

Alternative Accountability Policy Forum

AAPF | 15



AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

5:00–6:00 PM

Coronado Ballroom Foyer

Welcome Reception

Graciously Sponsored by Coronado Island Marriott Resort & Spa

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

7:00 AM

Coronado Ballroom Foyer

Registration Opens

7:00–8:00 AM

Coronado Ballroom

Breakfast

8:00–9:00 AM

Coronado Ballroom

Welcome & Keynote

Welcome: Dr. Linda Dawson, SIATech, Inc.

Keynote: Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia

9:15–10:15 AM

Coronado Ballroom A

Coronado Ballroom B

Coronado Ballroom C

Coronado Ballroom D

Breakout Sessions I

- Engagement is Key with OU Students
- LeaderSHIFT: The EQ Factor in Extraordinary Leadership
- Telling the Whole Story: Using Qualitative and Quantitative Metrics to Measure Multiple Facets of Alternative Programs
- SIATech's Individual Pupil Growth Model

10:15–10:30 AM

Coronado Ballroom Foyer

Coffee Break

10:30–11:30 AM

Coronado Ballroom A

Coronado Ballroom B

Coronado Ballroom C

Coronado Ballroom D

Breakout Sessions II

- Alternative Accountability Actions at State Boards of Education
- Recommendations for Improving California's Accountability for Alternative Schools
- Career Pathway Design and Development: How Do We Measure Success?
- Tailoring Wrap Around Services for Disengaged Youth

11:30–12:00 PM

Networking and Collaboration Time

12:00–1:15 PM

Skyline Terrace

Lunch

1:30–2:30 PM

Coronado Ballroom A

Coronado Ballroom B

Coronado Ballroom C

Coronado Ballroom D

Breakout Sessions III

- Save Rate: A Proposal for Measuring Success of At-Promise Students; ACSA's Education Options Council Proposal
- Collective Impact in Santa Clara County
- WIOA Regulatory Update
- Opportunity Works: How the Back On Track Pathways Can Reengage Students

2:30–2:45 PM

Coronado Ballroom Foyer

Coffee Break

2:45–3:45 PM

Coronado Ballroom A

Coronado Ballroom B

Coronado Ballroom C

Coronado Ballroom D

Breakout Sessions IV

- The Digital Sweet Spot for At-Promise Students: Merging Purpose, User, and Technologies
- College Connections for Comeback Kids
- Norming Alternative Accountability Policies
- The Power of Relationships: Exploring the Role of Social Supports in Efforts to Re-Engage Young People

4:00–5:00 PM

Coronado Ballrooms C & D

Conversation Sessions

- How Community College Partnerships and Dual Enrollment Make a Real Difference for Opportunity Youth
- Long-Term Engagement for Facilitating Research and Sharing Success
- Meeting the Needs of At-Promise Students in the Virtual Learning Environment
- So What Do We Call You?
- Updates from the Field
- What Key School Design Elements Effectively Support Off-Track Youth?

5:30–6:30 PM

Coronado Ballroom Foyer

Evening Reception

Generously Sponsored by Renaissance Learning and Learn4Life

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:30 AM

Coronado Ballrooms C & D

Breakfast

8:15–9:15 AM

Coronado Ballroom A

Coronado Ballroom B

Coronado Ballroom C

Coronado Ballroom D

Breakout Sessions V

- Learn and Earn Models: Integrating Schooling and Workplace Learning to Promote Career Readiness
- California Implements WIOA
- How to Create True Community Schools - and Why We Need Them!
- Student & Learning Support Services Make a Difference: A Review of Our Pilot Year

9:15–9:30 AM

Coronado Ballroom Foyer

Coffee Break

9:30–10:30 AM

Coronado Ballroom A

Coronado Ballroom B

Coronado Ballroom C

Coronado Ballroom D

Breakout Sessions VI

- San Diego's Multi-Agency Re-Engagement Efforts
- Triple A School Engagement: Attendance, Attachment, Achievement
- States on the Cutting Edge of Alternative Accountability Policy
- Understanding the Impact of Trauma Exposure on Academic Engagement in Risk-Immersed Students

10:45–Noon

Coronado Ballrooms C & D

Closing General Session & Activity



Dear 2015 Alternative Accountability Policy Forum Attendees –

Welcome to Coronado Island and the Fourth Annual Alternative Accountability Policy Forum. I am so pleased to see 200 education leaders coming together to discuss practices and policy needs of those who serve dropouts, over-age under-credit, opportunity youth and other critically at risk students. Those at RAPSA we call “at promise” students. Students who are no longer at risk of failure, but at promise of success because of your courageous leadership.

The past twelve months have seen important policy focus on our students because of the important work we do together. America’s Promise Alliance has continued their ground breaking work focused on dropout prevention and recovery. Their “Don’t Quit On Me” report, which will be unveiled at the Policy Forum, offers new insights about how support from adults and peers can help to close the remaining gaps between those who graduate from high school on time and those who don’t. Many of the programs discussed at last year’s Policy Forum have been highlighted in local and national media. The California State Legislature declared August 2015 as Dropout Recovery Month and just last month President Obama recognized the limitations of traditional accountability measures as “just filling in the right bubble.”

This year’s conference offers 30 concurrent sessions with 45 different presenters for you to learn from and share your experiences. We look forward to hearing from experts in the field, researchers, and others who understand that making a difference in the lives of at promise students requires different tools and measurements for our schools. Our 2015 event continues the targeted professional development that the RAPSA Policy Forum is known for.

Earlier this year, WestEd published the Policy Forum Proceedings of the 2014 Alternative Accountability Policy Forum. This year each of the session presenters has agreed to put their session in context of the 10 WestEd recommendations; identify the data or evidence supporting their presentation; and describe what they are doing to disseminate the policy or practice. We want your feedback on the policies and practices that are being presented. Are you doing something similar? Are these policies or strategies that you see as best practices for schools serving at promise students?

Above all, RAPSA’s Alternative Accountability Policy Forum encourages 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 be a small sector in our specific schools or districts, there are many of us working on the same challenges across the country. Together we’re making a big difference for our students, their communities, and the Nation.

Thank you for all that you do to reengage at promise youth.

Sincerely,

Linda Dawson

Linda Dawson, EdD
President, Reaching At-Promise Student Association (RAPSA)
Superintendent/Chief Education Officer, SIATech

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7:00–8:00 AM

Coronado Ballroom

Breakfast

8:00–9:00 AM

Coronado Ballroom

General Session

Welcome: Dr. Linda Dawson, SIATech, Inc.

Keynote Speaker: Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia represents the Coachella Valley in the California State Assembly. He serves as Chairman of the Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy, and is a member of the Select Committee on Boys and Men of Color and author of California's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) conformity legislation.

