officer in 2000, Kurt M. Landgraf has overseen the company's entrance into the K-12 market, expanded its global business, broadened its education research and policy agenda, and nurtured its social mission through collaborations with groups serving underrepresented students.

Landgraf first worked at ETS more than 30 years ago, in marketing. Before returning in 2000, he held leadership

positions at DuPont, including Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the DuPont Pharmaceutical Company, and at the Upjohn Company.

He serves on the boards of Louisiana-Pacific Corporation and Corning Incorporated. He has chaired the National Pharmaceutical Council, United Way of Delaware, and Delaware CarePlan, and has served as president of the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc.

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### Khary Lazarre-White



Khary Lazarre-White is co-founder and Executive Director of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol, a nonprofit youth organization based in Harlem, New York. He has received awards from Oprah Winfrey, the Ford Foundation, Brown University and the Fund for the City of New York, among others.

Lazarre-White has edited *The Brotherhood Speaks*, *Voices of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol* and *Off the Subject*, and contributed assorted curriculum workshops and pedagogical writings to *Brother, Sister, Leader: The Official Curriculum of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol* and to *Why Did This Happen: A Workshop Model for Developing Young People's Writings*. His published essays include "One in a Million" (*Essence*), "Preparing Youth for Social Change" (*After School Matters*), "Equal Opportunity for All Children" (*Vineyard Gazette*), and a forthcoming essay to be published by New York University Press.

Lazarre-White earned his B.A. from Brown University, with honors in Africana studies, and his J.D. from Yale Law School.

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### Bryant T. Marks



Bryant T. Marks is an assistant professor of psychology at Morehouse College and Director of the Morehouse Male Initiative. The mission of the Initiative is to identify factors that foster the affirmative personal and academic development of Black males. In addition to being a faculty member at Morehouse College, Marks is a faculty associate with the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

From 2000–2004, Marks was an assistant professor of psychology and African-American studies at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Marks has published in the areas of racial identity, academic achievement among African Americans, and international prejudice. He has received several teaching awards and serves on numerous national advisory boards, including the United Negro College Fund and The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. He also serves on a review panel for The National Science Foundation.

He earned a B.A. in psychology from Morehouse College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Michigan.

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### Kent McGuire



Kent McGuire is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Education Foundation (SEF), a philanthropic organization based in Atlanta, Georgia, which supports causes benefiting disadvantaged children and youth in southern states.

Prior to joining SEF, McGuire was the Dean of the College of Education at Temple University. He served in the Clinton administration as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, was an education program officer for the Pew Charitable Trusts, and worked as Education Program Director for the Eli Lilly Endowment.

McGuire's interests encompass education administration, finance, reform and organizational change. He has written and co-authored various policy reports, monographs, book chapters and articles in professional journals. His board memberships include The Panasonic Foundation, Institute for Education Leadership, The New Teacher Project and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

McGuire earned his Ph.D. in public administration from the University of Colorado at Boulder, his M.A. in education administration and policy from Teachers College, Columbia University, and his B.A. in economics from the University of Michigan.

### Catherine M. Millett

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Catherine M. Millett is a senior research scientist at the Policy Evaluation & Research Center at ETS. Her research focuses on access, persistence and achievement for students from various population groups at the postsecondary level.

She serves on the Technical Review Panel for the Educational Longitudinal Study 2002 (ELS 2002) as well as the Beginning Postsecondary Study 2004/06 (BPS:2004/06) — both sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics. Millett has been a visiting lecturer at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Millett earned a Ph.D. in education from the University of Michigan. She also is a graduate of Trinity College (B.A. in economics), the Harvard Graduate School of Education (Ed.M. in administration, planning and social policy), and the Radcliffe Seminars Program (Graduate Certificate in Management).

### Michael T. Nettles

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Michael T. Nettles is Senior Vice President and the Edmund W. Gordon Chair of ETS's Policy Evaluation & Research Center. Over the course of his career, Nettles has held leadership and faculty positions at two major research universities and an academic leadership post at the

Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Nettles served as the first Executive Director of the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute of the College Fund/UNCF. Nettles serves on numerous boards. His past board memberships include the National Assessment Governing Board and the Board of Trustees of the College Board.

Some of Nettles' publications address the achievement gap issue in education. They include *Developing High-Potential Youth Programs: A Return on Investment Study for U.S. Programs* and *The Challenge and Opportunity of African American Educational Achievement in the United States*.

### Henry Johnson Pruitt Jr.

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Henry Johnson Pruitt Jr.'s broad perspective of education spans both the K–12 and higher education levels. He has been a science teacher, a public school principal, a charter school principal and a college department chairperson. Pruitt also has worked as an educational consultant, helping local school districts to meet state core-curriculum content standards.

Pruitt has presented at national conferences on educational improvement and diversity concerns and served as a mentor to aspiring principals for the New Jersey Department of Education. In addition, he has been a member of the Board of Trustees at William Paterson University for 25 years and serves on the Teaneck Board of Education in New Jersey. He has served as president of both boards. Pruitt has been honored extensively for his contributions to education and for his community service. In 2009, he was inducted into the Hunter College Hall of Fame. Pruitt has graduate degrees from New York University, City College, and Teachers College, Columbia University.

