

Annual Meeting

BIOGRAPHIES

Sustaining Healthcare Profession Connections Into the Future

July 27-29, 2021



Carmen Jones Aviles
HPOG Employment Advanced Program Coordinator
Pima Community College

Ms. Aviles is the Employment Coordinator for the Pima Community College HPOG HOPES program. She holds a master's degree in human resources management from Nova Southeastern University and is SHRM-CP certified. She has been working for HPOG for the last 4 years and has 10 years of experience in human resources. She has always enjoyed being the first contact for prospective employees and has used that knowledge and experience to specialize in relationship building. She takes pride in explaining the recruiting process thoroughly to her students and helping prepare them for employment. Ms. Aviles also enjoys supporting employers through their recruiting challenges, assisting them in building their applicant pool, and helping them build meaningful relationships within the College. She is a powerful force in the workplace and uses her positive attitude to encourage others to work hard and succeed. She is inspired daily by her husband and four children. In her free time, she loves to read, work out, travel, and spend time with her family.

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Wanda Williams Bailey
Project HOPE Project Director
South Carolina Department of Social Services

Ms. Bailey is an innovative thinker and a versatile entrepreneur with over 35 years of experience launching public and nonprofit businesses. Her strengths include program evaluation, budgets, cost-benefit analysis, policy development, strategic planning solutions, team development, and leadership. She has established strong partnerships to help advance organizations' ongoing efforts. Before joining the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS), Ms. Bailey was the founder and Executive Director of the Washington-Williams Institute (WWI). Emphases were on the alleviation of poverty by building lives through education and economic empowerment. WWI was one of 13 recipients in the state awarded a contract from SCDSS called the Employment Preparation Program (EPP). Clients received job readiness training and placement for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and low-income populations. Unfortunately, all contractors awarded the grant by SCDSS were canceled due to the recession in 2008-2009. Due to the outstanding performance of WWI, Ms. Bailey was offered an opportunity to join SCDSS when awarded HPOG 1.0. She played a critical role in launching the Project HOPE initiative, working closely with the Director. She performed job development training, placement, and retention. Ms. Bailey was appointed Project Director in HPOG 2.0. She believes everyone must receive essential resources and training in depressed and rural communities to obtain jobs that pay sustainable wages. Ms. Bailey is a lifelong learner and enjoys reading and learning about history. She maintains a healthy lifestyle and, more importantly, treasures the time spent with family.

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LaSonya Bishop
Director, Workforce Programs
Volunteers of America Texas

Ms. Bishop is Director of Workforce Programs at Volunteers of America Texas (VOATX). She came to the VOATX Financial Opportunity Center 5 years ago after a 17-year career in education as a teacher, department chair, and professional development consultant working with over 50 public and private schools in the greater Houston area. She has demonstrated transformative leadership skills and strategic partner relationship building for numerous workforce development programs at VOATX. She has served on senior leadership teams and advisory councils in the nonprofit industry with oversight in the areas of operational planning, program management/evaluation, and performance. After her second year with the agency, she was awarded the VOA Texas Difference Maker for outstanding program management and leadership efforts. She has extensive experience in developing and managing aspects of organizational improvement efforts with specialization in innovative program development. Ms. Bishop has a passion for social justice issues and is fully committed to systematic change through workforce development for the betterment of the community. She holds a bachelor's degree in education (magna cum laude) and a master's degree in educational leadership (summa cum laude) from Prairie View A&M University.

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Beth Blanchard
WorkSource System Director
Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County

Ms. Blanchard has worked in employment and training programs for 30 years with youth, adults, and dislocated workers. Currently, in her job as WorkSource System Director at the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, she focuses her energies on quality One-Stop (WorkSource) system development. She supervises Project Managers who coordinate federal Department of Health and Human Services grants and local WorkSource system initiatives and oversees the work of the system operator and business services staff. Ms. Blanchard has a breadth of experience with specific job-seeker populations, including low-income individuals and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, youth, mature job seekers, and incumbent workers. She continues her interest in teaching and learning as a Master Trainer for two national initiatives and is a published author and coproducer of a Telly award-winning video.