9:15–10:15 AM

Coronado Ballroom A

Breakout Sessions I

Engagement is Key with OU Students

Presenter: Bob Rath, Our Piece of the Pie, Connecticut

Learn about a model that integrates a relationship centered approach with three fields of practice, education, workforce development and youth development. Participate in a discussion exploring the markers for engagement. #AAPF15Engage

Coronado Ballroom B

LeaderSHIFT: The EQ Factor in Extraordinary Leadership

Presenter: Joelle Hood

It takes more than content knowledge and IQ to be a leader who motivates and inspires a team to achieve things they never thought possible. Learn the research behind emotional intelligence and why it is critical to leaders both as individuals and to the groups that they lead. Participate in experiential learning activities designed to strengthen these skills within yourself and your school or organization. Walk away with new strategies, skills, and activities to practice on your own and utilize with your own staff. #AAPF15EQ

Coronado Ballroom C

Telling the Whole Story: Using Qualitative and Quantitative Metrics to Measure Multiple Facets of Alternative Programs

Presenters: Carla Gay, Portland Public Schools, Matthew Eide, and Christopher Mazzeo, Ph.D., Education Northwest

This session will share an alternative accountability framework developed by Education Northwest for Community Based Alternative Programs that includes multiple metrics to track individual student progress for a large urban school district. #AAPF15Story

Coronado Ballroom D

SIATech’s Individual Pupil Growth Model

Presenter: Kris Mallory, SIATech, Inc., John Schacter, Value Added, and Carolyn Denny, Renaissance Learning

SIATech has developed an individual pupil growth model in partnership with Renaissance Learning and the Value Added Collective to demonstrate meaningful academic growth at the student level. Learn how a growth model can improve student performance, enhance teacher effectiveness, and increase multi-campus collaboration. #AAPF15Growth

10:30–11:30 AM

Breakout Sessions II

Coronado Ballroom A

Alternative Accountability Actions at State Boards of Education

Presenters: Barbara Hunter Cox, Arkansas Public School Resource Center
 Greg Moser, Attorney for Charter Schools before the California Board of Education

Hear how Arkansas and California Boards of Education approach alternative accountability assessment methods and learn strategies for working with state boards of education. #AAPF15Boards

Coronado Ballroom B

Recommendations for Improving California’s Accountability for Alternative Schools

Presenters: Natasha Collins, Legislative Analyst’s Office and Rick Martin, Orange County Office of Education

Learn from California’s Legislative Analyst’s Office, which recently released a report with recommendations to improve state accountability for alternative schools, and an Orange County Office of Education practitioner who worked on an alternative accountability proposal from the California County Educational Services Association which described some of the state’s alternative school approaches. You will leave this session with a better understanding of why implementing alternative accountability metrics make sense. #AAPF15Improve

Coronado Ballroom C

Career Pathway Design and Development: How Do We Measure Success?

Presenters: Terry Grobe and Hannah Smith, Jobs for the Future

This session will provide an overview of youth-focused career pathway programming in California and across the country. Discussion will center on how we might look beyond youth-focused outcomes to consider the system metrics that will likely drive the scale and sustainability of this work. #AAPF15Pathway

Coronado Ballroom D

Tailoring Wrap Around Services for Disengaged Youth

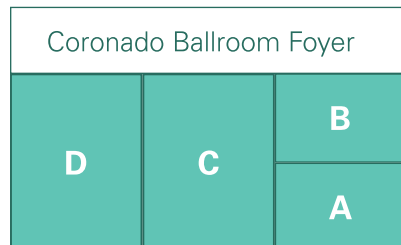
Presenters: Amy Lansing and Wendy Plante, UC San Diego

Learn how a clinical-research training team worked directly with risk-immersed youth to identify and address a range of needs including trauma sensitivity, de-escalation techniques, and motivational interviewing / communication skills. You will leave this session more informed on the identification of triggers and acquisition of grounding and mindful techniques for students as well as self-care and self-compassion for students and staff. #AAPF15Youth



2nd Floor

Pool Area



11:30–12:00 PM

Networking and Collaboration Time

12:00–1:15 PM

Lunch

Skyline Terrace

1:30–2:30 PM

Breakout Sessions III

Coronado Ballroom A

Save Rate: A Proposal for Measuring Success of At-Promise Students; ACSA's Education Options Council Proposal

Presenters: Elsbeth Prigmore, Shasta Union HSD

The ACSA Educational Options Council has developed a proposal to assess how students perform in our at-promise schools by how they exit our schools instead of a mere myopic view of “drop out” statistics where numbers can be manipulated and narrowly defined within a limited four year time frame. #AAPF15SaveRate

Coronado Ballroom B

Collective Impact in Santa Clara County

Presenters: Laurie Pianka, SIATech and Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Office of Education

Hear how the Santa Clara County Office of Education has used collective impact principles to create a partnership for reengaging disconnected youth. #AAPF15Impact

Coronado Ballroom C

WIOA Regulatory Update

Last year's adoption of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has led to many new benefits for out-of-school youth. Regulations for implementing WIOA are currently being developed. Learn what to expect from national experts. #AAPF15Regs

Coronado Ballroom D

Opportunity Works: How the Back On Track Pathways Can Reengage Students

Presenters: Terry Grobe, Jobs for the Future

The national Jobs for the Future organization has developed the Opportunity Works initiative and other work for Back on Track pathways. #AAPF15Back

2:45–3:45 PM

Breakout Sessions IV

Coronado Ballroom A

The Digital Sweet Spot for At-Promise Students: Merging Purpose, User, and Technologies

Presenters: Kevin Pressley and Greg Cohen, SIATech, Inc.

At-promise administrators, teachers, and students can use the same digital tools for universal education outcomes: learning, communication, feedback, and collaboration. SIATech schools target this digital sweet spot: the convergence of users, purpose, and tool. Participants in this hands-on session will explore a variety of problems that digital tools address (e.g., document sharing, long distance learning), try some tools, and discuss how they might be used for all stakeholders. #AAPF15Digital

Coronado Ballroom B

College Connections for Comeback Kids

Presenters: Lacy Lenon-Arthur, Riverside County Office of Education and Jeremy Johnson, Riverside City College

Riverside County Office of Education's College Connections is designed to provide individualized educational and transitional support services to students enrolled in the Come Back Kids (CBK) charter school program. Most CBK students have not been successful in the traditional school setting and have thrived in RCOE's small, high quality learning communities. College Connections assists the most needy youth by identifying appropriate pathways for students to complete their high school education and to develop post-secondary transition plans that include academic resources, linkage to community colleges, career mapping with identified Career and Technical training, and job placement. A key to the success of College Connections is the ongoing, intensive follow-up with the student to ensure success in attaining their goals. College Connections has grown and flourished since its inception 2009, and was a 2014 of the California School Board Association Golden Bell award winner. #AAPF15CBK

Coronado Ballroom C

Norming Alternative Accountability Policies

Presenters: Jody Ernst, Momentum Strategies

Learn what new research says about at-risk youth and alternative accountability assessments including Renaissance, NWEA, and more. #AAPF15Norming

Coronado Ballroom D

The Power of Relationships: Exploring the Role of Social Supports in Efforts to Re-Engage Young People

Presenters: Jon Zaff and Craig McClay, America's Promise Alliance

Hear a presentation about what America's Promise Alliance learned in preparing their newest report, "Don't Quit On Me," about the role that relationships play in young people's decisions to stay in school, leave school, and re-engage. #AAPF15Power

4:00–5:00 PM

Conversation Sessions

Coronado Ballrooms C & D

How Community College Partnerships and Dual Enrollment Make a Real Difference for Opportunity Youth

Presenters: Nick Mathern, Gateway to College

Out-of-school youth understand that post-secondary education is crucial for economic success. Having left school does not mean that students don't have the desire or capacity to success in college. Programs featuring relevant post-secondary training and support are powerful motivators attracting youth to re-engage with their education. #AAPF15Dual

Long-Term Engagement for Facilitating Research and Sharing Success

Presenters: Matthew LaPlante, Utah State University; and Julie Evans, Project Tomorrow

Share your experiences and hear from others as we collaborate to address the challenge of maintaining contact with graduates of at-risk student schools and programs. #AAPF15Alum

Meeting the Needs of At-Promise Students in the Virtual Learning Environment

Presenters: Chuck Wolfe, Megan Henry, and Early King, K12, Inc.

