The Future of Urban Education in the U.S.: Where is it going?

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Eugene White, Superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools

Dr. Eugene G. White is the Superintendent of the Indianapolis Public Schools, Indianapolis, Indiana. He is the Past President of the American Association of School Administrators; Past President of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges; Past President of the North Central Association's Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement; Past President of the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents; and Past President of the Ball State University’s Teachers College Alumni Association. He is Chair-Elect of the Council of the Great City Schools and member of the Board of Trustees for AdvancED Accreditation.

He has received numerous honors, among them: selected as a Distinguished Hoosier by Governor Mitch Daniels of Indiana; a Distinguished Alumnus of Ball State University in 2005; selected to the Alabama A & M University Athletic Hall of Fame; selected to the Chattahoochee Valley Hall of Fame; the 2002 and 2009 Indiana Superintendent of the Year; IAPSS 2006 Outstanding Educator; 2006 Distinguished Service Award by the Modern Red Schoolhouse Institute; and the 2002 Accomplished Achievement Award from the Center for Leadership Development.

He has written a book titled Leadership Beyond Excuses: The Courage to Hold the Rope for colleagues and others interested in effective leadership. He co-wrote a second book titled Leading Schools of Diversity.

David Harris, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, The Mind Trust

David launched The Mind Trust in 2006 with former Mayor Bart Peterson to help create an education landscape in Indianapolis that would give every child the opportunity to receive an excellent education. Under his leadership, The Mind Trust has impacted more than 77,400 students, with The Indianapolis Star declaring it “at the center of the reform movement in Indianapolis.”

Before starting The Mind Trust, David spent five years as former Mayor Bart Peterson’s Charter Schools Director, where he built a charter school office that received Harvard University’s Innovations in American Government Award. He joined Peterson’s team after practicing law with the Indianapolis firm of Baker & Daniels and leading efforts to draft the Peterson Plan, the mayor’s 1999 strategy for running city government.

David received a BA from Northwestern University and a law degree from Indiana University. David holds a seat on the State of Indiana’s Charter Schools Review Panel and serves on the advisory boards of Western Governors University Indiana, Teach Plus and Teach For America Indianapolis.

In 2007, David was among 25 education leaders selected for the Aspen Institute and NewSchools Venture Fund’s inaugural Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Program. David has received College Summit’s Let Talent Shine Award, Teachers’ Treasures Caring Spirit Award and Indy’s Best and Brightest Award from Junior Achievement of Central Indiana. He also was named one of Indianapolis Business Journal’s Forty Under 40 and was the inaugural winner of the St. Richard’s Episcopal School’s Eugene S. Pulliam Founders Medal for alumni who “demonstrate creative leadership and service that has benefitted society.”
**John Houser, Research Associate, Center for Urban & Multicultural Education**

John Houser is a Research Associate at the Center for Urban and Multicultural Education (CUME) at the IU School of Education at IUPUI. He has a doctorate in School Psychology with a minor in Community Collaboration: Theory and Practice from Indiana University, Bloomington. A former graduate research assistant at CEEP, Houser completed his internship in Indianapolis Public Schools and was author of the 2012 CUME report, “School Reform and the Mind Trust Proposal: Another Look at the Evidence.” His research interests include school/family/community partnerships, urban education, community schools and comprehensive school-based services, and the application of philosophical and social justice frameworks to psychology and education.

**Jason Kloth, Deputy Mayor of Education**

As a 2003 corps member in the RGV, Jason developed a deep belief in the potential of all students to achieve if given the right opportunities. After being voted his school’s Teacher of the Year, Jason joined Teach For America’s recruitment team where he successfully led our Midwest recruitment efforts. In 2008, Jason opened our Teach For America region in Indianapolis. In this role, he built strong relationships with community leaders and accelerated the leadership of corps members and alumni in Indianapolis. After two successful years as Executive Director, Jason served as Teach For America's Senior Vice President of Public Affairs where he managed TFA’s government affairs, communications, research and evaluation, federal policy, and community relations teams. This experience gave Jason a line of sight into the work taking place in cities like New Orleans and Washington, D.C., building in him a deep understanding of what it takes to create high performing school systems. In his current role, Jason serves as Deputy Mayor of Education, where he leads the city's education efforts, which includes managing and evaluating the 22 mayor-sponsored charter schools and authorizing additional charter schools.

**Tammie Barney, Senior Vice President, Public & Strategic Affairs, Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce**

Tammie Barney is Sr. Vice President of Policy and Organizational Development for the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, a not-for-profit, member-based organization representing more than 4,000 businesses in central Indiana. Jones joined the Indianapolis Chamber in August of 2006. In this senior management role for the Indianapolis Chamber, Jones is responsible for the day to day operations of the chamber, which includes, organizational development, strategic planning, finance, public affairs and setting the Chamber’s overall public policy direction for issues that affect the local economy, business environment and quality of life in Greater Indianapolis. Tammie was named by Women’s Enterprise Magazine as one of the nation’s top 100 Female Executives in Supplier Diversity and has been honored as a YMCA Black Achiever. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati’s School for Creative and Performing Arts. She currently serves on the board of directors for The International Center of Indiana, The Indiana Legal Foundation, The Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Boy Scouts, and Indiana Internet among others.