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Nicole Bossard
President and Senior Consultant
TGC Consulting, Inc.

Dr. Bossard's vision of a perfect world includes thriving communities empowered by bodacious people and dynamic organizations actively working together to turn great ideas into great futures and great challenges into great opportunities! Equipped with a PhD in organizational leadership and change, and infectious enthusiasm, Dr. Bossard helps organizations and communities unlock the collective wisdom within teams, identify their unique core strengths, and engage the whole system in achieving results they are proud of! Her clients report restored enthusiasm and passion for their work; renewed trust between staff, stakeholders, and partners; and improved clarity about what's now, what's next, and inspired action steps forward.

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Seth Chamberlain
Division Director
Division of State and Territory TANF Management
Office of Family Assistance

Mr. Chamberlain is a Division Director in the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families' (ACF's) Office of Family Assistance (OFA), with oversight of the Healthy Marriage (HM), Responsible Fatherhood (RF), and Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) programs. Prior to work in OFA, he was a Senior Social Science Research Analyst in ACF's Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation. He has spent over 15 years working on federal HM and RF programs and evaluations, as well as evaluations of federal employment, sexual risk avoidance education, and teen pregnancy prevention programs. Prior to joining ACF, Mr. Chamberlain taught middle school Spanish in Chicago, interned at a program for men convicted of domestic battery, and interned as a clinical social worker at the University of Chicago Hospital. He holds a bachelor's degree from Goshen College and a master's degree from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.

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Rheannon Charbonneau
Turtle Mountain Community College

Ms. Charbonneau is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians from Belcourt, ND and the proud mother of four wonderful children. She credits her children with giving her the strength to pursue a career in healthcare so that she could provide them with a better life. She received her healthcare training at the Turtle Mountain Community College, where she was enrolled within the HEART Project, an HPOG training program. There, she earned her certification as a Nursing Assistant and later her certification as a Medication Aide II. Ms. Charbonneau used her newly acquired credentials to support the change she desired for herself and her family and secured employment at two hospitals after completing her training—Altru Hospital in Grand Forks and Heart of America Medical Center in Rugby (both in ND). Although she enjoyed her experiences working within these hospitals, she chose to accept a position with the Good Samaritan Nursing Home to be closer to her sister to whom she provides care. Moving forward, Ms. Charbonneau plans to complete past training pursuits to advance her skills within healthcare and will earn her certification as a medical coder. Her long-term goals are to continue her education within the nursing profession, where she will pursue her license in practical nursing, taking the next step on her journey within her healthcare career.

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Shae Cheatham
PHOCAS 2.0 Project Director
Workforce Development Board SDA-83, Inc.

Ms. Cheatham is with the Workforce Development Board 83 in Louisiana, where she serves as the HPOG Project Director. In this role, she oversees the development and implementation of project policies and outcomes and works closely with healthcare industry partners and education providers to ensure the regional healthcare workforce needs of rural northeast Louisiana are met. As a coconvener of the Northeast Louisiana Healthcare Alliance, she has played a key role in launching and sustaining the first Next Generation sector partnership in the state of Louisiana. With over 20 years of experience in workforce development, Ms. Cheatham has a passion for mobilizing the right coalition of public and private leaders to tackle the issues that most impact the health and vitality of the communities of northeast Louisiana.

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Mark Cosgrove
Project Director
Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Development Consortium, Inc.

Mr. Cosgrove has served as a Workforce Development Professional for 40 years. His background includes job counseling, fiscal management, MIS, planning, and project management. He has served as Project Director for HPOG Buffalo since 2010. In HPOG 1.0, the program focused predominantly on healthcare training and employment. In HPOG 2.0, the HPOG program was expanded to include basic and soft skills training, career pathways, and additional needed supports. For the future healthcare workforce, they plan to take what they have learned from their HPOG experience to create the Buffalo “Center for Innovation” that will combine healthcare training, employer presence, intake and testing, career exploration, basic and soft skills training, counseling, coaching, mentorship, childcare, wellness classes, and financial literacy, all in the same location.