### Jabali Sawicki

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Jabali Sawicki is the Founding Principal of Excellence Boys Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, New York. Under Sawicki's leadership, Excellence aims to prepare its boys to enter, succeed in and graduate from outstanding college-preparatory high schools and colleges. In

August 2004, Excellence welcomed its inaugural group of 88 students in grades K–1. A new kindergarten class will be added each year at Excellence, eventually serving 750 scholars in grades K–8. The school currently educates 450 young scholars.

Sawicki earned a dual degree in biology and philosophy at Oberlin College. He also is a KIPP Fellow and received his master's degree in educational administration from Teachers College, Columbia University.

## Ronald L. Rice

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Sen. Ronald L. Rice is Vice Chairman of the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee; member of the Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee; and Co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Schools for the New Jersey State Legislature.

Previously, he served as Chairman of the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee and Vice Chairman of the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee. He also was a member of the Senate Environmental Committee, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, the Urban Planning Committee, and several juvenile task force groups. Rice has served on several national committees, including the American Association of Blacks in Energy and the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.

Rice has received numerous awards, including the Chamber of Commerce's 1995 Outstanding Governance Award, the New Jersey Pediatric Society's Person of the Year Award, and the Essex County Education Association's Legislator of the Year Award. On July 1, 2002, former Newark Mayor Sharpe James appointed Rice as Deputy Mayor of Newark.

## Terrell Strayhorn

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Terrell Strayhorn is an associate professor of higher education at The Ohio State University (OSU), where he also serves as faculty research associate in the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity, as well as senior research associate in the Todd A. Bell National Resource Center for African American Males. He also holds a faculty appointment in OSU's Department of African and Africana Studies.

Strayhorn's research focuses on major policy issues in education: student access and achievement, equity and diversity, impact of college on students, and student learning and development.

In 2008, he received a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER grant — the highest honor that NSF bestows on early career scientists — for his five-year project, "Investigating the Critical Junctures: Strategies that Broaden Minority Participation in STEM Fields."

## Paul Tractenberg

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At Rutgers School of Law-Newark since 1970, professor Paul Tractenberg studies the major legal and policy issues involving public education and uses law to improve it, especially in New Jersey's cities.

In 1973, he founded, and for three years directed, the Education Law Center, a public interest project that has represented the state's 300,000 urban students in the landmark *Abbott v. Burke* litigation. Tractenberg also has worked to achieve racial balance in New Jersey's public schools, serving as co-counsel to the Englewood Public School District in a case seeking a racially balanced high school.

In September 2000, Tractenberg established and now co-directs the Rutgers-Newark Institute on Education Law & Policy, focusing on interdisciplinary research. He also co-directs the Newark Schools Research Collaborative, created by the Institute and the Newark Public Schools. Tractenberg consults with education organizations, speaks at conferences and publishes books and articles for diverse audiences. In 2009, he was a Fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center in Italy.

## Michael E. Walker

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Michael E. Walker is Psychometric Director for Higher Education Subject Tests, the unit responsible for all psychometric work performed for the College Board's Advanced Placement® (AP®), College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP®), and SAT® Subject Tests™, as well as for GRE® Subject

Tests, Major Field Tests (MFT), ETS® Proficiency Profile and the Certiport *iCritical Thinking*™ Certification.

Walker's published work includes maintaining and transitioning testing programs; test scaling and equating; test reliability; and use of constructed-response items. He has lectured on psychometric issues, both domestically and abroad. Prior to coming to ETS, Walker was a faculty member in Quantitative Psychology at The Ohio State University.

Walker earned a Ph.D. in quantitative psychology and an M.S. in statistics, both from the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. He also has an M.A. and a B.A. in psychology, both from Wake Forest University.

## Ronald Alexander Williams

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Ronald Alexander Williams is a vice president at the College Board, where he is responsible for strengthening the relationship between the College Board and community colleges throughout the United States. He also provides leadership to a cluster of initiatives dealing with

students' access to, and persistence in, college. Williams joined the College Board in 2007 from Prince George's Community College in Largo, Md., where he had served as president since 1999, capping an extensive career with community colleges.

Williams is a member of the board of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, the American Association of Community Colleges, and the American Council on Education's Center for Policy Analysis Advisory Committee. He attended Lehigh University, where he earned a doctorate in literature, a master's degree in English and a bachelor's degree in history and English.

## Joseph Youngblood II

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Joseph Youngblood II is Vice Provost and Dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and the immediate past Executive Director of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State College. In the past two decades, he has provided leadership and technical expertise to elected officials, municipalities

and organizations in the public service sector. Youngblood joined the Watson Institute after serving as Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Leadership Development and Director of School-Based Youth Services for the Trenton Public School District.

Youngblood is a Next Generation Leadership Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation and graduated magna cum laude from Florida A&M University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. He earned a Master of Arts degree in education administration from the University of Iowa College of Education, a Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, where he received the William E. Arnold Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in a Doctoral Program.