

2013 ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY FORUM

# AAPF

ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY FORUM

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For Schools Serving At-Risk Students  
November 15-16 • 2013  
San Diego, California

## AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

5:30–6:30 PM • Bayside Lawn • **Welcome Reception**

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:00–8:30 AM • Tidelands • **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 AM–9:30 AM • Tidelands

**Keynote: Dr. Terrence Roberts**

9:40–10:40 AM • Tidelands

**Demonstrating the Value of Reengaging Over-Age, Under-Credited Students**

10:50–11:50 AM • Tidelands

**Incorporating At-Promise Students into Social Justice Agendas**12:00–1:00 PM • Black Swan Courtyard Patio • **Lunch**

1:10–2:00 PM • Tidelands

**Providing Relevance for Over-Age, Under-Credited Students**

2:10–3:00 PM • Tidelands

**What Will It Take to Change the Conversation Among Funders**

3:15 PM–4:15 PM • Tidelands

**Local Initiatives for Alternative Accountability**

4:25 PM–5:25 PM • Tidelands

**Advanced Working Session on Alternative Education Accountability Goals**

4:25–5:25 PM • Coronado Ballroom B (2nd Floor)

**Making the Most of Common Core**5:30 PM–6:30 PM • Black Swan Courtyard Patio • **At-Promise Reception**

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

8:00–8:30 AM • Coronado Ballroom A/B • **Breakfast**

8:30–9:00 AM • Coronado Ballroom A/B

**The Authorizer's Perspective: NACSA Report**

9:00–10:30 AM • Coronado Ballroom A/B

**Upping Our Game: A National Repository of Alternative Accountability Data**

10:30 AM–12:00 PM • Coronado Ballroom A/B

**Advocating for Your Programs and Students**

Dear Attendees,

Welcome to Coronado Island and the Second Annual Alternative Accountability Policy Forum!

Last year we brought together over 60 education leaders from 12 states to discuss best practices and policy needs of those who serve dropouts, over-age under-credit, and other highly at risk students. At SIATech and RAPSA, we consider these students “at-promise” because rather than consider them at-risk of failure, we emphasize their promise for success.

Last year at the first policy forum, we heard from experts in the field, researchers, and others who understand that making a difference in the lives of at promise students requires a difference in the tools and measurements of our schools. The report that resulted from the 2012 Policy Forum is available at the event website ([www.alternativeaccountabilityforum.org](http://www.alternativeaccountabilityforum.org)).

[www.alternativeaccountabilityforum.org](http://www.alternativeaccountabilityforum.org)).

What a difference a year makes! This policy forum has more than 100 education leaders from 18 states, Washington D.C., and Canada. We have refined our efforts and will learn about exciting new tools and strategies to explain our work and our success to policy makers, the general public, and traditional educators.

At this year's event, you will learn about economic modeling to demonstrate the value of reengaging students and how creative educators are finding ways to make high school relevant to disengaged students. I'm particularly excited about a new national initiative, in which RAPSA is participating, that will systematically collect appropriate accountability data in order to demonstrate the value of all of our work with our students.

Above all, the Alternative Accountability Policy Forums, like all of RAPSA's professional development events, encourage your interaction and collaboration. We are most proud of bringing education leaders together to share strategies and to learn from each other about what's working. While we may often toil alone in our specific schools or districts, there are many of us working on the same challenges across the country. Together we're making a difference.

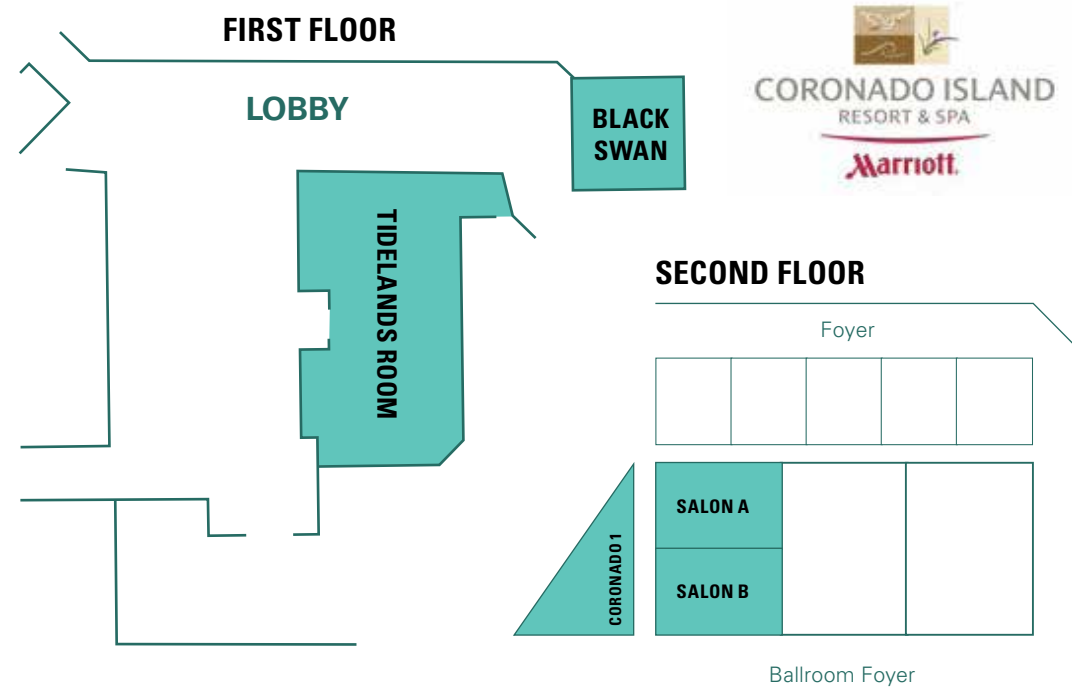
Thank you for all that you do to reengage at-promise youth!