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Kifaya Douglas
Data Analyst
Montefiore Medical Center

Ms. Douglas has been part of the Montefiore HPOG program since its inception. As a Data Analyst, she has built the case management and employment tracking databases that have contributed to the program’s success. Her work for Montefiore workforce initiatives has included lead data analyst roles in HPOG as well other New York State-funded workforce programs. She also builds staff skills and leads Montefiore HPOG’s Leap Fund implementation. Prior to joining Montefiore, Ms. Douglas was an analyst in marketing and manufacturing. She holds a BBA in statistics and quantitative modeling.

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Becky Fausett
Project HELP Director
Central Community College

Ms. Fausett is Director of Project HELP at Central Community College, a role that earned her a League for Innovation in the Community College Excellence Award in 2020. Prior to her current role, she worked in human resources at the same college. She has spent the remaining years of her professional career managing a mental health outpatient clinic and leading a coalition against underage drinking. She received her bachelor’s degrees in psychology and human services administration from Hastings College and her master’s degree in strategic leadership from Bethel University. She enjoys putting her education into practice on a daily basis as she works to lead a team that improves the lives of others. Outside of work, Ms. Fausett is active in her community as a Community Emergency Response Team member and a volunteer at her church.

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Dan Ferguson
Director
Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence

Mr. Ferguson has over 30 years of experience in higher education, nonprofit management, healthcare, and human services. He has a real interest in organizational culture and change management. In his current role as Director of the Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, he is working to assist the community college system in increasing its capacity to be responsive to the workforce needs of the healthcare industry and to the communities they mutually serve. The Allied Health Center of Excellence is dedicated to addressing Washington State's healthcare workforce needs of today and tomorrow. Through collaboration and cooperation with industry and community partners, the Center provides guidance and leadership to support innovation, flexibility, and responsiveness in the state's community college health workforce programs.

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Misty Gaston-Morgan
Workforce Development Board SDA-83, Inc.

Ms. Gaston-Morgan has been a Licensed Practical Nurse for 9 years and has worked in several nursing fields, including geriatrics, clinical nursing, and psychiatry, as well as a short stint in pediatrics. With this experience, her love for psychiatry and clinical work prevailed and is why she chose a position as a charge nurse at a local psychiatric facility. She obtained her practical nursing degree from Louisiana Delta Community College in 2012 and has been accepted for the fall 2021 registered nursing program at Southern University to obtain her Associate of Science in Nursing degree. She has a projected graduation date of May 2023.

After graduation, Ms. Gaston-Morgan plans to continue working in psychiatry but wants to branch out as a Community Health Nurse to give aid to homeless and economically challenged individuals, having realized that so many individuals lack basic healthcare as well as mental health services. She is the wife of an amazing man named Joey and mommy to five wonderful children that she refers to as her "5 Heartbeats." In her spare time, she enjoys reading, trying different food trucks in the surrounding area, and singing on her church praise team.

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Craig Gebers
Project Director
Zepf Center

Mr. Gebers is Senior Director of Workforce Development and Supportive Services at Zepf Center in Toledo, OH, which provides workforce development, mental health, and substance abuse treatment services. Mr. Gebers has a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Bowling Green State University, a bachelor's degree in human services administration from the University of Toledo, and an associate's degree in business management from Northwest State Community College. Over his 25+ years with the Zepf Center, Mr. Gebers has secured grants in excess of \$60 million and has managed various workforce development, mental health, and vocational rehabilitation services programs and staff, including One Stop Operations, Career Service, Community Recovery Support, Vocational Assessment, Homeless Outreach, Health Professional Training, 2 Gen Services, Career Counseling, Vocational Case Management, Job Readiness Training, Job Placement, and Job Retention. Prior to Zepf Center, Mr. Gebers was employed at Quadco Rehabilitation Center for 8 years as Divisional Management Coordinator of the JTPA Occupational and Work Adjustment Training Program and worked 3.5 years at First Call for Help as a social worker and hospital prescriber.

