

leadnj

learn • link • lead

2021 Class Biographies



Afshan Ajmiri Giner is a Partner with the law firm of Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt, Cappelli, Tipton & Taylor, LLC (“Firm”), focusing my practice in education/school law, labor and employment, and local governments. Prior to joining the Firm, I worked at the New Jersey Department of Education (“NJDOE”). I started my legal career as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Lourdes I. Santiago, J.S.C. (Ret.), Hudson Vicinage, in the Chancery and Civil Divisions. I remain connected to my law school community as an Alumni Mentor to current law students at Rutgers Law School. I also serve as an Attorney Mentor for high school students through the NJLEEP’s Constitutional Law Debate Program in Newark, NJ, and the HBA-NJ’s American Dream Pipeline Program in Union City, NJ. As an immigrant and a minority woman, it is important for me to mentor and support young women and men so that they can recognize their full potential and achieve their goals.

Ray Alvarez is Sr. Director in Electric Asset Strategy. Responsible for the Governance and Oversight of PSE&G Electric Infrastructure.



Joe Amditis is the associate director of the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University. He graduated from Rutgers University in 2013 and earned his B.A. with a double-major in political science and criminal justice before going on to earn his M.A. from the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism in NYC. He was co-founder and former director of operations of Muckgers, an hyperlocal, student-focused, investigative publication serving the Rutgers-New Brunswick community. Joe is also a seven-year veteran of the New Jersey Army National Guard. He deployed to Iraq from 2008-2009 and was activated for Hurricane Irene in 2011.

LaToya Ball Sands is an agile leader with more than 15 years of experience in business operations, leader development, and continuous improvement focused on improving performance results and overall engagement. I am an accomplished leader and relationship builder with demonstrated ability to guide, motivate and lead teams to outstanding achievements and growth. Solution-oriented and results-driven with significant value on relationships with diverse individuals and seeks to bridge gaps, focusing on the power of engaging others. Community work includes over twenty years of service focused on leadership, justice involved, and recidivism. Franklin University: BS - Marketing, PR and MCM, MHRM





Jerell Blakeley is a native Trentonian and current Trenton City Councilman-At-Large. Professionally, Jerell is an Associate Director of Government Relations at the NJEA and a Lecturer at Rutgers University's School of Management and Labor Relations. Jerell earned his degree in History from Howard University and earned his Ed.M. in the Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education at Rutgers University- New Brunswick as an Eagleton Institute of Politics Graduate Fellow. Jerell is serving his second term on the Mercer County Board of Social Services. A 2016 Fellow of the New Leaders Council-NJ, Jerell has been invited to share his counsel and insight to esteemed organizations like Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics, Isles, the New Leaders Council, NJ Working Families, the NJ Black Issue Convention, Princeton University's Pace Center for Community Engagement, the National Council of Urban Education Associations, and the NJ State Democratic Party.

Michelle Bodden joined the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) in March of 2020 in the newly-created position of Chief Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Officer. In this role, she leads the efforts to cultivate equity and inclusiveness both within the organization, as well as through the resources it provides to the State. She has a long history driving D&I strategies, standards, and policies.



Betty Boros is an executive leader at NJBIA where she works to support the NJBIA team on strategic initiatives that reach across the Association. Betty provides high-level support through project management, formulation of policies and plans, strategy development . In addition, Betty leads the membership, events, programs and partnership teams.. Betty is a graduate of Stockton State College, where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Marine Science while working in a commercial environmental testing laboratory. he joined the NJ Department of Environmental Protection where she would spend almost 28 years in various programs, working to improve the waters of the State. In that time she championed rule development, developed permits for dischargers, audited laboratories and developed guidance for water and wastewater infrastructure. Betty is a resident of New Jersey and resides in Ewing.

Bill Bradshaw joins Withum's leadership team as the Director of Inclusion and Diversity. Bill leads the firm's Inclusion and Diversity (I&D) initiatives and oversees its strategy and objectives, including attracting and advancing diverse leaders, foresting an inclusive, accessible and authentic workplace, and collaborating with leadership to provide broad perspectives and innovative client solutions. Bill will also work closely with the firm's Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) to ensure they serve as incubators for mentorship, sponsorship, team member development and strengthen the firm's culture and experience of belonging. He is a sought after thought leader in the I&D space and was named to the 2019 NJ Out 100 Power List for his work in leading LGBTQ workplace inclusion. Bill sits on the Board of Garden State Equality (GSE), New Jersey's largest LGBTQ organization, and The Center, a non-profit HIV/AIDS service organization at the Jersey Shore.