Sincerely,

*Linda Dawson*

Linda Dawson, EdD  
Superintendent/Chief Education Officer, SIATech

MAP



AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

5:30–6:30 PM • Bayside Lawn

Welcome Reception

Graciously sponsored by Renaissance Learning

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

8:00–8:30 AM • Tidelands

Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM–9:30 AM • Tidelands

Keynote: Dr. Terrence Roberts, Lessons from the Little Rock Nine

Student Welcome: Kowser Elmi

9:40–10:40 AM • Tidelands

Demonstrating the Value of Reengaging Overage, Under-Credited Students

Jessica Cardichon • Paula Anderson • Linda Leigh

This session focuses on methods used to illustrate the macro- and micro-level benefits of dropout recovery. The seminal work of the Alliance for Excellent Education quantified the socioeconomic impact of dropout re-enrollment and graduation. Two school networks will share the data to tell the story of the students served and the outcomes obtained. This presentation will be followed by extensive small group discussion to learn what data our colleagues are collecting and explore ideas for aggregating the data.

10:50–11:50 AM • Tidelands

Incorporating At-Promise Students into Social Justice Agendas

Mala Thakur • Phil Matero • Chris Leone

While dropout recovery is receiving growing recognition among education groups, there remains a need to increase partnerships with civil rights advocates, social service agencies, and others serving out-of-school youth. Learn how successful partnerships are growing to provide wrap-around services and advocacy for the students and advocacy for students and communities.

12:00–1:00 PM • Black Swan Courtyard Patio • Lunch

1:10–2:00 PM • Tidelands

Providing Relevance for Over-Age, Under-Credited Students

Delaine Eastin • Tony Simmons

Explore how schools serving over-age under-credited students create partnerships to provide the plethora of non-academic services that these students require. Learn how one school uses recording studio classrooms to provide students with a basis in financial literacy, work-readiness, and entrepreneurship. Examine how schools partner to provide job training, counseling, health care, financial support, residential placement, soft skills training, and more.

2:10–3:00 PM • Tidelands

What Will It Take to Change the Conversation Among Funders

Caprice Young

Foundations and others fund charter schools and other educational change organizations focused on “competition” with traditional schools or college preparation. In part due to the inappropriateness of traditional accountability measures, schools serving dropouts or over-age students are often left behind in the search for grants and other funding. Join a discussion with funders and schools who serve the most at-risk students to develop strategies for building alliances to support your school and students.

3:15 PM–4:15 PM • Tidelands

Local Initiatives for Alternative Accountability

Carla Gay • Tracy Templin • Jennifer Robison & Peggy Young

Learn how state and district policies are providing cutting edge non-cognitive metrics, recognizing student growth measures, treating out-of-cohort graduates, and more. Three local initiatives will be presented. Portland Public Schools, the largest urban school district in the Pacific Northwest, has recently adopted a pilot report card using alternative metrics. Chicago Public Schools, the nation’s third largest school district, has adopted an alternative accountability policy for schools serving over-age and under-credited students. Buckeye Community Hope Foundation in Ohio is a nonprofit charter school authorizer involved in developing assessment measures for dropout prevention and recovery schools with the Ohio Department of Education as part of their recent ESEA Waiver.