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Susan Golonka
Acting Director
Office of Family Assistance

Ms. Golonka joined the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as Deputy Director of the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) in May 2012. Now, as Acting Director of OFA, she oversees the administration of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, Tribal TANF, the Health Profession Opportunity Grants, and healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood activities, providing overall guidance and direction for the work of OFA. Prior to joining the Administration for Children and Families, Ms. Golonka was Program Director for Human Services at the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices. She directed NGA's research and technical assistance efforts for governors' policy advisors and states around issues related to welfare reform, low-income working families and poverty, and child welfare. Prior to this position, she was Director of Human Services Legislation at NGA. In this capacity, she was the principal staff representative for NGA during the national debate and passage of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. Before joining NGA in 1995, Ms. Golonka worked with the Family Impact Seminar, a small nonpartisan public policy institute, and served as a policy advisor to former Governor Kean of New Jersey and for the United States Senate. Ms. Golonka received an MPA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Diandra Gourlay
Program Manager
Volunteers of America Michigan

Ms. Gourlay is Project Director for the HPOG grant with Volunteers of America Michigan and joined the project in Year 4, after previously working in the private sector and, later, the political sector. She has a passion for the Detroit community and enjoys leading her team of employment specialists and service navigators. Her team works hard to connect clients with healthcare jobs to help accomplish their career goals. Currently, her team has begun a new campaign initiative that is connecting clients with community employers at higher rates than seen previously this year.

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Carol Hafford
Principal Research Scientist
National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago

Dr. Hafford is a Principal Research Scientist at NORC at the University of Chicago, where she leads studies on human service programs focused on the social and economic well-being of children, youth, and families. She has worked on the Tribal Health Profession Opportunity Grant evaluations since 2010 as the evaluation lead, and in 2020 became the Project Director. During this time, she also worked on the national evaluation of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program. Through TAACCCT, community colleges developed or redesigned training programs to help adults earn credentials for high-wage, high-skill occupations using career pathways and accelerated learning approaches while providing supportive services to participants. Dr. Hafford also has studied two-generation approaches and service coordination to foster child and family well-being. She recently completed case study research on individualizing and connecting families to comprehensive family support services in Head Start. She previously examined Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)-child welfare coordination and Tribes' planning and implementation of family preservation and support services. She was NORC's Project Director for two nationally representative studies in Indian Country: an in-person assessment of American Indian and Alaska Native housing needs, and a demographic profile and survey of participants in the Food Distribution Program on

Indian Reservations. Dr. Hafford served on the Children's Bureau's workgroup that prepared *A Roadmap for Collaborative and Effective Evaluation in Tribal Communities*, which emphasizes relationship-, knowledge-, and skill-building to cocreate a new narrative of evaluation practice. She holds a PhD in applied anthropology from Columbia University.

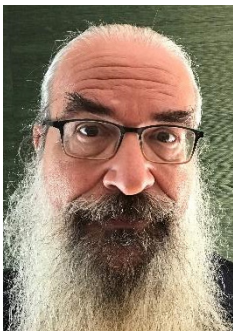
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Philip Hong
Professor and Associate Dean for Research
School of Social Work
Loyola University of Chicago

