



The Campaign for High School Equity and its Partners
Present a Webinar on

Implementing the Common Core State Standards to Achieve Equity

August 23, 2010 ♦ 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST

Speaker Biographies

Esther L. Bush

President and Chief Executive Officer, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

As president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Esther Bush has established herself as a voice of reason, a coalition builder, and a force for positive change in the greater Pittsburgh community and throughout the United States.

A graduate of Pittsburgh's Westinghouse High School, Ms. Bush began her career as a high school teacher. She also worked as a college administrator and corporate consultant. She has moved progressively up the ladder of the Urban League movement, starting in 1980 as assistant director of the labor education advancement program for the National Urban League in New York City. From there, she served as director of the New York Urban League—Staten Island Branch, and then as director of its Manhattan Branch. Before returning to her home town of Pittsburgh in December 1994, Ms. Bush was president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Greater Hartford in Connecticut. She is the first female to serve in each of her last four positions in the Urban League movement.

Sarun Chan

Summer Camp Enrichment Program Coordinator, Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia

Sarun Chan serves as the youth program coordinator for the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia (CAGP). He is also the first vice president of the Cambodian student council at the Preah Buddha Ransey Temple and founder of *Amara* magazine, Philadelphia's Cambodian-American bimonthly magazine. Mr. Chan recently finished the Summer Career Exploration program as part of Work Ready Philadelphia where CAGP places twenty-five inner-city youth in an intensive six-week internship at local professional work sites such as law firms, medical hospitals, insurance companies, and nonprofit organizations. During the program, these students participate in weekly seminars on professional development and twenty-first-century skills. Mr. Chan attended Pennsylvania State University where he majored in sociology and minored in English. His interests include the arts, cooking, languages, demographics, race relations, and identity.

André Cramblit

Operations Director, Northern California Indian Development Council, Indian Education Center

André Cramblit is the operations director for the Northern California Indian Development Council, the largest American Indian nonprofit social service provider in California. Mr. Cramblit is an enrolled member of the Karuk tribe and is from the village of Katimeen near the confluence of the Klamath and Salmon Rivers in northwest California. He has been involved with American Indian education for twenty-five years at all levels—as a parent, teacher's aid, bus driver, high school teacher, head start teacher and administrator, college instructor, principal, and tribal education director. He is also a founding member of the California American

Indian education oversight committee. Mr. Cramblit holds a BA degree from Dartmouth College in education and sociology, and received his California clear teaching credential from Humboldt State University.

Delia Pompa

Vice President for Education, National Council of La Raza

In her role as vice president for education at the National Council of La Raza, Delia Pompa oversees all education programs including early college high schools, charter schools, early childhood education, and extended learning. Ms. Pompa's work on public school reform is shaped by over thirty years of experience leading local, state, and federal agencies, as well as national and international organizations. In particular, her work focuses on helping academic institutions understand and respond to the needs of underserved children and their teachers.

Ms. Pompa is former director of the Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs in the U.S. Department of Education and former executive director of the National Association for Bilingual Education. She began her career as a kindergarten teacher in San Antonio, Texas. From there, she went on to serve as a district administrator in Houston and as assistant commissioner of the Texas Education Agency. Ms. Pompa is former director of education, adolescent pregnancy prevention, and youth development for the Children's Defense Fund.

Ms. Pompa serves on a variety of national boards and committees for a wide range of institutions addressing the educational needs of children. She is a frequent speaker and commentator on current education reform issues.

Myrea Schmidt

Teacher, Raul Yzaguirre School for Success

Myrea Schmidt teaches eleventh- and twelfth-grade English at Raul Yzaguirre School for Success in Houston, Texas. Raul Yzaguirre School for Success is a charter school that serves grades Pre-K–12.

Bob Wise

President, Alliance for Excellent Education

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

Since joining the Alliance in February 2005, Governor Wise has become a sought-after speaker and advisor on education issues. He has advised the U.S. Department of Education, White House Transition Team, and frequently testifies before the U.S. Congress. As governor of West Virginia from 2001 to 2005, he fought for and signed legislation to fund the PROMISE Scholarship program and created the Governor's Helpline for Safer Schools. During his administration, West Virginia saw a significant increase in the number of students completing high school and entering college.

From 1983 to 2001, Governor Wise served in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 2nd District of West Virginia, where he aggressively worked to preserve federal financial aid for students to attend college. Governor Wise holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a juris doctor degree from Tulane University School of Law.

Michael Wotorson

Executive Director, Campaign for High School Equity

Michael Wotorson is the executive director of the Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE), which is a partnership of ten of the nation's leading civil rights and education organizations focused on high school education reform. Mr. Wotorson is responsible for overseeing the coalition's federal policy agenda and its public outreach and education activities.

Mr. Wotorson has spent his career advocating in support of educational equality and civil rights, working for more than fifteen years as a researcher, advocate, and policy analyst. Prior to joining CHSE, Mr. Wotorson was national education director for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and has held positions at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Mid-Atlantic Equity Center, National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, Fair Employment Council of Greater Washington, and Anti-Defamation League.

Originally from Liberia, West Africa, Mr. Wotorson holds a BA and MA in political science from the University of Missouri–Columbia. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., a former general secretary of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas, and serves on the board of directors of the Maryland ACLU.