

Presenter Bios

Jim Balfanz

Jim Balfanz has served as the President of City Year since May 2010. Balfanz has led City Year's strategic shift towards addressing the high school dropout crisis and the development of the organization's In School and On Track initiative — a national scale and impact plan. In partnership with Johns Hopkins Talent Development and Communities In Schools, Balfanz has played a leadership role in the development of Diplomas Now, the turnaround collaborative, which was recently awarded a \$36 million Investing in Innovation award by the Department of Education. Balfanz also served as City Year's Chief Operating Officer for five years, leading the organization to scale to 20 locations throughout the country and increase its revenue growth by 70 percent. Balfanz began his work with City Year in 1993 as a corps member serving at a Head Start program in Charlestown, Mass. After his corps year, served as Deputy Director of National Affairs, and Director of New Site Development, through which he helped found City Year Seattle, Detroit, and Greater Philadelphia. In 1997, Balfanz was named the Founding Executive Director of City Year Greater Philadelphia and served as the Executive Director for eight years growing it to the largest City Year site. Balfanz graduated from Northeastern University and completed a two-year Executive Management Program at the Wharton School of Business.

Robert Balfanz

Robert Balfanz is a principal research scientist at the Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University. He is the Co-director of the Talent Development Secondary Project, which is currently working with over 100 high poverty secondary schools to develop, implement and evaluate comprehensive school transformation and turnaround. His work focuses on translating research findings into effective reforms for high poverty secondary schools. He has published widely on secondary school reform, high school dropouts, middle grade on-track indicators, chronic absenteeism, and instructional interventions in high poverty middle and high schools. Recent works include *Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenges in Ending the Dropout Crisis*. He is the Director of the Everyone Graduates Center launched in February 2009 which engages in analytic, tool and model development, and capacity building efforts aimed at ending the nation's graduation rate crisis. Dr. Balfanz is also the Co-Operator of the Baltimore Talent Development High School, a Baltimore City Public School System Innovation High School and Director of the Talent Development/Diplomas Now US Department of Education Investing in Innovations (I3) validation grant project.

Peter Beard

Peter Beard serves as the Senior Vice President for Impact Priorities at United Way Worldwide—a nonprofit network of nearly 1,800 local United Ways in 40 countries and territories, and more than 1,200 local organizations in the United States of America. Beard leads a team of professionals that develop and deliver the key national strategies and practices to advance United Way's national goals in education, income and health with a focus on creating a better life for all. Prior to joining United Way, Beard served at the Fannie Mae Foundation for 14 years, including as its executive director during the wind-down of its operations and senior vice president for communications, strategy and information where he oversaw the development of the collaborative web-based portals, www.KnowledgePlex.org and www.DataPlace.org. Prior to joining the Fannie Mae Foundation, Beard served for five years as the general counsel at Habitat for Humanity International in Americus, Georgia. He was also in private legal practice at Semmes, Bowen & Semmes in Baltimore, Maryland.

John Bridgeland

John Bridgeland is president & CEO of Civic Enterprises, a public policy firm in Washington, D.C. He also is vice chairman of Malaria No More and senior advisor to the United Nations Special Envoy for Malaria. Bridgeland was recently appointed by President Obama to the White House Council for Community Solutions. Formerly, Bridgeland served as Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council and then as assistant to the President of the United States and first Director of the USA Freedom Corps, where he coordinated policy on international, national, community and faith-based service in the aftermath of 9/11. Bridgeland co-led the Policy Transition for the President in 2000-2001. He co-authored the report, Building a Grad Nation report and is the author or co-author of ten other reports related to the dropout epidemic. Bridgeland also worked with the National Parks Conservation Association to help develop the Centennial Initiative and Challenge; helped the National Conference on Citizenship develop America's Civic Health Index; co-leads Opportunity Nation; co-authored a report, More to Give, with Robert Putnam and Harris Wofford; and briefed the Presidential campaigns on domestic issues in 2008. Bridgeland has appeared on

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the NewsHour, CNN's Anderson Cooper, Fox News, BBC, National Public Radio, among others. He began his career by practicing law in the New York and Paris, France offices of Davis Polk & Wardwell. He also served as Chief of Staff and Counsel to former U.S. Congressman Rob Portman. Bridgeland graduated with honors in government from Harvard University and received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Daniel Bryant

Daniel Bryant joined PepsiCo in 2005 and serves as Senior Vice President of Global Public Policy and Government Affairs. He is responsible for directing PepsiCo's public policy efforts globally, and for leading the worldwide government affairs team. Previously, Bryant was twice confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate for the positions of Assistant Attorney General for Legal Policy and Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice. In those posts he was responsible for planning and coordinating implementation of major legal policy initiatives, and advising the Attorney General on legal and policy matters. He received the Edmund Randolph award, the highest award given to lawyers by the Department of Justice. His government career included serving as Chief Counsel on the U.S. House Judiciary Committee and on the U.S. Senate Government Affairs Committee.