Dr. Hong is Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the School of Social Work at Loyola University of Chicago. He leads Loyola's Center for Research on Self-Sufficiency (CROSS) as the Founding Director and is a Faculty Associate of the Center for Social Development (CSD) at Washington University in St. Louis. He earned his MSW and PhD at the Brown School of Washington University in St. Louis and also holds an MA and PhD in political science from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is the developer of the Transforming Impossible into Possible (TIP)[®] intervention model that applies the theory of psychological self-sufficiency to strengthen individuals' goal-directed process to reach success outcomes. His main academic interest is in poverty and workforce development. Dr. Hong's research program has focused on structural poverty and social exclusion in the United States and international/comparative social welfare. He currently is partnering with local workforce development initiatives to develop bottom-up strategies for empowering low-income individuals and families in their quest to achieve self-sufficiency. Dr. Hong serves as Principal Investigator and consultant for various federally funded and community-based projects and international organizations, and his research is being cited and used to improve social service efficacy and inform social policy development/improvement.

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David Judkins
Director of Analysis
Abt Associates

Mr. Judkins is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association with 42 years of experience and has spent his career designing systems to measure the severity of American socioeconomic and public health problems and evaluate proposed interventions (including HPOG 2.0). He is a graduate of Carleton College in Minnesota and received a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Indiana at Bloomington. On weekends, he likes to cycle, ski, hike, and kayak. He is married with three adult children and lives in the Washington, DC suburbs.

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Brian Kelsey
Program Director
Action for a Better Community, Inc.

Mr. Kelsey is the Program Director at Action for a Better Community, Inc. (ABC), in Rochester, NY. He has been in this role since March 2018. He has a master's degree in education and began his career as a high school teacher in Phoenix, AZ. He has worked in the education and supported employment field for 15 years and has been at ABC for the past 6 years. Mr. Kelsey spends his off time being a dedicated husband and father of three to Lincoln (6), Nellie (4), and Llewyn (2).

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Robin Koralek
Deputy Project Director
Abt Associates

Ms. Koralek is a Senior Associate with expertise in the evaluation of workforce development, career pathways, and income support programs, and joined the Social and Economic Policy (SEP) Division at Abt Associates in 2010. During her tenure at Abt Associates, she has led or supported studies sponsored by various government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Social Security Administration. Ms. Koralek currently supports the National Evaluation for the 2nd Generation of the Health Profession Opportunity Grants program and previously served as Project Director for the HPOG National Implementation Evaluation. She has an MPA from the Maxwell School in Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

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Kerry Longobardi
Action for a Better Community, Inc.

Ms. Longobardi is a single mother of four who was raised in West Henrietta, NY and resides there today. At the age of 20, she married her high school sweetheart and was married for 27 years. In July 2018 after her 25th anniversary, her daughters confided in her that their father had molested them, starting at the age of 5 and continuing for years after. Ms. Longobardi filed for divorce in August 2018 and started attending college at MCC. While attending college, she dealt with issues related to pressing charges and a criminal trial against her husband for the molestation of her two daughters and the emotional and financial abuse she herself experienced. In September 2019, she had the added stress of her mother having congestive heart failure and a quadruple bypass. In October 2019, Ms. Longobardi's husband was found not guilty because of lack of evidence. The emotional stress of hearing the not-guilty verdict on her daughters was horrific, and her older daughter had to be on suicide watch several times while Ms. Longobardi was in school. In 2020, while still dealing with her divorce, she graduated with a 3.04 GPA, and in December of 2020, she was hired as a New York State COVID Tracer and at University of Rochester Medical Center as a Clinical Lab Tech III. She would not have received her associate's degree or American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Certification without the HPOG program. She credits the program with helping her when she needed it the most, giving her grants for books and her AHIMA exam fee. She is very grateful that the HPOG program was there for her.

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Kelly Meier
Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Training Program Supervisor
Kansas Department of Commerce

Ms. Meier is the Kansas Health Profession Opportunity Project (KHPOP) Supervisor with the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, a subgrantee of the Kansas Department of Commerce HPOG Program. She has spent her 15-year career working toward the overall mission of the Workforce Alliance, which is supporting and advancing a competitive workforce in south central Kansas and growing the regional economy through a skilled workforce.

