

## 2014 SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS AND PANELISTS

Michael Fullan is the former Dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Recognized as a worldwide authority on educational reform, he advises policymakers and local leaders around the world in helping to achieve the moral purpose of all children learning. From 2004-2013 Michael Fullan served as Special Adviser in Education to the Premier of Ontario. He received the Order of Canada in December 2012 and holds multiple honorary doctorates. He is also a prolific, award-winning author whose books have been published in many languages. In addition, Michael Fullan is advising several California school districts on system reforms, including a nine district collaboration under CORE, the California Office to Reform Education.

David Conley is the founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Strategy Officer of the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC). Dr. Conley also serves as President of EdImagine Strategy Group, Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership, and founder and Director of the Center for Educational Policy Research (CEPR) at the University of Oregon. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on the topic of college and career readiness. Before joining the faculty of the University of Oregon in 1989, he spent a total of twenty years in Colorado and California as a school-level and central office administrator in several districts, an executive in a state education department, and as a teacher in two public multicultural alternative schools.

Linda Darling-Hammond is a Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at the Stanford University School of Education, where she launched the School Redesign Network, the Stanford Educational Leadership Institute, and the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education. Linda Darling-Hammond is also Chair of the California Teacher Credentialing Commission and a member of the Council of Chief State School Officers Formative Assessment Advisory Group. Previously she had been Chair of the New York State Council on Curriculum and Assessment, as well as Executive Director of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. In 2006 Education Week said that Darling-Hammond was one of the nation's 10 most influential people affecting education policy over the last decade.

Carl A. Cohn is Co-director of the Urban Leadership Program and a Clinical Professor at Claremont Graduate University. Cohn is a member of the California State Board of Education. He is respected nationally for his long-term leadership of the Long Beach Unified School District, where he served as superintendent from 1992-2002 and made the school district a model for high academic standards and accountability. More recently, he served in the same capacity at San Diego Unified School District from 2005-2007. Cohn has also been a faculty adviser for both the Broad Superintendents Academy and the Harvard Urban Superintendents Program. He serves on numerous boards, including American College Testing, Inc. (ACT) and EdSource. He earned his Ed.D in Administrative and Policy Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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Sandra Sanchez Thorstenson is the Superintendent of the Whittier Union High School District, having spent her entire 34-year career in Whittier Union. She previously worked as the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services in the Whittier district. She is the President of California City Superintendents, serves on the California State Superintendents' Council, and serves on the Pivot Learning Partners board. She is also a member of the Soroptimist International of Whittier. Thorstenson was selected as the 2012 AASA's Superintendent of the Year.

Kevin Maddox has over twenty-seven years experience in public education as an elementary and middle school teacher, and a school administrator. For the past two years, he has guided and supported his staff members in his district's implementation of the Common Core State Standards and preparation for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Kevin began his career in Dallas, Texas where he worked for two years as a sixth grade teacher. He then moved to Long Beach to begin his career with the Long Beach Unified School District. Kevin has held positions as a classroom teacher, reading intervention specialist, and federal and state categorical program facilitator. His administrative career started as an assistant principal in a K-8 school, and advanced to an elementary school principal. He now serves as a middle school principal at the Jefferson Leadership Academies. Kevin earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, and master's degree from California State University-Dominguez Hills.

Monica Curiel has been a teacher in the Santa Ana Unified School District for the last twelve years. Her teaching experience ranges from working with second to seventh grade students. As a classroom teacher, she has been part of different school committees and has trained school sites on different programs. For the last two years, she has been part of a selected group of teachers, CLAS (Certificated Learning and Achievement Specialist), who have received in-depth training on the Common Core State Standards. As part of this selected group of teachers, Monica has been working side-by-side with curriculum specialists and a team of educational leaders to create integrated units of study that set high expectations for all students, while at the same time providing differentiated support. She has also taken part in developing and presenting professional development on the new state standards to different school sites, teacher leaders, and parent groups. As part of the CLAS position, Monica has provided one-on-one support with Common Core implementation to intermediate school teachers at schools with a high English learner populations as well as teachers in the Alternative Education setting.

Dr. Robin Avelar La Salle, is the Chief Operating Officer for The Principal Exchange Foundation. She holds a Ph.D. in Education from Stanford University with an emphasis on Language, Literacy and Culture. She has teaching experience at the elementary, secondary and university level and has received California State Approval as a lead External Evaluator. Robin has deep experience as an administrator for curriculum, staff development and assessment at the district level and has held numerous positions in research and consulting in both Northern and Southern California. Robin is directly involved with the design and development of the various educational programs offered by The Principal's Exchange Foundation. Her long and successful career as an "equity warrior" is captured in her book, "Data Strategies to Uncover and Eliminate Hidden Inequities: The Wallpaper Effect" (co-authored with Dr. Ruth Johnson).

## SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS AND PANELISTS, cont'd

Steve Thornton is president of the California Educational Technology Professionals Association (CETPA). Steve has been an educator for over 25 years and currently serves as the Director of Technology for the Menifee Union School District. In that position, he is responsible for all aspects of district technology including technology-enriched curriculum development, administrative, student, and assessment systems, technology infrastructure, security, retrofitting, new facilities planning, policies, and procedures. Steve develops and oversees the district technology plans; manages technology budgets; supervises technology staff; researches and implements new technology initiatives; conducts presentations and training; and provides technical support to end-users and technology staff. Steve's previous professional positions in the education field have included high school assistant principal, principal/coordinator, technical support manager, field consultant and teacher.

David Rattray is the Senior Vice President of the Education and Workforce Development department at the Chamber and UNITE-LA, the School-to-Career Partnership of Los Angeles. Rattray officially joined the Chamber in 2003 after being a strategic partner for several years. Since 1998, he has led UNITE-LA in building business and educational partnerships toward a goal of improving the academic achievement and enthusiasm for learning for all Los Angeles students. Previously Rattray spent more than 20 years in the foodservice distribution industry. Rattray served on the L.A. City Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council and was vice chair of the State Workforce Investment Board's Lifelong Learning Committee. Rattray earned his M.B.A. from the University of Southern California.

Ramona Bishop is Superintendent of the Vallejo City Unified School District, after serving as Associate Superintendent for Educational Services in the Twin Rivers Unified School District. Her professional career also includes teaching, serving as principal of three elementary schools, and holding several district office positions in the Emery School District, Sacramento Unified School District, and Del Paso Heights Elementary School District. She was Superintendent of the Del Paso Heights School District prior to its consolidation with three other districts into the Twin Rivers Unified School District. Ramon also serves on the Board of Directors at EdSource.

Rick Miller joined Santa Ana Unified School District as Superintendent in November 2013. He brings 40 years of educational experience to Santa Ana, including twenty-two years as a superintendent in both California and Idaho. For the past five years, he served as superintendent for the Riverside Unified School District. His academic degrees include a Ph.D. in education, Ed. Sp. (Education Specialist) in educational administration, M.Ed. (Masters in Education) in educational administration and higher education, and a Bachelor's degree in chemistry. Rick Miller has been a teacher and principal at the elementary and secondary levels and has been a university adjunct professor. He has focused his career on school reform and raising student achievement in diverse settings. Rick Miller is a co-founder of the Mountain West Superintendents Roundtable, a regional superintendent think tank.