Share your innovative strategies and persistent challenges in effectively onboarding and providing wrap-around services for at-promise students in online schools and programs. #AAPF15Virtual

So What Do We Call You?

Presenters: Jon Zaff and Craig McClay, America’s Promise Alliance

At-risk? Critically at-risk? At-Promise? Recovered dropouts? Reengaged dropouts? Push outs? Over age and under credited? Traumatized youth? Opportunity youth? These are a few descriptors of disengaged youth. If we don’t call them “dropouts,” what do we call them? Join the leaders of the “Don’t Call Them Dropouts” study, reengaged students, and other educators in a gently facilitated conversation about how we describe the students we serve. #AAPF15Name

Updates from the Field

Presenters: Jody Ernst, Momentum Strategies, and Nelson Smith, National Association of Charter School Authorizers

Join a conversation about the many state, district and school level efforts to identify and implement meaningful accountability systems for schools serving at-promise students. #AAPF15Field

What Key School Design Elements Effectively Support Off-Track Youth?

Presenters: Leslie Talbot, Talbot Consulting; Aretha Miller, Community Education Building; and Robert Clark, YouthBuild Newark, Inc.

Join the conversation of findings from the State University of New York’s Pathways to Opportunity Project. The conversation will include a “gallery walk” of perspectives and collaboration to learn from each other, determine how the Pathways to Opportunity Project findings may fit other school systems, synthesize the information and garner consensus. #AAPF15Key

5:30–6:30 PM

Coronado Ballroom Foyer

Evening Reception

Generously Sponsored by Renaissance Learning and Learn4Life

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00–8:00 AM

Coronado Ballrooms C & D

Breakfast

8:15–9:15 AM

Breakout Sessions V

Coronado Ballroom A

Learn and Earn Models: Integrating Schooling and Workplace Learning to Promote Career Readiness

Presenters: Michelle Van Noy, Ph.D., Rutgers and Marcy Drummond, ACT Foundation

Explore a research based framework for understanding informal learning experiences and the potential impacts of integrating schooling and workplace experiences in formal learn and earn models. #AAPF15Model

Coronado Ballroom B

California Implements WIOA

California has begun a two-year implementation process by the legislature and the California Workforce Development Board. Hear from locals about how school districts and local agencies are combining resources to provide job skills and academic growth to out-of-school youth. #AAPF15CalWIOA

Coronado Ballroom C

How to Create True Community Schools - and Why We Need Them!

Presenters: Valerie J. Chase and Craig Beswick, Learn4Life with WIOA Partners from San Diego Area

The digital age has helped us all to become connected in real time across almost all boundaries. Discover how the campus of the 21st century can remove the barriers to human interaction on campus. #AAPF15True

Coronado Ballroom D

Student & Learning Support Services Make a Difference: A Review of Our Pilot Year

Presenters: Jayne Smith, PhD, Director of School Support Services; R.J. Guess, CEO;
Michael Wegner, Director of Workforce Partnership Programs

John Muir Charter Schools serves re-engaged transitional age students across California. In 2015-2016, JMCS integrated counseling services and career pathways in select sites to support students' academic and job training experience. Results of the pilot year program evaluation suggest student and learning support services do make a difference and inform replicable program design across JMCS sites. #AAPF15Support

9:30–10:30 AM

Breakout Sessions VI

Coronado Ballroom A

San Diego's Multi-Agency Re-engagement Efforts

Presenters: Ian Gordon, Vernon Moore, and Becky Philpot, SDUSD, and community based organizations

Learn how San Diego's Dropout Prevention office, Pathways Opportunity Youth, and other initiatives have been working to develop collective impact safety net programs to keep disengaged youth from falling through the cracks as they transition between the various educational and other public agencies. #AAPF15SD

Coronado Ballroom B

Triple A School Engagement: Attendance, Attachment, Achievement

Presenters: Terri Martinez-McGraw MA, Executive Director, National Center for School Engagement,
Jodi Heilbrunn, MA, Director of the National Center for School Engagement

The National Center for School Engagement (NCSE) provides a fresh look at school policies and how they impact school engagement, attendance, and graduation. Presentation will include NCSE studies about outcomes and truancy court models based on recent Colorado Legislation to reduce detention. Review the top ten do's and don'ts of low and no-cost steps to address truancy and poor school engagement and outline steps that school districts can take to identify and support potential dropouts long before it's too late. School attendance, engagement, climate, and discipline are all interrelated, so that improvements in one area ripple through the whole school with multiplier effects throughout. These research-based practices are all intended to help turn best practice into common practice. #AAPF15Triple

Coronado Ballroom C

States on the Cutting Edge of Alternative Accountability Policy

Presenters: Jody Ernst and others

Research on alternative accountability policy practices is driving State and District policy makers. Learn how Colorado is putting its working group recommendations into practice. Hear how Connecticut is developing new initiatives for schools serving at-risk students. #AAPF15Edge

Coronado Ballroom D

Understanding the Impact of Trauma Exposure on Academic Engagement in Risk-Immersed Students

Presenters: Amy Lansing, UC San Diego

Research on the developmental impact of chronic and severe traumatic stress on children links violence exposure, poverty, and maltreatment to cognitive functioning and brain alterations that have a direct impact on school readiness and academic engagement. Learn how schools serving at-risk youth should address these issues. #AAPF15Trauma

10:45 AM–Noon

Closing General Session & Activity

Coronado Ballrooms C & D



Craig Beswick

Craig Beswick began his career in charter schools in 2005 when he moved San Diego from Philadelphia after serving meritoriously as a US Army, Patriot Missile Operator in South Korea. Upon returning from the Army, Craig obtained his Bachelors in Education and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential at West Chester University. After a brief stint working in residential facilities for foster youth, he served as an Educational Specialist for Access Inc. where he developed programs for their federally funded, wrap-around service model, simultaneously worked for an independent study charter, and obtained a Master's Degree at Alliant International University. Craig works as the Regional Director of Educational Services for Learn4Life where he supports and oversees professional development, professional learning communities, new teacher development, instructional design, WASC, LCAP, CTE, partnerships, and grant development for the San Diego region. Craig will present "How to Create True Community Schools - and Why We Need Them!"



Valerie Chase

Valerie Chase holds a master's in Education and Administration from the University of La Verne and represents over 25 years of K-12 public education experience. She began as a bilingual teacher for LAUSD and held teaching and Title I Coordinator positions at the Newhall School District. Valerie has spent the last eight years at Learn4Life Concept Charter Schools in helping to design and build educational programs such as homestudy, SES, online learning, sports, and CTE. She believes strongly in the value of community-school partnerships as a construct for delivering educational programs to 21st century students. Valerie has steered the inception of the "community liaison" position and the growth of a team committed to identifying and leveraging the respective resources of our community partners with focus on student academic achievement and social success. Valerie was recently selected to participate in the CDE's 2015-16 Leadership Development Institute for CTE Leaders. Valerie will present "How to Create True Community Schools - and Why We Need Them!"