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Hope Miller
Program Manager
Hostos Community College

Ms. Miller is Program Manager of the Allied Health Career Pipeline Program under the Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College of the City University of New York. She has been integral to the program's daily operations, supporting both staff and students during her tenure. Initiated into the workforce development community at the end of HPOG 1.0., Ms. Miller takes great pride in her service to the South Bronx community in improving its residents' quality of life with the Allied Health Career Pipeline Program. She brings a wealth of information and research capabilities from her past management role at *Reader's Digest*. She is a native New Yorker who attended the Bronx High School of Science and received her bachelor's degree in business administration from American University in Washington, DC. Ms. Miller is a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, active with the Bronx Science Black and Latino alumni group, and the mother of two college students. She enjoys fine dining, shoe shopping, watching sci-fi shows, and spending quality time with her family during her leisure time.

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CoLynn Paprocki
Success Coach
Central Community College

Ms. Paprocki has served as a Success Coach with Project HELP at Central Community College for over 9 years. Prior to serving the grant, she was Office Manager for a group of income-based apartments and was employed as a Case Manager for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Economic Assistance Division for 12 years. She holds an associate's degree in human services from Central Community College and a bachelor's degree in health and human services administration from Bellevue University. Some of Ms. Paprocki's accomplishments include serving 6 years on the Executive Board of the community Big Pals Little Pals mentoring program with 2 years as President and now a 7th year in an outgoing President advisory role, pioneering a food and hygiene pantry at the local community college, and having had the honor of serving a student who became an HPOG "Success Story of the Year." When not at work or serving her community, she helps her husband on the family farm, spends time with her 94-pound Labrador fur baby named Tank, enjoys camping, and plays an active role in her large family.

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Lisa Parks
Project Director
Rogue Community College

Ms. Parks is currently Project Director for the Southern Oregon HOPE project and Director of the Allied Health Department at Rogue Community College in Southern Oregon, which spans four campus locations. She started her higher education journey at Rogue Community College, and then earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Southern Oregon University and later earned a master's degree in communications and curriculum development from Grand Canyon University. Personally and professionally, her most rewarding work is being able to partner with others to achieve life goals or, at the very least, identify goals and pathways to achieving them. Being a compassionate, energetic, team-oriented leader is important to Ms. Parks and she is thankful to have been part of both the HPOG journey locally and the HPOG grantees throughout the nation. She looks forward to continuing service in higher education by teaching and working with healthcare industry partners to meet demands so that communities grow stronger. Whether working or not, Ms. Parks enjoys getting to know others and learning about different cultures, experiences, and where people are headed.

When not on the clock, she enjoys rafting, cooking, reading, and hiking with family and friends. She believes in the power of good communication; just about every problem starts with ineffective or no communication, and every problem usually can be solved with effective, open, solution-based communication. Ms. Parks expresses her thanks to HPOG grantees for their service and dedication and to HPOG funders for trying to find solutions to reduce generational poverty in our communities.

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Ronaldo Pimentel
Case Manager
Hostos Community College

Mr. Pimentel is a Case Manager at the Hostos Community College Allied Health Pipeline Program. He is a graduate of Herbert H. Lehman College with a bachelor's degree in education. He is passionate about helping students reach their full potential and accomplish their goals. He provides workshops for all of the students enrolled in the Allied Health Pipeline Program to help them continue their education. Previously, Mr. Pimentel supported the Bronx community as a Case Manager at Catholic Charities Home Eviction Prevention Program, where he was able to provide assistance to Bronx residents in danger of losing their homes. He has done great work in supporting the Far Rockaway community during the rebuilding stage after hurricane Sandy. Mr. Pimentel is the proud father of one and does everything in his power to make sure his son has a bright future. He is a native of the Bronx and helps organize basketball tournaments in the community to help keep youth out of trouble. He also enjoys playing basketball, going on long bike rides, and working on his turbo-charged car.