Tara Butler currently serves as the Director of Operations for the Smith Family Foundation NJ, a Family Philanthropic organization in the heart of the City of Trenton NJ. Their mission is to empower communities, cultivate leaders, and transform lives by providing funding, and transformative leadership development to Trenton based organizations. In this position she is the point of contact for the Nonprofit Incubation Center, in addition to the entire Community Engagement Department. Prior to SFFNJ she served as Director of Operations for A Better Way Inc. Tara is a Certified Myers Briggs Practitioner brandishing a plethora of additional certificates, and certifications. A graduate of Mercer County Community College, and Fairleigh Dickinson University Tara holds multiple degree's; Associate in Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with a minor in Business,(Magna Cum Laude) and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice/Pre-Law.



Ria Canagon has been with the Renewables and Energy Solutions department in PSE&G as Manager Energy Efficiency Outreach since January 25th, 2021. She is responsible for driving customer, contractor and trade ally engagement in energy efficiency programs through marketing, government/community partnerships, and other channels. Ria started with PSEG Power in 2011 and has held positions of increasing responsibility including Environmental Compliance Manager, and Manager of Major Environmental Permits for PSEG Fossil. She was also Manager Operations for PSE&G Call Center responsible for forecasting and scheduling, managing quality, analytics, and technology. Prior to joining PSEG, Ria worked as a Geologist for TRC Environmental Corporation. Ria earned an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science from the NJIT and Rutgers and she has a MBA from Excelsior. When she is not working, Ria enjoys spending time with her family and friends or reading a book.





Luis Crespo is an exceptional leader and self-driven results-oriented professional with over 15 years of customer service, people development and managerial experience. A detail oriented change agent adept in planning and managing multiple projects and priorities simultaneously within tight deadlines in high pressure environments. An outstanding communicator whose strong interpersonal skills can communicate effectively, clearly and persuasively in a variety of settings, formats, and audiences across business lines at all levels, and has a high degree of judgment based on high ethical standards.

Christine Curnan is the Vice President of Membership and Development of the Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber. Christine, left her long career in the finance world as a Portfolio Manager, managing multibillion dollar mutual funds in 2008 and felt the need to get more involved in the community. Christine volunteered and became involved with many non-profits as well as volunteered to run the Membership Committee for the then Princeton Regional Chamber Of Commerce. Shortly after, Christine joined the staff at the Chamber as the Director of Membership and Development where she successfully grew the membership of the Chamber from 500 to over 1,400 member companies and now over 12,000 company contacts. In addition to running development for the Chamber, Christine is responsible for starting many of the key business programs including the Real Estate Business Alliance Program, Trenton Economic Development Program, and the Diversity & Inclusion Program.



Lucy Del Gaudio is a veteran of the United States Army. Lucy is a strong advocate for veterans in the State of New Jersey. She serves as Co-Chair for the NJ SOS Veterans Stakeholders Women Sub Committee. She is a board member of Community Hope and a Program Manager for Minority Veterans of America. She currently serves as Service Academy Interviewer for Senator Bob Menendez and Senator Cory Booker. Lucy is a Admissions Field Force for the USMA (West Point). Lucy is the Manager of Culture and Engagement for Prudential's Inclusion Solutions Department . She is the recipient of the 2016 and 2019 Prudential Employee Volunteer of the Year Award and recipient of the Points of Light Service Award. She served as Site Lead and Chief of Staff for Prudential's VETNET BRG. She is also one of Prudential's 50 Hispanic Stars. She resides in Belleville, New Jersey with her husband, their four children and dog.



Rosa Farias currently works as the Deputy Executive Director of the Casino Redevelopment Authority. Prior to that she was the Director of Urban Policy for the New Jersey Senate Majority Office where her role as Director required her to work closely with the Democratic Senators in the Senate to create policy and draft legislation ranging from housing to local government issues that affect urban communities. Aside from her work in the New Jersey Legislature, she was also appointed to Gov. Phil Murphy's transition team as Deputy Director for Policy – Education, Access & Opportunity, where she was the lead on higher education policy. She recently was honored by the NJ Hispanic Leadership Association as a Champion of Change as well as a Latina Pioneer from the Latinas United for Political Empowerment (LUPE) for the work she has done in the New Jersey Legislature.