Robert Clark

Robert Clark is the Founding Executive Director of YouthBuild Newark, Inc. (YBN). Under his leadership, YBN has become a national model for effective juvenile justice/re-entry programming and successful educational programming for out-of-school youth. As an alumnus of YouthBuild Boston, he has an unparalleled passion for youth development. He attributes a significant portion of his success to having had key mentors who shared their personal secrets to success. In 2011, his vision to establish an additional vehicle through which over-aged, under-credited young adults could access educational opportunities was realized when YouthBuild Newark partnered with the Newark Public Schools (NPS) to create the Newark Leadership Academy (NLA) – an alternative vocational high school that is based upon YBN's youth development model. NLA essentially helps to recover out-of-school youth. NPS, soon after, tapped Robert to serve as special consultant to create a long-term strategy for alternative education and the comprehensive high schools. This effort has resulted in a wide-ranging, multi-pronged plan by which Newark's high school students are better assessed and placed into schools and/or other vocational/program options that are customized to their individual needs. Robert will present "What Key School Design Elements Effectively Support Off-Track Youth?"



Greg Cohen

Greg has worked with the at-promise community as a teacher, administrator, and curriculum developer for over two decades. He has an English/Secondary Education BA from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and a MS in Education Technology from National University. As SIATech's learning design coordinator, Greg leads efforts to integrate learning and collaborative technologies, creative problem solving, and design thinking into classrooms, curriculum, and school leadership processes. He has been a consistent advocate for students and teachers, anytime/anywhere learning, and the power of play. Greg will present "The Digital Sweet Spot for At-Promise Students: Merging Purpose, User, and Technologies."



Natasha Collins

Natasha Collins is a Fiscal and Policy Analyst at the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in Sacramento. She joined the office after completing her Master's in Public Policy at the University of Chicago in 2013. Prior to joining the LAO, she worked as a graduate researcher at the American Institutes for Research and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. She also was a teacher of English as a foreign language for two years in China and one year in Russia. During her time at the LAO, she has covered primarily K-12 issues, including alternative education, education technology, and career technical education. Natasha will present "Recommendations for Improving California's Accountability for Alternative Schools."



Barbara Hunter Cox

Barbara Hunter Cox has served as the Director of Teaching and Learning at the Arkansas Public School Resource Center since 2011. Our mission is to provide high quality support services and technical assistance to school districts and charter schools across the state of Arkansas. Barbara's undergraduate degree is from the University of Tennessee with graduate work from George Peabody College of Teachers at Vanderbilt University. Barbara has served as a teacher, foundation program officer, school administrator, consultant and evaluator of federal and state initiatives. Barbara will present "Alternative Accountability Actions at State Boards of Education."

**Dr. Linda C. Dawson**

Linda is the Superintendent and Chief Education Officer of SIATech, Inc., a network initially serving as its charter schools focused on dropout recovery. She has been with the organization since 2000, as Deputy Superintendent at SIATech and Director of Education Services, before becoming Superintendent/CEO in 2004. Prior to that, Linda served as principal at Abraxas High School and assistant principal at Twin Peaks Middle School and Bernardo Heights Middle School, all in the Poway Unified School District. Linda has been recognized twice as the Outstanding Secondary Administrator by the Association of Poway School Managers, and Teacher of the Year for her exemplary work at Bernardo Heights Middle School. Most recently, Linda was honored as a finalist in the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award and received a grant used for education programs at SIATech. Linda is a certified Franklin Covey trainer in Leadership, FOCUS, Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, and Management. She earned her Doctorate from United States International University, her Master of Science degree from Eastern Kentucky University, and her Bachelor's Degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Linda will kick off AAPF15 with her Welcome on Monday morning.

**Carolyn Denny**

Carolyn Denny began her career in education over 25 years ago. While working in the public school system, she was a classroom teacher, a Title 1 Reading and Math teacher and a guidance counselor. While pursuing her master's in Education, she continued to coauthor textbooks at the national level in the field of Computer Science. After 10 years of working with the professional development department for Renaissance Learning, Inc. and training administrators and teachers in best practices for reading and math, she is now a National Education Advisor. In this role she is helping school districts understand and implement changes that can positively impact student outcomes. Carolyn will present "SIATech's Individual Pupil Growth Model."

**Mary Ann Dewan**

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., has over 27 years of experience in PK-12 education. She is the Deputy Superintendent at Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and is a resident of San Jose, CA. Dr. Dewan is recognized for her expertise and experience in early learning, special education, education reform, and change leadership. She previously held the position of Chief Schools Officer for the Student Services Branch overseeing all student serving educational programs of the SCCOE. Over the course of her career, she has served in the positions of Executive Director, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Special Education, principal and teacher. Dr. Dewan earned her doctorate in educational administration from Indiana State University. She received a master's degree in educational administration and elementary education from Butler University, and a bachelors' degree in elementary education, with a minor in special education, from Marian University. Mary Ann will present "Collective Impact in Santa Clara County."



Marcy Drummond

Marcy Drummond joined ACT Foundation as Vice President of Operations and Impact in October 2014. She oversees the foundation's operations, communications, actionable evidence and research, and other activities to ensure the foundation's programmatic efforts drive measurable impact. She comes to ACT Foundation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where she served as a Lead Senior Program Officer for Postsecondary Success. Prior to the Gates Foundation, Marcy served more than nine years as Los Angeles Trade-Technical College's Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Innovation and as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development and brings more than 25 years of experience across virtually every sector of US secondary and post-secondary education. Marcy will present "Learn and Earn Models: Integrating Schooling and Workplace Learning to Promote Career Readiness."



Matthew Eide

Matthew Eide is a Senior Advisor at Education Northwest. His work focuses primarily on technical assistance related to American Indian and Alaska Native education, rural education, school and system improvement, and alternative education. Prior to joining Education Northwest, Eide developed and ran an alternative school that served youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability in Portland, and chaired the Social Studies department in a large urban high school in Los Angeles. He holds a M.Ed. from UCLA and is pursuing an Ed.D at the University of Oregon. Matthew will present "Telling the Whole Story: Using Qualitative and Quantitative Metrics to Measure Multiple Facets of Alternative Programs."



Jody Ernst

Jody is the founding Vice President of Research and Policy Analytics for Momentum Strategy & Research (MSR), a non-profit dedicated to conducting collaborative research among the many organizations serving charter schools across the country. Previously, Jody 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. Jody 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. Jody will present "Norming Alternative Accountability Policies," "Updates from the Field," and States on the Cutting-Edge of Alternative Accountability Policy."



Julie Evans

Julie is the CEO of Project Tomorrow (www.tomorrow.org), one of the nation's leading education nonprofit organizations. She developed the Speak Up National Research Project in 2003 and has served as the chief researcher on this project and other digital learning national research projects. Previously, Julie enjoyed a 17-year career in national and regional sales and marketing management with Unisys and two education technology start-ups. She is a graduate of Brown University and serves on the Board of Directors of Project Tomorrow, the Reaching At-Promise Students Association Advisory Board, and the TechSETS Advisory Board. She is a frequent speaker, writer and commentator on K-12 and higher education issues around digital learning. Julie was named in April 2008 as one of the Top Ten Most Influential People in Education Technology over the past 10 years by eSchool News. Julie will present "Long-Term Engagement for Facilitating Research and Sharing Success."



Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia

Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia has been working on California's WIOA conformity statute. He is strongly committed to reengaging youth and ensuring that all young men and women have an opportunity to earn living wages, job skills, and diplomas. Assembly Member Garcia represents the 56th Assembly District, which includes the Coachella Valley, where he grew up and is raising his family. He speaks boldly of his family's work in agriculture, and of the pride in being the first in his family to attend college. He earned a Bachelor's degree from UC Riverside, a master's degree from the University of Southern California, and completed a program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He understands the challenges of poverty and the importance of combining a diploma with job skills. Assembly Member Garcia will give the keynote for AAPF15.