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Jacqueline Rhodes
Senior Manager
ICF International

Ms. Rhodes is Senior Manager for Workforce Innovations and Poverty Solutions at ICF. In this role, she provides technical assistance and capacity-building projects for organizations, state agencies, and the federal government. A seasoned Project Manager, she has experience in both financial and people management and specializes in developing and delivering client- and stakeholder-driven solutions. Currently, Ms. Rhodes manages and supports initiatives related to capacity building, poverty and welfare, workforce development, disconnected youth, and family strengthening. Most recently, she has managed initiatives for the Office of Family Assistance; the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation; and the KIPP Foundation. She has worked with the HPOG University Partnerships grantees since 2016. Ms. Rhodes holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Dickinson College and a master's degree in leadership and management from Notre Dame of Maryland University.

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Jessica Santos
Director of Community-Engaged Research
Institute for Economic and Racial Equity
Brandeis University

Dr. Santos is Director of Community-Engaged Research at the Institute for Economic and Racial Equity and a lecturer at the Heller School for Social Policy & Management at Brandeis University. She is the Principal Investigator on multiple federally and privately funded mixed-methods studies focused on examining pathways for economic stability, upward mobility, and equity through social policy. Dr. Santos speaks nationally about empowerment economics, economic and racial justice, workforce development and career pathways, and

immigrant integration. Most of her research is designed in partnership with community-based organizations or policy makers as action research to advance social justice. Dr. Santos holds a PhD in social policy from Brandeis University and a master's degree in sustainable development from the School for International Training.

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Barbara Schmitt
Project Director
Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board

Dr. Schmitt is Director of Training and Education and Project Director for the HPOG Pathways to Healthcare Professions program. She has over 30 years of experience and specialized skills and professional qualifications in education, community and economic development, and research and development. As Director of Training and Education, Dr. Schmitt plans and directs education and technical assistance programs and provides leadership, management, and technical assistance to program staff. She is also responsible for establishing program goals and ensures compliance and success of educational department programs such as HPOG. She is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and has a PhD in education from North Dakota State University.

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Suzi Shoemaker
Independent Consultant

Ms. Shoemaker has over 30 years' experience in K-12, higher education, healthcare coordination, employment development, and program management. Her focus has been on helping people navigate out of poverty through employment and education. She served as Program Manager for HPOG 1.0 at Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ and developed the Employment Services Program for HPOG 2.0, which was written up as a promising practice in employment services. Ms. Shoemaker is a certified grant writer and has put together employment manuals, held contracts with higher education and federal workforce programs, served as a consultant to multiple other grants and initiatives, and volunteers her time as a mentor to young professional women.

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Priscila Silva-Lebron
Program Specialist
Office of Family Assistance

Ms. Silva-Lebron is a Program Specialist with the Health Profession Opportunity Grants Program in the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families. She loves to travel and learn about different cultures, and prior to joining HPOG, worked as a Program Specialist at the Inter-American Foundation, an independent federal agency, managing the Fellowship program and assisting the Network and Strategic Initiatives Division. She holds a BA in international relations and French from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MA in international peace and conflict resolution from American University.

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Kristy Sones
Workforce Academic Specialist
Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit

Ms. Sones resides in Lewisburg, PA and has been working as a Career Coordinator for the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit WATCH Project for the past 5 years. Recently, she stepped into a new role as Workforce Academic Specialist for both the WATCH Project and a Pennsylvania Department of Labor Direct Care Worker grant. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in counseling, and possesses credentialing as a National Certified Counselor. She has previous work experience as a Service Coordinator working under a Housing and Urban Development grant.

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Michele Tedder
Project Manager
Community College of Allegheny County

Ms. Tedder is currently Project Manager for the Pathways to Success Program at the Community College of Allegheny County. She is a native of Pittsburgh and holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in nursing education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is also a professional life coach trained by the Life Purpose Institute in San Diego, CA and board certified by the Center for Credentialing and Education. Ms. Tedder has more than 30 years of knowledge and experience in the health and mental health arena with expertise in community outreach, strategic partnership development, and community education. She is also the founder of two businesses, Joy for Life Coaching and Village Empowerment Solutions Consulting, both of which focus on supporting health and wellness outcomes of individuals and communities. Ms. Tedder can be followed on Instagram @coach_tedder.