Katie Feery serves as Manager of Corporate Strategy for New Jersey Resources, a publicly-traded diversified energy company based in Wall, NJ. In this role, she leads the company's Office of Sustainability, aggregating all environmental, social and governance initiatives under one cohesive framework. She also provides energy policy analysis and support for new business growth opportunities. Previously, she served as manager of the company's residential solar program and held a variety of positions in communications and marketing. She holds a BA in Communications from Rutgers College and an MBA in Marketing from Rutgers Business School.

Jeannie Fournier provides strategic development and leadership for the Community FoodBank of New Jersey's programs focused on providing nutritious food to meet immediate needs as well as efforts to shorten the line and create food security. Jeannie has built and lead large-scale programs for over 18 years, previously serving as Senior Director at Food Bank For New York City where she oversaw nutrition and capacity building efforts at schools and community based organizations citywide. Jeannie is a graduate of William Paterson University and a Master Certified Health Education Specialist.





Christina Fuentes is the Director of Small Business Services at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA). In this role, she leads the NJEDA's efforts to foster a dynamic, supportive environment for the State's entrepreneurs and small businesses, with a focus on more comprehensively assisting historically underrepresented firms and underserved communities. Previously Christina served as the NJEDA's Senior Garden State Growth Zone (GSGZ) Development Officer, where she focused her efforts on supporting the five legislatively created GSGZs within New Jersey - Paterson, Passaic, Trenton, Camden, and Atlantic City. Prior to joining the EDA in 2015, Christina was employed by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority as a Project Development Officer in the Real Estate and Economic Development Department, where she assisted developers with economic development projects within Atlantic City. Christina earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from University of Kentucky.

Born and raised in NJ, **Henry Gajda** has always been committed to improving the wellbeing of fellow residents of the state that has served instrumental to my personal and professional growth. As the Public Policy Director for the New Jersey League of Conversation Voters (LCV), I drive legislation and action through strategic advocacy, lobbying, and coordinated coalition building. I have spearheaded statewide efforts passing legislation signed into law, and have helped locally with on-the-ground projects as an Environmental Commissioner in Brick and as a volunteer with the Barnegat Bay Partnership. Since graduate school, I have engaged with criminal justice reform efforts and attended New Jersey Reentry Corporation conferences. At LCV, I continue to research the intersections of climate change, equity, and urban policy. I am eager to join the Lead New Jersey Class of 2021, and with my environmental policy expertise and NJ roots, I believe I can provide dynamic and substantive input to discussions.



Kate Gerlach is Director-Generation Development at PSEG Power, a role she has held since 2012, where she is responsible for developing new infrastructure opportunities. She recently led the diligence team for PSEG's investment in offshore wind, and previously led development efforts for the Sewaren 7 and Bridgeport 5 power plants. Since joining PSEG in 2003, Ms. Gerlach has served as Portfolio Strategy Manager and Manager-M&A. In these roles, Ms. Gerlach was responsible for regional strategy, market analysis, and maximizing the financial performance of PSEG Power's assets. She served as a witness in the annual Rate Case for PSEG New Haven's peaking units. In 2009-2010, Ms. Gerlach participated in a rotational program with the Nuclear Energy Institute, where she was responsible for supplier-related activities. Ms. Gerlach holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Wharton and a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University.

Jeanette Iglesias is President of JI Coaching & Consulting, LLC, an executive coaching, leadership development, and consulting practice. In her practice, she supports leaders to maximize their innate leadership talents and drive organizational results. In addition to leading her practice, she is also an executive coach and facilitator for Lee Hecht Harrison (LHH), a global leader in talent management. At LHH, she coaches senior Fortune 500 senior leaders and hi-potentials. She is a diverse international ICF certified Professional Certified Coach (PCC), working with clients in the US, Middle East, and Europe. Jeanette is passionate about diversity and inclusion. She serves on the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Diversity Committee; she is a Program Director for the NJ Governors Hispanic Fellows and leads the Princeton Area Coaches Group. She also serves on several boards. Jeanette holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Bernard Baruch College.