4:25 PM–5:25 PM • Tidelands

Advanced Working Session on Alternative Education Accountability Goals

Aretha Miller • Leslie Talbot

This session is intended for education leaders who have developed and/or are in the process of developing performance measures for alternative education students. Join your peers in a facilitated working session to create Key School Design Principles and Performance Measures. Participants will work in groups to create rigorous yet realistic academic and nonacademic performance measures designed to improve post-secondary college and career readiness and outcomes for alternative education students.

4:25–5:25 PM • Coronado Ballroom B (2nd Floor)

Making the Most of Common Core

Cheryl Ballou

While states are deciding what standardized tests will be administered, vendors are making item banks and other tools available to schools for formative assessment and other purposes. Learn how to use these tools to inform instruction and increase student success.

5:30 PM–6:30 PM • Black Swan Courtyard Patio

At-Promise Reception

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

8:00–8:30 AM • Coronado Ballroom A/B

**Breakfast**

8:30–9:00 AM • Coronado Ballroom A/B

**The Authorizer's Perspective: NACSA Report****Nelson Smith**

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) created a working group on accountability for alternative charter schools to better answer the fundamental question: How can authorizers maintain high expectations for all students and all schools, and at the same time hold alternative charters accountable for their performance, taking into account their unique circumstances and populations? Learn more about the findings of this working group and future directions of NACSA's recommendations for reforming states' accountability policies for alternative public schools.

9:00–10:30 AM • Coronado Ballroom A/B

**Upping Our Game: A National Repository****Linda Dawson • Jim Griffin & Jody Ernst**

This interactive presentation challenges you to "show us your data." Momentum Strategy & Research (MSR) is building a data repository of alternative school measures from schools across the country. The goal of this initiative is to analyze that data to help you develop appropriate expectations for your students and schools. By collecting student-level data ranging from statewide assessment results to measures of re-engagement and attitudes toward learning, MSR will have the ability to analyze the typical gains achieved across a large set of alternative schools—arming schools with the information needed to tell the story of the school's success. During this session, RAPSA and MSR leadership will describe the project and invite you to provide feedback to help set both short- and long-term priorities of Alternative Accountability Data.

10:30 AM–12:00 PM • Coronado Ballroom A/B

**Advocating for Your Programs and Students****Ernie Silva**

Hear what some schools are doing to expand public and political awareness of the need for meaningful accountability measures. Join a conversation with representatives from State Legislatures and Congress about what they are involved in and how you can impact their colleagues.



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**We wish to recognize and thank the following individuals for their service and guidance.**

**AAPF 2013 Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee provided staff with guidance on topics, speakers, and structure of the event. The success of this event is due to their creativity and generosity.

Roney Eyeford, Pinnacles for Youth  
Phil Matero, YouthBuild Charter School of California  
Aretha Miller, The Venn Group  
Bob Rath, Our Piece of the Pie  
Tony Simmons, High School for Recording Arts  
Leslie Talbot, Talbot Consulting  
Tracy Templin, Office of Education Options at Chicago Public Schools  
Mala Thakur, National Youth Employment Coalition  
Dwight Washabaugh, Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps

**AAPF 2013 Leadership Committee**

Directed by: Eileen Holmes, Ernie Silva  
Design/Web: Linda Leigh, Raul A. Raygoza  
Facilitators: Greg Cohen, Khristel Johnson  
Admin Support: Joanne Motz, Candee Anding

## SPEAKERS

**Paula Anderson**

*Education Director for High School For Recording Arts,  
Saint Paul, Minneapolis*

Paula Anderson is High School for Recording Arts' Education Director and also serves as an English Teacher and as a member of the school board. She has been working with at-risk youth for twenty years, and is a former winner of the Urban Teaching Award from the Council of Great City Schools. Before coming to HSRA, she worked at several St. Paul Area Learning Center programs as an English Teacher and Academic Coordinator. She wrote and oversaw implementation of HSRA's competency-based graduation plan and was the project manager for HSRA's involvement in the Coalition of Essential Schools' Small Schools Project for the five years. Paula received her Bachelor of Arts in English and Secondary Education from the College of St. Benedict and her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Hamline University. Her capstone project was titled *What Alternative Educators Can Learn from Chaos and Complexity Theories*.

**Cheryl Ballou**

*Director of Operations, Renaissance Consulting Services,  
Renaissance Learning*

Renaissance Learning provides a range of assessment tools that are used by traditional and alternative schools. Ms. Ballou will be discussing resources available to schools serving at promise students to address issues raised by implementation and assessment of the Common Core. Ms. Ballou designs and delivers professional development sessions as well as forums and special events for Common Core State Standards conferences nationally.