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Kailiah Thomas
Program Specialist
Office of Family Assistance

Ms. Thomas is a Program Specialist with the Health Profession Opportunity Grants Program in the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). She has a passion for seeing children and families thrive. Prior to joining ACF, she worked as a social worker and mental health counselor with programs and nonprofits that provided direct support to children, families, and young adults. Ms. Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Morgan State University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Georgia.

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Lauren Adams Tighe
Postdoctoral Fellow
Northwestern University

Dr. Tighe is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University and an early career scholar who studies the ways educational practice and policy affect low-income families. With a doctoral degree in developmental psychology and social work from the University of Michigan (2019), Dr. Tighe has extensive training in advanced quantitative methods using complex, longitudinal datasets. Her work with the Northwestern University Two-Generation Research Initiative examines various two-

generation programs that strategically align education services for parents and children.

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Katherine Vastine
WATCH Project Program Manager
Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit

Ms. Vastine is the WATCH Project Program Manager and CARES Team Leadership Coordinator for the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit. Her career has focused on improving the lives of children, adults, and families by building partnerships, leveraging resources, and collaborating across all sectors—business, nonprofit, government, and faith—to provide education, career, and social opportunities that lead individuals and families on the path to self-sufficiency.

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Danita Wadley
Vice President, Houston Region
Volunteers of America Texas

Ms. Wadley serves as Vice President of Houston Programs for Volunteers of America Texas and works closely with partners in developing relationships and strategies that support the financial and promotional needs of the agency. She began her career at VOA Texas 3 years ago overseeing its Financial Opportunity Center, a place where individuals receive job training and financial literacy. With her leadership, a small business workshop was established called Entrepreneur 101 to create a roadmap to the implantation of a new financial literacy curriculum for the VOA Texas Financial Opportunity Center. Additionally, Ms. Wadley implemented the Workforce Development Pilot Program in collaboration with the United Way of Greater Houston's THRIVE program and Northline Workforce Solutions. She began a Banking Boot Camp hosted by Wells Fargo Bank, which turned 145 unbanked clients to banked in only 18 months. Through her leadership, she has established strong relationships with employers, job skills training providers, and funding agencies. In just 3 years of service to VOA Texas, she has acquired \$10 million in grants and expanded Houston area programs by 75 percent. Her most recent addition is a veteran-specific program that helps homeless veterans reintegrate into society with improved financial health. She is also able to share her knowledge on a steering committee for the Houston Area Workforce Council. Ms. Wadley's work with VOA Texas and the Financial Opportunity Center gained national attention when she was featured in *The Washington Post* and was also awarded the VOA Texas Difference Maker Award. She has more than a decade of experience in finance and concurrently obtained 15 years of professional writing knowledge. As a former Senior Licensed Relationship Manager for Wachovia Bank, she served the banking needs of businesses with \$5 million to \$20 million in revenue. She is an alumnus of the University of Houston, where she earned both master's and bachelor's degrees in psychology.

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Kristal Wagner
Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit

Ms. Wagner lives in Milton, PA, and graduated from the Central Susquehanna Licensed Practical Nurse Career Center in Lewisburg, PA in August 2020. She works full time as a Corrections Nurse for a local county prison. She plans to pursue her RN-BSN studies at a local university and is so happy to be a nurse. She never thought it was going to be possible.

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Dvora Wilensky
Program Specialist
Office of Family Assistance

Ms. Wilensky is a Program Specialist with the Health Profession Opportunity Grants program in the Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families. Prior to joining HPOG, she worked in the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement and served as a Presidential Management Fellow. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and communication from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from the George Washington

University Law School.

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