Heather James is a native New Jerseyan, born in Newark and raised in Montclair. Heather graduated from Montclair High School and proceeded to graduate from Penn State University. She completed a MBA at Clark Atlanta University and Executive Education at Rutgers School of Business. A Marketing Executive, Heather held senior roles with The Advertising Research Foundation, Walmart, Revlon and The Coca-Cola Company. Currently, Heather is the Founder & CEO of Flair Branding & Image Management LLC. She is active with the Newark Chapter (Beta Alpha Omega) of Alpha Kappa Alpha, The Junior League of Montclair-Newark and the Essex County/Montclair Democratic County Committee.

Craig R. Johnson, CPA, is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants. Craig holds a B.S. degree in Accounting from Rider University and has over 30 years of concentrated experience in accounting and tax preparation. He has served in the role of controller for several privately-owned New Jersey corporations, before joining Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. in 2014. As the firm's tax partner, Craig provides advisory services to clients to help achieve greater efficiencies in growing their business, represents clients before the IRS, provides tax planning services and has extensive knowledge of individual, for-profit and non-profit tax return Preparation.



Monique Jones is the Community Engagement Manager for Audible's Global Center for Urban Development. In her role, Monique manages Audible's community projects and partnerships, with a focus on Newark, where Audible is proudly headquartered, including collaborations with the Newark Museum, Rutgers University-Newark, Newark Public Library, and the City of Newark. In 2019, Monique spearheaded programming events for the Washington Park "Sensory Lab," a temporary multisensory outdoor installation that aimed to encourage use of the park by the community throughout the outdoor season.

As chair of the Genova Burns Autonomous Vehicle Law Practice, **Avi Kelin** concentrates on the legal issues surrounding the emerging technology of autonomous vehicles. He provides innovative solutions in this fast-growing area to automakers, technology companies, insurance companies, real-estate developers, government entities, and other businesses that depend on transportation and mobility. He served on the New Jersey Advanced Autonomous Vehicle Task Force, which made recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding the regulation and legal issues of autonomous vehicles. Mr. Kelin focuses on the interaction between government and business. He advises businesses, trade associations and individuals on lobbying requirements, campaign-finance law, pay-to-play restrictions, government-ethics rules, and the government-procurement process.



Jonathan Kloc is a motivated individual who treats all challenges and obstacles as opportunities to grow and develop. State and product Manager with P&L responsibility for multiple expansion state's Personal Lines Insurance products. Seasoned analytics manager committed to finding data-based solutions through analytical rigor. Creative thinker with insurance expertise in pricing, underwriting, and product management. Simultaneously grew and developed a Data Analytics team and Workforce Management team, focusing on talent development and mentoring. Adept problem solver, known for providing optimum analytical strategies and solutions that help solve business challenges and achieve profitability goals. Skillful in distilling complex concepts into simpler examples.

Kristin Larew is an accomplished professional with dual experience in energy and healthcare and has served in roles touching on consulting, energy marketing and trading, commodities markets, clean energy programs, healthcare and governance. In her current role as Director of Board Administration for Hackensack Meridian Health, Ms. Larew oversees crucial governance functions for New Jersey's largest healthcare network. She previously served as Manager, Program Growth and Strategy at PSE&G, where she created clean energy programs aimed at improving air quality and delivering environmental benefits to NJ residents. A 2016 winner of the Tribute to Women in Industry Award, Ms. Larew enjoys helping women succeed in leadership roles. She is a graduate of Penn State University and an ongoing fan of Penn State football. In her spare time, she enjoys running, happy hour and spending time outdoors with her husband and two boys.





Born, raised, and educated in New Jersey, **Jessica Lipper** is an experienced professional with strong leadership, organization, and communication skills. I possess particular expertise in: program management; strategic planning; public relations; legislative, regulatory and policy analysis; and coalition building. I have found my niche advocating for policies that support women and their families that can change the trajectory of their lives. Utilizing Marcus Buckingham's strength's revolution, I am teacher and creator; my greatest value add is my ability and desire to improve performance one person at a time. I thrive on improving performance one person at a time, where the team is small, and where the need for change is urgent and unbounded. My husband, myself, our two boys, and dog live in East Brunswick, New Jersey. I am an active member of my synagogue volunteering on various committees. I enjoy reading, traveling, hiking, and cooking.