Carla Gay

Carla has nearly 20 years of experience working with at-promise students who have disengaged from school and the programs that serve them. She is passionate about building educational systems which offer a range of rigorous, engaging programming for ALL students so that every student feels welcome, wanted and worthy of a quality learning experience. She currently oversees all of the re-engagement efforts for disconnected youth who reside in Portland Public School boundaries. Carla will present "Telling the Whole Story: Using Qualitative and Quantitative Metrics to Measure Multiple Facets of Alternative Programs."



Ian Gordon

Ian is the Director of the San Diego Youth Development Office. Ian works to facilitate systems and community-level change that supports positive youth development strategies and outcomes. This is done through convening, connecting, and engaging stakeholders and their resources to advance the health and economic well-being of youth, families, and communities. For 18 years, Ian has applied social science theory, research, and best practice to a variety of initiatives and programs that have resulted in improved behavioral, educational, and employment outcomes for children and youth. As an effectual leader, Ian draws upon a diversified set of skills from community organizing and grants management to research, technical assistance, and management. Ian will present “San Diego’s Multi-Agency Reengagement Efforts.”



Terry Grobe

Terry Grobe is the Director of Youth Pathways in JFF’s West Coast Office in Oakland, CA. Terry is involved with city, state, and national initiatives aimed at improving education and workforce outcomes for low-income students and older youth. Ms. Grobe currently works with the Aspen Institute for Community Solutions on design and delivery of bi-annual Institutes, providing direction for 23 Opportunity Youth Initiative Fund sites building career pathways for the many 16-24 year olds that are disconnected from school and work in this country. She serves as coach for west coast communities building pathways for older youth through JFF’s and the Aspen Institute’s recent Social Innovation Fund Grant. Terry also provides project design support and coaching for CA sites forming regional Hubs of Excellence to scale and sustain Linked Learning, an education approach that integrates rigorous academics with career-based experiences. Ms. Grobe holds a Bachelor’s in education from the University of Nebraska and a Master’s of Education in secondary school administration from Northeastern University. Terry will present “Career Pathway Design and Development: How Do We Measure Success?” and “Opportunity Works: How the Back On Track Pathways Can Reengage Students.”



R.J. Guess

R.J. Guess is the CEO of John Muir Charter Schools, a non-profit public Charter School, Charter Management Organization and Charter Business Services Provider. R.J. started his career at John Muir Charter Schools as an instructional assistant in 1998, and has since worked as a teacher, Deputy Director, Executive Director. He has been CEO since 2012. R.J. is a long-time advocate for education and workforce development programs like the CCC, Local Corps, YouthBuild, Job Corps and other WIOA funded programs. John Muir Charter Schools have been active in supporting alternative accountability models in educational settings since 2003. R.J. will present “Learn and Earn Models: Integrating Schooling and Workplace Learning to Promote Career Readiness.”



Joanna (Jodi) Zorn Heilbrunn

Joanna Zorn Heilbrunn, or Jodi as she likes to be called, has worked in the field of school research and evaluation for over twenty years. She was part of the team that launched the National Center for School Engagement in 2004, and currently serves as its director. Jodi combines a background in program evaluation based on skills acquired from years at the RAND Corporation, with lots of experience translating research into policy recommendations and practice for busy school and school district personnel. She has published extensively on truancy prevention and promoting school engagement. Jodi holds a Master's degree in Sociology from UCLA and a BA in economics from Boston University. Jodi will present "Triple A School Engagement: Attendance, Attachment, Achievement."



Megan Henry

Megan has been with K12 for over eight years. In that time, she has served as an Academic Administrator and Head of School with Arizona Virtual Academy, Deputy Regional Vice President, Southern Region, and currently Vice President, School Services, overseeing the Students First Initiatives. Prior to her work with K12, Megan was a secondary teacher, an Assistant Director for an alternative charter high school, and a High School Principal for another virtual school. Megan holds a liberal arts degree from SUNY Geneseo, a MA in secondary education from Canisius College, and a MA in educational leadership from Arizona State University. Originally from New York State, Megan resides in Arizona with her two children. Megan will present "Meeting the Needs of At-Promise Students in the Virtual Learning Environment."



Joelle Hood

Joelle is an advocate for Positive Youth Development and a certified trainer for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, 40 Developmental Assets, Understanding the Culture of Poverty, and 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. As a teacher for 13 years and an administrator working with at-promise students for the past ten years, Joelle has successfully implemented numerous Social Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives and activities with instructors and students. She is a credentialed Life Coach and graduate of University of California, Berkley's Greater Good Summer Institute for Educators, which focuses on research-based SEL. Joelle recognizes that SEL is critical for developing both students and adults into becoming the best possible versions of themselves and achieving success in school and the workforce. She is the founder of Hood's Kindness Revolution Experiment. Joelle was named "2014 Principal of the Year" for the Riverside County Office of Education. Ms. Hood is presenting "LeaderSHIFT: The EQ Factor in Extraordinary Leadership."



Jeremy Johnson

Jeremy Johnson is the Foster Youth Specialist at Riverside City College (RCC). From 2006 to 2013 Jeremy worked with the RCC Independent Living Program assisting Riverside County Foster Youth. He currently coordinates the Guardian Scholars Program at RCC and works with RCOE students through the College Connection Program. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Cal State University of San Bernardino in Criminal Justice and a Master of Arts Degree from University of Redlands in Educational Counseling. Jeremy will present "College Connections for Comeback Kids."



Early King

Early King is a native of Chicago's south side. Early has worked as a Residential Counselor for the Department of Children and Family Services, where he worked with wards of the state. Early soon grew within his career and received the Governor's award in 2001 for helping turn around two at-risk programs in Chicago. In 2009, King joined K12 Inc. as Head of School for YCCS Virtual High School powered by K12. In this capacity, he has helped develop and implement some best practices for serving at-risk students in the fast growing blended education model. Early served three years successfully as the HOS at YCCS Virtual, where the graduation rates averaged 94% per year, and is currently serving as the Senior Director of at-risk schools across the nation. Early continues to work as a consultant to many alternative schools and residential facilities in Chicago, Ohio, Iowa and New York. Early will present "Meeting the Needs of At-Promise Students in the Virtual Learning Environment."



Amy Lansing

Amy is Director of the Cognitive and Neurobehavioral Studies in Aggression, Coping, Trauma and Stress (CNS-Acts), University of California, San Diego. Amy is dedicated to understanding the neurobehavioral underpinnings of high-risk behaviors and functional impairment in underserved and vulnerable populations, such as juvenile delinquents and maltreated youth. Amy is a licensed clinical psychologist who provides direct mental health and cognitive rehabilitation service delivery to incarcerated youth in San Diego County. Her work includes a focus on academic issues, cognitive deficits, and unmet mental health needs of youth who are Wards of the Juvenile Court (Child Welfare and Delinquency). Amy is also a founding member of Humane Smarts, a non-profit organization that seeks to enrich the minds of young people in San Diego County through a variety of community engagement, artistic, and academic experiences. Amy was awarded the CANCER inCYTES Scholar Spotlight Award specifically for her contribution to public health and social justice. Amy will present "Tailoring Wrap Around Services for Disengaged Youth," and "Understanding the Impact of Trauma Exposure on Academic Engagement in Risk-Immersed Students."