**Jessica Cardichon**

*Director of Federal Advocacy, Alliance for Excellent Education*

Jessica Cardichon is director of federal advocacy at the Alliance for Excellent Education, an organization which undertakes extensive research on how the dropout crisis affects communities and the economy. Ms. Cardichon will describe the economic modeling that the Alliance has undertaken to demonstrate the value of reengaging over age and under-credit students.

**Linda C. Dawson, EdD**

*Superintendent/CEO, SIATech, Inc.*

Dr. Linda Dawson is the Superintendent and CEO of SIATech, a nonprofit network of organizations with charter high schools, professional development offerings, and education management services. Dr. Dawson brings a wealth of experience in educational leadership positions and a passionate commitment to serving disenfranchised students. She has been recognized as the Outstanding Secondary Administrator by the Association of Poway School Managers and Teacher of the Year for her exemplary role at Bernardo Heights Middle School. Dr. Dawson was a finalist for the 2011 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award.

**Delaine Eastin**

*Former California Superintendent of Public Instruction*

Delaine Eastin served as the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) for eight years from 1995 to 2003, the first and only woman in history elected to that position. In that role, Delaine managed more than 40% of the California budget and oversaw the education of 6.1 million children. After retiring as SPI, Delaine was the first Executive Director of the National Institute for School Leadership and then a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Educational Leadership at Mills College in Oakland. She serves on a number of boards that support the education, health and civic engagement of children from preschool to college and has received numerous awards for her contributions to children.

**Dr. Jody Ernst**

*Vice President of Research and Policy Analytics,  
Momentum Strategy & Research*

Dr. Jody Ernst is the founding Vice President of Research and Policy Analytics for Momentum Strategy & Research (MSR), a new nonprofit dedicated to conducting collaborative research among the many organizations serving charter schools across the country. Previously, Dr. Ernst was the Senior Director of Research & Evaluation for the Colorado League of Charter Schools where she began her pioneering research on the growth of high-risk students and assisted the Colorado Department of Education and many charter school authorizers across the country to develop frameworks to hold alternative education campuses (AECs) accountable in a way that was both rigorous and relevant. Dr. Ernst continues her research into alternative accountability in her new role at MSR, focusing on research to inform schools, districts, state education agencies, and authorizers on appropriate benchmarks for schools serving high-risk populations.



### Carla Gay

*Program Director, Portland Public Schools*

Carla Gay is the Program Director for the Office of Multiple Pathways to Graduation in the Portland Public Schools. The district is the largest urban school district in the Pacific Northwest. The District has recently adopted a pilot report card using alternative accountability metrics. Carla Gay will be serve on a panel discussing Local Initiatives for Alternative Accountability.



### Jim Griffin

*President, Momentum Strategy & Research*

Jim Griffin is the founding President of Momentum Strategy & Research (MSR). Mr. Griffin has been involved in the advocacy of charter schools and schools since the early 1990's. Mr. Griffin was the founding president of the Colorado League of Charter Schools, where he was involved in the writing of several policies that designated schools needing special consideration under the state accountability system. Continuing to realize that quality data and analyses are the keys to shaping effective policy, Mr. Griffin has launched MSR where quantifying alternative school success across the country is one of the immediate foci of work.



### Linda Leigh

*Director of Public Information and Communications, SIATech, Inc.*

Linda Leigh oversees the marketing and communications of SIATech and its nearly 25 charter high schools focused on dropout recovery in communities across the country. She and her team are also responsible for the state reporting functions in California and Arizona. This work has illuminated the dire need for more accurate and appropriate accountability systems for dropout recovery high schools. Ms. Leigh has continuously implemented innovative strategies to identify and highlight the successes of disadvantaged youth, their teachers, and their schools.



### Chris Leone

*Chief Academic Officer of Our Piece of the Pie*

Chris Leone is the Chief Academic Officer for Our Piece of the Pie, an organization that provides high school, community college, and community-based services to more than 1,000 over-age and under-credit students in five Connecticut communities annually. Previously, Mr. Leone was the Chief Operating Officer at Bloomfield Public Schools where the district closed the achievement gap by over 50% at the secondary level. During his career he has redesigned six schools that have received awards from the United States Department of Education, U.S. News and World Report, and Magnet Schools of America. In 2011, Mr. Leone was named one of the twenty most influential alumni in the history of Teach For America. Since starting in Baltimore in 2000, Mr. Leone has continuously served as a tireless advocate for at-risk populations.



### Phil Matero

*Founder and CEO of YouthBuild Charter School of California*

YouthBuild Charter School cultivates collaborative learning communities in which every student plays a meaningful role in creating positive social change.