Ava Majlesi's parents moved to the U.S. in the 70s so my father could study engineering at NJIT. They planned to return to Iran after he graduated, but the Revolution happened, so they permanently unpacked. As a result, I am the first person in my family to have been born in the U.S. I went to public schools, graduated college, and obtained multiple graduate degrees in NJ. I started my career in NJ. I am entirely a product of NJ! I do not take for granted that so much of what I have achieved would not be possible had my parents not immigrated to this state. I have a very rambunctious 4 year old and I've spent so much of the last four years focused on her. I finally feel ready to place more of an emphasis on my own growth. I am pursuing this program because I'd like to meet other leaders across various sectors, and continue to develop skills that will allow me to give back to the state that has given me so many opportunities to thrive.



Mansi Naik has 19 years of experience in the Finance and Banking industry. During her 14 year tenure at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority she has held several positions in the Post Closing Financial Services division and is now the Program Manager, responsible for the oversight of the Loan Servicing team. In this position, she manages staff charged with identifying and mitigating credit risk, loan servicing duties and managing credit customer relationships while supporting New Jersey small businesses. Mansi has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance from Elizabethtown College, PA and now lives in Bordentown, NJ with her husband and son.

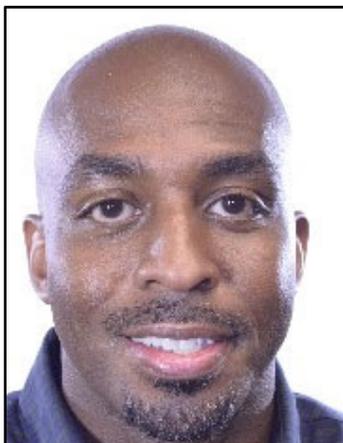
Donna Palumbo-Miele, EdD is a distinguished supply chain practitioner and President & CEO of Concordia Supply Chain Group LLC, a woman-owned certified business. The company was founded in 2020 following more than 20 years of serving in both startup and Fortune 100 companies providing strategic consultancy services. Prior, Donna held leadership positions at Bloomberg, LP, Johnson & Johnson, and The Walt Disney Company. Donna is an accomplished leader, public speaker, moderator, adjunct professor, and published author. Additionally, Donna is a board of director for The Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals leading their sustainability committee. Donna is a member of AWESOME, the Women's Forum of NY, and the Economic Club of NYC. She is former Chairwoman of the National Association of Woman MBAs and has served on multiple boards over the years.





Daniel Pierre is an Associate in Genova Burns's Newark, NJ office and a member of the Labor Law and Cannabis Law Practice Groups. Mr. Pierre assists private and public employers in resolving complex matters concerning labor and employment law. He regularly negotiates collective bargaining agreements on behalf of the employer and advises clients on various issues involving disciplinary matters, accommodation requirements, and employee leaves of absence. Mr. Pierre also represents private employers in enforcement proceedings initiated by the New Jersey Department of Labor related to workers misclassification audits and alleged wage and hour violations. In addition, Mr. Pierre also assists clients in the cannabis industry. He regularly reviews federal and state laws to ensure regulatory compliance for existing cannabis businesses and entrepreneurs seeking to enter the emerging industry. He has counseled clients on their licensing concerns and labeling requirements for cannabis products.

Jake Sneed is an experienced public affairs leader with a diverse background in strategic communications, public outreach, brand management and coalition development. He currently serves as communications manager for Pepco Holdings, where he leads the team responsible for protecting and strengthening the brand and reputation of Atlantic City Electric and Delmarva Power, which serve more than 1 million customers in Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey. Prior to joining Pepco Holdings, Sneed worked for Southwest Strategies, a public affairs firm in San Diego, where he supported a variety of Fortune 500 clients with government relations, public outreach, crisis management and media relations solutions. He began his career at Eastern Research Group providing communications and project management services for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.



Owain States has been an employee of PS&G for 19 years. I started off as an Engineering in the company and worked my way through various jobs to eventually become a Manager. I currently manage the single largest department in the Electric Distribution organization. I truly enjoy managing people and all the challenges that it comes with. Although this field was not the field I went to school for i have grown to enjoy leading, communicating and having people work together for a common goal.

Sarah Steward is the Chief Operating Officer at HomeFront, a non-profit agency dedicated to ending family homelessness and breaking the cycle of poverty for families in Central New Jersey. Ms. Steward provides the leadership, management and vision necessary to ensure the organization has the proper operational controls, administrative and reporting procedures, and trained staff in place to attain its mission. Ms. Steward also currently serves as a Councilwoman in the Township of Ewing and an adjunct instructor in the Master of Public Administration program at Saint Peter's University. Previously, Ms. Steward served as Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director for Congressman Rush Holt, holding leadership positions in his offices in New Jersey and on Capitol Hill. Ms. Steward holds a B.A. in Government and Psychology from Franklin and Marshall College and a Masters of Public Administration from Rutgers University.