Matthew LaPlante

Matthew D. LaPlante is an assistant professor in the Department of Journalism and Communication at Utah State University and a long-time advocate for providing educational opportunities for underserved Americans. He is the founding editor of NoDropouts.org, an informational website dedicated to sharing the experiences, expertise and insights of those engaged in the fight to end the dropout epidemic. He is also an associate at Graduation Alliance, which works with school districts across the United States to give at-risk students the flexibility and support they need to earn a high school diploma. Matthew will present "Long-Term Engagement for Facilitating Research and Sharing Success."



Lacy Lenon-Arthur

Lacy Lenon-Arthur is a Coordinator for the Riverside County Office of Education Foster Youth Services program and has worked for the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) for 17 years. In addition to her responsibilities for the Foster Youth Services program, she manages the Perkins program for the Alternative Education community schools, assists the leadership team with administration and accountability for Title 1, which includes oversight of the Supplemental Educational Services program for the court and community schools, is responsible for completion of the School Accountability Report Cards for the alternative education schools, and was recently assigned the task of implementing the AVID program for the Alternative Education program. She holds a master's degree in school counseling and guidance, and a Pupil Personnel Services Credential. Lacy will present "College Connections for Comeback Kids."



Kris Mallory

Kris joined SIATech in 2002 and is the Chief Instructional Officer. She is responsible for oversight of educational services, learning support, measurement and accountability, and student services. Kris brings over 30 years of experience as a teacher, coach, advisor, and Teacher on Special Assignment at five urban high schools, as well as a principal of a continuation high school. Her passion and instructional area of focus has been to improve learning results for students at low performing urban high schools. Kris has been recognized as an Outstanding Secondary Administrator by the Poway Unified School District and as Site Teacher of the Year at Mission Bay High School. Kris received her master's degree and educational credentials from San Diego State. Kris will present "SIATech's Individual Pupil Growth Model."



Rick Martin

Rick Martin is the Director of Curriculum, Learning, Accountability, and Student Service for the Orange County Department of Education. Rick has been in education for 40 years and has been a teacher, principal, and director. The journey has encompassed private school, court school, principal of Juvenile Hall, homeschool principal, and director of alternative education. He holds a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership. Rick will present "Recommendations for Improving California's Accountability for Alternative Schools."



Terri Martinez-McGraw

Terri Martinez-McGraw is the Executive Director of the National Center for School Engagement. She previously worked as the statewide Chief Officer for Student Support Services for GOAL Academy. The GOAL Academy is an online alternative charter school in the state of Colorado, with 26 sites statewide. Terri received her bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Colorado majoring in Social Work and Spanish. She received a master's degree in Special Education from the University of Colorado and School Principal's Certification in Educational Leadership from the University of Northern Colorado. Terri will present "Triple A School Engagement: Attendance, Attachment, Achievement."



Christopher Mazzeo

Christopher Mazzeo's work focuses on the diverse pathways to postsecondary success and developing and maintaining data and research partnerships. He is currently the Director for Evidence Use at Education Northwest and also serves as the Director of REL Northwest. Prior to joining Education Northwest, Mazzeo spent three years with the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR), where he managed CCSR's nationally focused policy and capacity-building initiatives. In this role, he consulted extensively with state and national policymakers, states, school districts, and funders on developing and using indicators of high school graduation and postsecondary readiness, enrollment, and success. Mazzeo has also served as an evaluation consultant and project partner with various philanthropic organizations, including the Joyce, Lumina, James Irvine, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He earned his Ph.D. in Social Sciences, Policy, and Educational Practice at Stanford University in 2001. Christopher will present "Telling the Whole Story: Using Qualitative and Quantitative Metrics to Measure Multiple Facets of Alternative Programs."



Nick Mathern

Nick is Associate Vice President of Policy and Partnership Development for Gateway to College National Network. Since 2005 he has brokered agreements between colleges, school districts, and state education agencies in order to connect communities with training, professional development, and evaluation services, as well as replication and implementation of the Gateway to College program model. Nick is also responsible for developing and executing the National Network's policy agenda, which aims to provide pathways, resources, and support services for opportunity youth to reengage with education and achieve success in post-secondary programs. Before coming to Gateway, Nick taught in a small alternative high school. Nick's previous career was in social services: providing child abuse intervention services, serving children and families who were survivors of domestic violence, and working with adjudicated youth and adults. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in Public Administration with focus on education policy. Nick will present "How Community College Partnerships and Dual Enrollment Make a Real Difference for Opportunity Youth."



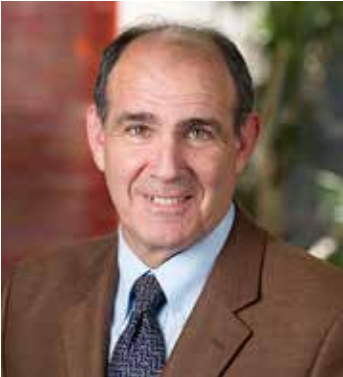
Craig McClay

Craig is Advisor of Youth Engagement for America's Promise Alliance. Craig is a native of Baton Rouge, LA, and moved to Boston as a teenager in 1988. Shortly after arriving in Boston, Craig began working with young people. For over 25 years he has recruited, engaged, trained, organized, supervised, hired, mentored, and supported thousands of young people as they developed into dynamic leaders at home, school and beyond. A life-long student in the art and science of group facilitation, Craig's passion for justice fuels his drive to build communities that work to solve problems and create pathways to better, healthier opportunities and resources. Craig will present "The Power of Relationships: Exploring the Role of Social Supports in Efforts to Re-Engage Young People" and "So What Do We Call You?"



Aretha Miller

Aretha Miller is a veteran educator who is currently the Chief Executive Officer for the Community Education Building (CEB) in Wilmington, DE. Prior to joining the CEB, she has expertise in school evaluation and accountability. During the past 15 years, she has facilitated general site and renewal visits for both traditional district and charter schools across the United States. Aretha is also skilled at school improvement planning and workshop design and facilitation. She works collaboratively with school leaders, charter authorizers, and district and state education department administrators to improve student achievement. Aretha was a project manager at SchoolWorks; the curriculum coordinator for the DiplomaPlus initiative a nationally recognized alternative education model designed to re-engage at-risk and out-of-school youth to the learning process at the Commonwealth Corporation's Center for Youth Development and Education; and a special education teacher and literacy specialist in Boston Public Schools. Aretha graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish. She holds a Master in Special Education from Lesley University. Aretha will present "What Key School Design Elements Effectively Support Off-Track Youth?"



Greg Moser

Greg Moser represents clients involved in the public sector throughout California, including charter schools, school districts, hospital districts, water and sanitation agencies, joint powers authorities for insurance pooling and municipalities. He also advises individuals and businesses on governmental affairs, including legislation, initiatives, ethics, permits and other entitlements. Charter schools throughout California rely on Greg for advice on charter development, renewal, incorporation, Proposition 39 and other matters. Clients include King/Chavez Schools of Excellence, Celerity Educational Group, SIATech, Inc. and CharterSAFE. Greg serves as general counsel to several successful public self-insurance pools for general liability and workers' compensation liability, including self-insurance pools in Orange and San Diego Counties. Greg will present "Alternative Accountability Actions at State Boards of Education."



Rebecca F. (Becky) Phillpott

Becky designed and managed targeted youth intervention programs, including Check & Connect Pathways Opportunity Youth, an Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions initiative, Check & Connect High School Persistence research implementation study, and other locally developed attendance and school engagement programs, up until her recent retirement from the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). She has worked for more than 30 years in education policy analysis, advocacy, and program development, serving as Policy Analyst to the Board of Education and Legislative Programs Analyst for SDUSD, as well as a Field Director for U.S. Senator Alan Cranston, and Jim Costa, then a Member of the California State Assembly from the Central Valley. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, Political Science, from San Diego State University. She currently serves on the boards of the Youth Development Office and San Diego Education Fund. Becky will present "San Diego's Multi-Agency Reengagement Efforts."