### Aretha Miller

*Founder/CEO of The Venn Group*

Aretha Miller is the CEO of the The Venn Group, a New York based consulting firm which provides assistance with School Improvement Planning, school design, and school quality review for charter and traditional schools. Ms. Miller will be facilitating an in-depth group evaluation of school design and performance measures.



### Dr. Terrence Roberts

*Keynote Speaker*

Dr. Terrence Roberts is the author of *Lessons from Little Rock*, a memoir about his life experiences, and the recently published *Simple, Not Easy: Reflections on Community, Social Responsibility, and Tolerance*. Dr. Roberts was one of the Little Rock Nine - the nine children who were the first to integrate the Little Rock Public Schools in 1957. His presentation will explore the lessons to be learned from the tumultuous events at Central High School and emphasize contemporary issues of difference and diversity. Dr. Roberts holds a PhD in Psychology from Southern Illinois University and a MSW from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has served since 1975 as CEO of Terrence J. Roberts & Associates, a management consultant firm. The group offers expertise in several areas, including managing racial and ethnic diversity and developing multicultural awareness.



### Jennifer Robison

*Associate Director, Education Division, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation*

The Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is a nonprofit statewide charter school authorizer in Ohio. Buckeye authorizes 52 charter schools which includes eight dropout recovery schools. Ohio has developed an Alternative Accountability Local Report Card for dropout recovery schools as a part of their ESEA waiver. The Foundation is working with the State's Department of Education and other stakeholders to assist in the development of determining appropriate assessments for measuring growth and assuring data quality and comparability for measuring the academic performance of dropout prevention and recovery schools. Ms. Young and Ms. Robison will serve on the panel discussing Local Initiatives for Alternative Accountability.



### Ernie Silva

*Director of External Affairs, SIATech, Inc.*

Ernie Silva is the Director of External Affairs for SIATech. Mr. Silva works with governmental, business, and community organizations to build support for SIATech's mission and results. He has been a registered lobbyist with the State of California since 1997. Over the past 16 years he has worked with charter school and district school administrators on accountability, alternative education, career technical education, and related issues. He began working with SIATech in 2002 and his responsibilities include developing state and national coalitions of educators and others to support dropout recovery initiatives.



### Tony Simmons

*Program Director, High School for Recording Arts, St. Paul, Minneapolis*

The High School for Recording Arts is an accredited school that engages dropouts and other at-risk students through music and the exploration and operation of the music business.



### Nelson Smith

*Senior Advisor, National Association of Charter School Authorizers*

Nelson Smith, former President of the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools, was selected by NACSA to develop a report on alternative accountability performance measures for high quality charter schools serving dropouts and other overage and under credited students. Mr. Smith will describe the results of that effort.



### Leslie Talbot

*Founder & Principal, Talbot Consulting*

Leslie Talbot provides strategic advice on school start up, charter renewal, and education program design and replication to charter schools. Ms. Talbot will be facilitating an in-depth group evaluation of school design and performance measures.



### Tracy Templin

*Office of Education Options at Chicago Public Schools*

On August 28th Chicago Public Schools, the Nation's third largest school district, adopted an alternative accountability policy for schools serving former dropouts and other overage and under credit students. Ms. Templin is one of the CPS staff responsible for the development and implementation of these measures. She will serve on the panel discussing Local Initiatives for Alternative Accountability.



### Mala B. Thakur

*National Youth Employment Coalition*

Ms. Thakur leads the National Youth Employment Coalition's network in 40 states and the District of Columbia. Ms. Thakur oversees NYEC's efforts to improve the effectiveness of organizations that seek to help youth become productive citizens.



### Caprice Young

*President of the Education Growth Group*

Caprice Young is a leader in the development and advocacy for high quality charter school options across the Country. She was President of the Los Angeles Unified School Board and was the Founding President of the California Charter Schools Association. Ms. Young will lead a panel on how alternative schools can change the conversation with funders.



### Peggy Young

*Director, Education Division, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation*

Peggy Young leads this Ohio Foundation's initiatives to promote school choice through sponsorship of quality charter schools and to provide educational opportunities for disconnected youth. Ohio has included dropout recovery schools in their ESEA waiver and the Foundation is working with the State's Department of Education and stakeholders to develop assessment measure for measuring the academic performance of dropout prevention and recovery schools. Ms. Young will serve on the panel discussing Local Initiatives for Alternative Accountability.

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Our Piece of the Pie®, Inc. (OPP®) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping 14 to 24 year-old urban youth become economically independent adults. OPP's unique model is centered around the intense and consistent relationship developed between each youth and a caring, committed and proactive adult staff member. That relationship helps participants identify and overcome barriers, access support services and programs and achieve the goals of high school graduation, college degree and/or vocational certification and rewarding post-education employment.



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