

## 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.

### Sherri Brach

Sherrie Brach is the Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. She leads a United Way that generates more than \$20 million annually to help address critical human service needs. She has led the development and implementation of the regional Smart Beginnings Initiative that works to ensure school readiness for young children. She was also involved with development of Homeward, a regional focused on eliminating homelessness. She has helped to lead the implementation of the Virginia 211 system which provides information and referral sources for people across the region. Brach has served in the role of COO, vice president of resource development and campaign director at this United Way. Brach has over 20 years of experience in the United Way system including seven years in Tacoma, Washington as Campaign Manager and Vice President of Marketing and Resource Development. Before joining the United Way system, Brach was the director of community affairs for the Department of Defense in Germany, director of marketing for a local McDonald's franchise in Oklahoma and director of development for the American Lung Association of West Virginia. Brach currently serves on the Boards of Central Virginia Better Business Bureau Board, Homeward, Leadership Metro Richmond and other committees. She was also selected as a Fellow for the Urban Health Initiative, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2007 YWCA Outstanding Womens Awards recipient and a graduate of Leadership Metro Richmond. Brach holds a Bachelors degree in Public Relations from West Virginia University.

### 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.

### Dan Domenech

Dan Domenech has served as executive director of the American Association of School Administrators since July 2008. Domenech has more than 36 years of experience in public education, 27 of those years served as a school superintendent. Prior to joining AASA, Domenech served as senior vice president for National Urban Markets with McGraw-Hill Education. Prior to that, Domenech served for seven years as superintendent of the Fairfax County, Va., Public Schools. Domenech began his teaching career in New York City and then became program director for the

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Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services. Following this, he was first named superintendent of schools for Long Island's Deer Park Schools and then became superintendent of South Huntington School District--a position he held for 13 years. From 1994 to 1997, he was district superintendent of the Second Supervisory District of Suffolk County and chief executive officer of the Western Suffolk BOCES. Domenech served as president of AASA from July 1998 to June 1999. He is also a past president of the New York State Council of School Superintendents, the Suffolk County Superintendents Association, and the Suffolk County Organization for Promotion of Education. He was the first president and cofounder of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education. In addition, Domenech has served on several national boards. He currently serves on the Board of Overseers for the Baldrige Award and on the boards of the Institute for Educational Leadership, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the Education Policy Institute, and is chair for Communities in Schools of Virginia. He earned a B.A. from Hunter College and a Ph.D. from Hofstra University.

### **Roxanne Spillet**

As President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Roxanne Spillet heads the nation's fastest-growing youth development organization with a primary focus on young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Today BGCA serves some 4 million girls and boys through membership and community outreach in some 4,000 Clubs. Spillet has devoted her entire professional career to the health and well-being of children. Her 1996 appointment to the presidency of BGCA highlights a career spanning more than 30 years in Boys & Girls Club work. Spillet has led Boys & Girls Clubs through a period of dramatic growth, with particular emphasis on reaching children in underserved areas, including Native American lands, where there are now more than 200 Clubs. She spearheaded a unique partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense to charter Clubs on more than 400 U.S. military bases worldwide. Most recently she has positioned BGCA as one of the most influential out-of-school-time thought leaders with a long-term strategic plan to demonstrate the organization's positive impact on academic success, good character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles - all necessary to ensuring every child served by Boys & Girls Clubs has a great future.

### **Valerie Truesdale**

Valerie Truesdale is in her fourth year as superintendent of the Beaufort County School District. Prior to Beaufort County, she was superintendent for Oconee County schools in upstate South Carolina (one of America's Promise 100 Best Communities in US!) for four years. She has served as an Chief Instructional Services Officer senior assistant superintendent for the SC Department of Education, high school principal, assistant principal, personnel administrator and teacher. She worked in leadership positions as an assistant buyer and merchandise manager for a large retail firm prior to her education career. She earned a Ph. D. from the University of South Carolina in Educational Leadership, an M. B. A. from Georgia State University, and a Bachelor's degree in English Education from Clemson University. Dr. Truesdale is a former president of the international Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and was named the Superintendent of the Year for South Carolina in 2009. She was recently awarded the first Women in School Leadership award by American Association of School Administrators (AASA).