Laurie Pianka

Laurie has been part of the SIATech leadership team since 2005, starting as the principal of the SIATech school in San Jose, and moving to the position of Director of Education Services in 2007. In 2015 she moved to the position of Executive Director of Education Services and supports SIATech programs in Northern California and Arkansas. Laurie was also the lead on SIATech's successful Opportunity Youth (OY) CA Career Pathways Trust (CCPT) grant proposal that was selected for funding by the CA Department of Education in May 2015. She continues to provide leadership for OY programs as the OY programs are implemented. Laurie taught High School Physics, Biology and Integrated science before moving to Middle School education where she taught Physical and Earth Sciences. While teaching at the middle school level she was recognized as teacher of the year by Evergreen Elementary School District PTSA and was also recognized as a finalist in Intel's Innovation in Teaching Award Program. Laurie Pianka received her BS in Biochemistry and MS in Nutritional Sciences from San Jose State University and obtained her teaching credential from Santa Clara University. Laurie will present "Collective Impact in Santa Clara County."



Wendy Plante

Wendy Plante graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Psychobiology from UCLA. She is the interviewer, research assistant and Diversity Supplement recipient for CNS-Acts lab at UCSD. She is an academic coach and mentor in her spare time. Wendy has a passion for working with, and empowering, marginalized youth. Wendy will present "Tailoring Wrap Around Services for Disengaged Youth."



Kevin Pressley

Kevin is devoted to delivering the best 21st-century learning experiences possible to the over-aged, under-credited students at SIATech. As the Director of Online and Innovative Learning, he established the Virtual HELPLine (one-click access to a teacher), launched the first fully-online courses at SIATech schools, and led the organization-wide adoption of Google Apps. Kevin has more than 23 years of experience as an educator, serving as a teacher, technology coordinator, and curriculum developer. He holds a degree in Biology from UC San Diego and a master's degree in Educational Technology. Kevin will present "The Digital Sweet Spot for At-Promise Students: Merging Purpose, User, and Technologies."



Elsbeth Prigmore

Elsbeth Prigmore is the ACSA Educational Options Council President, K-12 Administrator, For past 10 years Alternative Education Administrator for the Shasta Union High School District, Masters Project Work in Community Health Service and Education: Primary Prevention of Teenage Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Leadership Redding 2012, State ACSA Administrator of the Year 2012 Her most important job in the universe - mom to two daughters and one son. Elsbeth will present "Save Rate: A Proposal for Measuring Success of At-Promise Students; ACSA's Education Options Council Proposal."



Bob Rath

Bob is the President/CEO of Our Piece of the Pie. With more than 30 years of experience in organizational leadership, Bob led the transformation of OPP into a youth development organization intently focused on helping urban youth, ages 14-24, become economically independent adults. Bob is committed to providing access and opportunity to help young people succeed, which is reflected in data-driven community- and high school-based programs throughout Connecticut. Bob was recognized as a “Local Hero” by Bank of America in 2006, served as Chair for the CT Children’s Council, served as Treasurer and Board member for the National Youth Employment Coalition, and was awarded Hartford Public Schools’ 2010 State of Schools Award, in gratitude for positively impacting Hartford’s education system. Bob will present “Engagement is Key with OU Students.”



John Schacter

John Schacter earned his Ph.D. from UCLA in educational psychology. Before starting his own consulting company, Dr. Schacter served as vice president of research for the Milken Family Foundation where he developed value-added models for teacher and school accountability. A frequent presenter on issues pertaining teacher quality and data driven decision making, John has been invited to testify to numerous state legislatures. He has appeared on National Public Radio, NBC News, Radio Disney, and his research has been cited in USA Today, The Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun and other newspapers and magazines across the country. Dr. Schacter has published over 40 research articles, and is the author of three books. He was a former first grade teacher and summer school principal. John lives with his wife and son in Palo Alto, California. John will present “SIATech’s Individual Pupil Growth Model.”



Hannah Smith

Hannah Smith is a program manager in the Pathways to Prosperity Network, working to develop and support pathways nationwide. Located in the Oakland, CA, office, Hannah provides support for Learning Communities across three bodies of work and offers management and administrative support for pathways projects across the state. Supporting the development and maintenance of Learning Communities for the CA Endowment, Irvine Linked Learning Hubs of Excellence and CA Career Pathways Trust, Hannah designs and executes small-group virtual discussions, cross-site convening’s and an online platform to assist in regional connectivity and shared learning. In addition, Hannah is a site coach for one of the Regional Hubs of Excellence grantees, offering just in time assistance, site visits and call to support strategic design and implementation of sustainable, high functioning Hubs of Excellence to expand and scale high quality Linked Learning pathways and programs. Hannah holds a Bachelor’s degree in Ethnic Studies and Education from UC Berkeley, and a Master’s degree in Prevention Science and Practice from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Hannah will present “Career Pathway Design and Development: How Do We Measure Success?”



Jayne Smith

Jayne E. Smith, Ph.D is the Director of School Support Services for John Muir Charter Schools. This division includes the counseling services, career pathways, and data and assessment programs. For over a decade, Dr. Smith has worked with transitional-aged youth in a variety of school settings. She is an advocate for re-engaged students, access to culturally responsive mental health and career counseling services, and school choice. She is published, maintains a research agenda, and holds a license in professional clinical counseling. Jayne will present “Learn and Earn Models: Integrating Schooling and Workplace Learning to Promote Career Readiness.”



Nelson Smith

Nelson is Senior Advisor to the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. From 2004 to 2011 he was President and CEO and then Senior Advisor to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Previously, he served as Vice President for Policy and Governance at New American Schools; as Executive Director of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board; and as Vice President for Education and Workforce Development at the New York City Partnership. From 1985 to 1992, at the U.S. Department of Education, he oversaw programs devoted to improving education through research-based methods. He was an Adjunct Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education from 2011 to 2014. Nelson was given a Career Achievement Award from New Schools Venture Fund in 2010, recognizing his quarter-century of leadership in education reform. A graduate of Georgetown University, he lives in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Nelson will present “Updates from the Field.”



Leslie Talbot

Leslie is the Founder & Principal of Talbot Consulting, an independent education management consulting practice delivering innovative solutions to nonprofit organizations and Pre-K-12 schools. Leslie has 25-plus years of experience evaluating and providing technical assistance to schools, districts, nonprofit organizations, state education agencies, and foundations. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in public policy from Stanford University, and a Master of Arts degree in sociology and education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Her recent work focuses on improving outcomes for off-track youth. Leslie will present “What Key School Design Elements Effectively Support Off-Track Youth?”



Michelle Van Noy

Leslie is the Founder & Principal of Talbot Consulting, an independent education management consulting practice delivering innovative solutions to nonprofit organizations and Pre-K-12 schools. Leslie has 25-plus years of experience evaluating and providing technical assistance to schools, districts, nonprofit organizations, state education agencies, and foundations. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in public policy from Stanford University, and a Master of Arts degree in sociology and education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Her recent work focuses on improving outcomes for off-track youth. Leslie will present “What Key School Design Elements Effectively Support Off-Track Youth?”