Andrew Sykes is the Manager of Emergency Preparedness for Pepco Holdings holding company of Atlantic City Electric. I've worked for Atlantic City Electric and its various sister utilities in positions of increasing leadership over the last 25 years. I'm a graduate of Rutgers University and have an MBA from Drexel University. I'm a board member for the Edison Electric Institute National Mutual Assistance Response Team, Chair of the NJ Emergency Preparedness Association Finance & Audit Committee and the Chair for the NJ Utility Authority Cyber & Physical Security Committee. I live in Southern New Jersey with my wife and 2 young children and we have 2 adult children who are free and clear of our management oversight. We are active members of St. Johns Lutheran Church of Ocean City and we enjoy spending most of our spare time outdoors year-round and whenever possible, traveling to various designations including visiting with my wife's family in Southeast Asia.

Sandra Toussaint-Burgher serves as the President and CEO of United Way of Greater Mercer County. She provides executive leadership and vision to the organization. Prior to that Sandra held the position of Vice President of Resource Development. Sandra has over fifteen years experience in fund development, strategic partnerships and marketing. She's held senior positions at local and national organizations including Youth Communication, Inc., Special Olympics and Twenty-First Century Foundation. Before coming into the non-profit sector, Sandra worked in insurance. Sandra is sought-after speaker on such topics as corporate employee engagement, board development, cultivating donors and finding your passion - transitioning from for-profit to non-profit. Sandra is originally from New York City and holds a Masters of Public Administration from New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School and a B.A. from Hunter College.



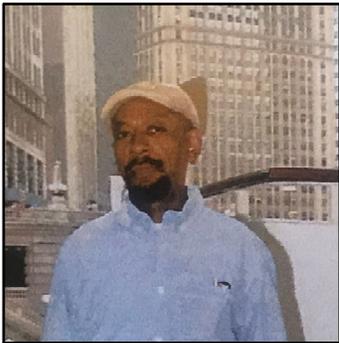


Heather Turner, Chief of Staff, joined Student Sponsor Partners in April 2018. As Chief of Staff, Heather oversees organizational operations, programming, communications, IT and human resources. She brings to her post years of experience in strategic planning, board relations, organizational operations, and nonprofit leadership while managing administrative functions. Heather specializes in expanding the philanthropic footprint of nonprofits in the community. Prior to joining SSP, Heather most recently oversaw board relations, executive office operations, organizational events, and administrative staff functions at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, the largest anti-hunger and anti-poverty organization in the state. Heather's experience extends to the medical field where she worked for a number of years and has a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Vanessa Vera is an experienced marketer, communicator, storyteller, and PR professional with a 14-year career that has spanned journalism, academia, and health care, in roles ranging from editor, to reporter, to content strategist, to her current role as Director of Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations at the nationally ranked Rutgers School of Nursing. A seasoned communicator, Vanessa is passionate about merging strategy and storytelling to meet the needs of both audiences and enterprises. A New Jersey native, Vanessa earned her bachelor's degree in Communication from Seton Hall University and a Master of Communication and Media from Rutgers University.



W. Ray Williams (Willie) is currently an assistant professor at Rutgers Business School. I have had three (3) distinct careers : banking. law , academic . I have been the founder of and a participant in several urban education initiatives . I am also an annual fundraiser for several community projects including the NYC-AIDS WALK and Morris County Hunger Project . Most recently, I had the pleasure of a three year stint acting as first gentleman the president of the American Bar Association which included travel to several continents and the majority of the domestic states.



Sharese K. York is currently the Director of #IAMTHECHANGE at the Smith Family Foundation, NJ. #IAMTHECHANGE fosters the Smith Family Foundation's service agenda "higher education as the normal next step" and core values: Education, Transformation, Cultivation, and Urban Ministry. We provide scholarships, internships, academic support, and career counseling for first generation college students transitioning into higher education or adulthood. Also, Sharese is the founder of Chosen Inspiration Association, a youth development 501 (c)3 tax-exempt organization dedicated to inspiring teens to overcome adversity, pursue their dreams, and become leaders in their community.