Dan Cardinali

Dan Cardinali is president of Communities In Schools, Inc., the nation's largest dropout prevention organization, with operations in 25 states and the District of Columbia. Under Cardinali's leadership, the organization has developed and embraced an evidence-based model of integrated student service provision and has launched a national growth strategy to increase the organization's impact on improving public education. Cardinali's background as a community organizer has helped the organization continue its steady and measured growth, establish its voice in the national education policy debates, and launch an organization-wide quality improvement campaign. Cardinali is a 2007 Annie E. Casey Children and Families Fellow. He also currently serves as a Trustee for America's Promise, and as vice chairman of the board of directors of the National Human Services Assembly and the National Collaboration For Youth. Cardinali is a board member of Peace First and Child Trends. At Partners of the Americas, Cardinali coordinated its leadership training program, the International Fellowship in Community Development. Before assuming his current position in 2004, Cardinali served as executive vice president of Field Operations at Communities In Schools. Cardinali holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and a master's degree in philosophy from Fordham University.

Ken Dodge

Kenneth A. Dodge is the William McDougall Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University. He directs the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy, which is devoted to finding solutions to problems facing youth in contemporary society, through research, policy engagement, service, and education. Professor Dodge earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Duke University in 1978. He conducts research on the development and prevention of antisocial behavior in children and families and public policy to enhance children's social development. He has been honored with the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the American Psychological Association, the Boyd McCandless Award, the Science to Practice Award from the Society for Prevention Research, and the Senior Scientist Award from the National Institutes of Health.

Christian Jurado

Christian Jurado is currently attending his second year at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He was raised in the South Valley side of Albuquerque known for its infamous reputation with street gangs, drugs and a high minority population. Becoming a Simon Scholar encouraged Jurado to rise above such circumstances and temptations and to aggressively pursue his dreams. He is the oldest of two younger brothers and the first in his family to attend a university. He is pursuing Bachelors in Business Administration with a concentration in Operations Management at the Anderson School of Business along with a double major in Spanish. Jurado has also done several internships at local nonprofit business organizations. He is currently employed with the global Citigroup corporation managing bilingual financing portfolios. He is dedicated to having a successful business career and plans to pursue his dream of owning a business law firm one day.

Presenter Bios *(continued)***Marguerite Kondracke**

Since 2004, Marguerite Kondracke has been president and CEO of America's Promise Alliance, founded in 1997 by Gen. Colin L. Powell. With more than 400 national partners, America's Promise Alliance is currently leading a ten-year campaign, Grad Nation, mobilizing America to end the dropout crisis. During her 40-year career, Kondracke has been both an entrepreneur and a public servant. She brings to America's Promise Alliance extensive multi-sector experience as an advocate for children and families. Before joining the Alliance, she served as Special Assistant to U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander and Staff Director for the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families. Previously, she co-founded and was CEO of the nation's largest employer-sponsored child care company, Bright Horizons Family Solutions, one of Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For." For the past three years, Kondracke has been named one of the "Top 50 People of Power and Influence" by The Non-Profit Times. She is a board member of Saks, Inc., LifePoint Hospitals, and Teachscape, and is a trustee of Duke University. Kondracke is married to award-winning journalist Morton Kondracke; they have four children and three grandchildren.

Claire Lyons

Claire Lyons is manager of portfolios & partnerships for PepsiCo, Inc.'s Corporate Contributions & Foundation. Prior to joining PepsiCo, Lyons focused on facilitating start-up activity in entrepreneurial social services and community-based demonstration pilots primarily in the mental health and education sectors. She co-founded the Moscow Mental Health Association in the early 1990s and consulted to emerging women's shelters, hot-lines and budding advocacy groups. Out of this grassroots activity, Lyons founded Downside Up – Russia's first registered charity and community-based organization dedicated to children with Down syndrome and developmental delay. Lyons brings a deep passion for designing innovative collaborations and partnerships and has parlayed this to transform PepsiCo's grant making into a global strategic philanthropy practice featuring social investment portfolios in health, education and environment. Two key examples of her stewardship ethos and systems approach are the successful national education programs Escalera and Diplomas Now both of which were co-developed by PepsiCo Foundation respectively with National Council of La Raza and the education collaborative City Year/Communities in Schools/Talent Development at Johns Hopkins. Currently she is focusing on developing public private partnerships for PepsiCo, the most recent of which is the recently announced Latin American Partnership with the InterAmerican Development Bank. Claire was seconded to the Pepsi Brand Team providing program architecture, guidance and assurance, for the ground-breaking national marketing program, the Pepsi Refresh Project - www.refresheverything.com

Mark Nieker

Mark Nieker is the President and Executive Director of the Pearson Foundation, the nonprofit arm of international media company Pearson. The Pearson Foundation extends Pearson's commitment to education in partnership with nonprofit and public interest organizations, working with leading businesses and civic groups to support students and teachers and to sponsor community-based education programs across the globe. Mark oversees Pearson's philanthropic activity worldwide, supporting programs created with nonprofits including Jumpstart, the National Academy Foundation, Book Aid, and the Women's Commission, and developing education partnerships with public and private partners including Nokia, Intel, the Cisco Learning Institute, and the U.S. State Department's Middle East Partnership Initiative.

Governor Bob Wise

Bob Wise is president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia. He currently co-chairs the Digital Learning Council with Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida. Governor Wise also chairs the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Under Governor Wise's leadership, the Alliance continues to build its reputation as a respected authority on high school policy by advocating for reform in America's secondary education system and working to ensure that all students graduate from high school prepared for college, careers, and to be contributing members of society. He is author of the book *Raising the Grade: How High School Reform Can Save Our Youth And Our Nation*.