Richard Vernon Moore

Richard Vernon Moore serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Youth Advocacy in the San Diego Unified School District. In that role, Vernon supervises the Pathways student re-engagement effort, a unique partnership between the San Diego Youth Development Office, San Diego Workforce Partnership, Urban League of San Diego County, and other agencies. He is also the primary liaison for the district’s numerous community-based, constituency groups, including the Blueprint to Accelerate the Achievement of African American and African Students Task Force, the Latino Advisory Committee, and the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee. In 2014, Vernon completed his doctoral program at San Diego State University; his dissertation research explored how organizational structures affect student achievement. Vernon has consistently advocated for students—especially those on the margins or labeled as “at-risk.” In that advocacy, Vernon has remained committed to develop and sustain multiple opportunities for all students the make salient connections to school and experience success. Richard will present “San Diego’s Multi-Agency Reengagement Efforts.”



Michael Wegner

Mike Wegner is the Director of Workforce Partnerships with John Muir Charter Schools. He worked for several years in the field of outdoor education before going to teach abroad in Colombia. After traveling extensively throughout South America, Mike returned to the states and joined John Muir Charter Schools as a history teacher in Long Beach. He has been working with JMCS for over 8 years and continues to look for new ways to quantify and communicate the effectiveness of non-traditional education models. Michael will present “Learn and Earn Models: Integrating Schooling and Workplace Learning to Promote Career Readiness.”



Chuck Wolfe

Chuck is a Senior Director of School Development for K12. In this role, he assists in the development and implementation of new virtual learning models, including charter schools and online programs focused on at-risk students and career pathways. He previously served as the Executive Director of Insight School of Colorado and was part of the executive leadership team that launched Insight School of Kansas. He holds a B.S.Ed. from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Chuck lives in Tampa, Florida. Chuck will present “Meeting the Needs of At-Promise Students in the Virtual Learning Environment.”



Dr. Jon Zaff

Jonathan is executive director of the Center for Promise, the research center of America’s Promise Alliance. He is also a research associate professor in the department of child development and a senior fellow at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University. His research focuses primarily on understanding how to create the conditions within which all children and youth thrive academically, socially, vocationally, and civically. The results of his work have appeared in numerous peer-reviewed journals and books and presented at local, national, and international conferences. Prior to joining America’s Promise, Jonathan was a research associate at Child Trends and founder of the youth voice organization, 18to35 (merged with Mobilize.org). Jonathan received his Ph.D. in lifespan developmental psychology from the University of Georgia. Jonathan will present “The Power of Relationships: Exploring the Role of Social Supports in Efforts to Re-Engage Young People” and “So What Do We Call You?”

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

AAPF 2015 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.

Paula Anderson, High School for Recording Arts

Ana Serrano Angel, Chicago Public Schools

T Birenes, YouthBuild Charter Schools of California

Jody Ernst, Momentum Research & Strategies

RJ Guess, John Muir Charter Schools

Phil Matero, YouthBuild Charter Schools of California

Aretha Miller, The Venn Group

Sandra Morales, CCSESA

Bob Rath, Our Piece of the Pie

Roger Rice, Ventura, CCSESA

Aaron Scholl, YouthBuild Charter Schools of California

Tony Simmons, High School for Recording Arts

Leslie Talbot, Talbot Consulting

Tracy Templin, Chicago Public Schools

Diana Walsh-Ruess, Riverside County Office of Education

AAPF 2015 Production

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Event Planning: **Joanne Motz**

Marketing and Communications: **Linda Leigh, Phoung Le, Raul A. Raygoza**

Facilitators: **Beverly Gilbert, Kevin Pressley, Liz Hessom, Tom Renner**

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Thank you!

For participating in the 2015 Alternative Accountability Policy Forum

ACT Foundation	College & Career Preparatory Academy	Learn4Life Concept Schools	San Diego Youth Development Office
AdvanceED	Crossroads Charter Academy	Learning Works Charter School	San Jose Opportunity Youth Academy
Alliance for Excellence Educaiton	DC Public Charter School Board	Momentum Strategy & Research	Santa Clara County of Education
Alliance High School	Des Moines Public Schools, Office of Learning Services	MYcroSchool Citrus	Santa Cruz County Office of Education
Alliant Insurance Services, Inc	E. San Gabriel Valley ROP/TC	MYcroSchool Gainesville	School Development K12
American Radio Works	Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center	MYcroSchool Jacksonville	School Services of California
America's Promise	Education Northwest	MYcroSchool Pinellas	Shasta Union High School District
Arizona State University	ExED	National Center for School Engagement	SIATech
Arkansas Public School Resource Center	Florida	Nevada Connections Academy	SIATech El Centro
Barney & Barney, LLC	Gateway College & Career Academy	Nevada Department of Education	SIATech Gainesville
Brick Academy	Gateway to College National Network	New America School	SIATech Little Rock
Buckeye Community Hope Foundation	Goal Academy	New America School-Thornton	SIATech Long Beach
C.O.P.I.N.G.	Graduation Achievement Charter HS	NEWcorp	SIATech Los Angeles
California Department of Education	Hope Academy Charter	Office Of Supt of Public Instruction	Sinclair College Fast Forward Center
California Dropout Research Project	Jobs for the Future	Orange County Dept of Education	Summit Education Group
California Legislative Analyst's Office	John Muir Charter School	Our Piece of the Pie	Talbot Consulting
Capital Education Solutions, LLC	K12	Paladin Career and Technical High School	Taylion High Desert Academy
CCSESA	Kentucky Department of Education	Pathways In Education	Taylion San Bernadino Academy
Charter School Capital	Koppel & Gruber Public Finance	Portland Community College	Taylion San Diego Academy
Christel House Academy	L.A. County Office of Education	Portland Public School District	The Next Step Public Charter School
Civicorps Schools		Portland Public Schools	The Venn Group, Inc
		Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP	UCSD
		Project Tomorrow	Utah State University
		Renaissance Learning	Youth Build Charter School of CA
		Riverside County Office of Ed	Youth Empowerment Project
		San Diego Global Vision Academies	
		San Diego State University	

See you next year Join us again at AAPF 2016

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Learn4Life is a constantly growing network of non-profits that includes accredited high school diploma programs, job training and wraparound services, and exclusive Workforce Investment Act partnerships. Learn4Life partners have resource centers throughout California, and each student receives an individualized education. No two students are alike, and we don't believe they should be educated that way either. With dozens of centers throughout California, the opportunity for independent learning is available to hundreds of thousands of students.



SIATech's public charter high schools are the foundation of its educational ecosystem. Its schools re-enroll students highly at-risk of dropping out and those who have already given up, and guide them to graduation. Locally and nationally accredited, SIATech's innovative schools provide students a renewed opportunity to earn a diploma and realize their full potential. Schools are designed small for individualization, an in relevance to the needs of today's workforce. Together, competency-based education, a "high relationship" focus, individualized learning, and state-of-the-art technology, all build the cornerstones of SIATech programs nationwide. SIATech was recently recognized by the California Department of Education as a "Distinguished School."



In 2007, the Reaching At-Promise Students Association (RAPSA) was created to establish a professional network devoted to reaching the over-age and under-credit student population, with the desire to transform them from "at-risk" to "at-promise." Today, RAPSA is a leading professional development and networking organization in this area. Since its inception, RAPSA has sponsored a variety of conferences and workshops, including the Alternative Accountability Policy Forum, webinars, as well as an online resource library. By 2013, membership in RAPSA had grown to 6,000 national and international partners including teachers, principals, district leaders, advocacy and accountability groups, revered speakers, workforce organizations, and community business leaders.



Tom Boobar, Alliant Insurance Services



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Details to come.