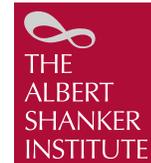




UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS & THE ALBERT SHANKER INSTITUTE
IN COOPERATION WITH THE CTE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER OF NEW YORK



Fulfilling The Promise Of a Quality Education for All: 21st Century Career and Technical Education

October 10-11, 2013
New York, NY

BIOS OF SPEAKERS

Vanda Belusic-Vollor

Vanda Belusic-Vollor is Executive Director of the Office of Postsecondary Readiness (OPSR), which leads efforts that ensure all New York City students graduate high school prepared for postsecondary success. These efforts include the Expanded Success Initiative, an educational component of the Office of the Mayor's Young Men's Initiative and a pioneering effort to close the achievement gap by significantly increasing the percentage of Black and Latino young men who complete high school prepared to succeed in college and careers. Ms. Belusic-Vollor also leads OPSR's work to drive rigorous Career and Technical Education school and program pathways aligned to current labor market demands.

Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Office of Multiple Pathways to Graduation (OMPG), where she supported the expansion of school and program models to meet the needs of differentiated segments of the over-age, under-credited population. Prior to joining OMPG, Ms. Belusic-Vollor served as the principal of South Brooklyn Community High School, a successful New York City transfer school, which served as the model for transfer schools opened under the leadership of New York City Schools' Chancellor, Joel Klein.

James E. (Gene) Bottoms

Gene Bottoms has served as Director of the Southern Regional Education Board's *High Schools That Work* initiative since 1987. In 1997, he was promoted to Senior Vice President of the Southern Regional Education Board, where his role has expanded to include high school and middle grades reform and the preparation of principals to become leaders of curriculum and instruction.

Prior to joining the Southern Regional Education Board, Gene served as Executive Director of the American Vocational Association, where he emphasized academics as an integral part of vocational education at the secondary and postsecondary levels. He served as Director of Educational Improvement for the Georgia Department of Education for 13 years, overseeing improvement efforts in both vocational and academic education. Gene has been a local schoolteacher, principal and guidance counselor. He is a native of Georgia and a product of its public school system.

Michele Cahill

Michele Cahill is Vice-president for National Program and Director of Urban Education at Carnegie Corporation of New York, where she leads the Corporation's strategy to meet the twin goals of contributing to societal efforts to create pathways to educational and economic opportunity by generating systemic change across a K-16 continuum, and to create pathways to citizenship, civil participation and civic integration in a pluralistic society.

Prior to rejoining Carnegie Corporation in 2007, she held the position of Senior Counselor to the Chancellor for Education Policy in the New York City Department of Education under Chancellor Joel Klein. Cahill was a member of the Children First senior leadership team that oversaw and implemented the full-scale reorganization and reform of the New York City public schools. Prior to that, she spent three years with Carnegie Corporation as a Senior Program Officer in the Education Division.

Anthony Carnevale,

Anthony P. Carnevale is the Director and Research Professor of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Between 1996 and 2006, Dr. Carnevale served as Vice-President for Public Leadership at the Educational Testing Service (ETS). While at ETS, Dr. Carnevale was appointed by President George Bush to serve on the White House Commission on Technology and Adult Education. Before joining ETS, Dr. Carnevale was Director of Human Resource and Employment Studies at the Committee for Economic Development (CED), the nation's oldest business-sponsored policy research organization. While at CED, Dr. Carnevale was appointed by President Clinton to Chair the National Commission on Employment Policy.

Dr. Carnevale was the founder and President of the Institute for Workplace Learning (IWL) between 1983 and 1993. While at the IWL, Dr. Carnevale was appointed by President Reagan to chair the human resources subcommittee on the White House Commission on Productivity between 1982 and 1984. Prior to founding the IWL, Dr. Carnevale also served as Director of Political and Government Affairs for the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Prior to joining AFSCME, he was a senior staff member in both houses of the U.S. Congress. He was appointed Majority Staff Director on the Public Financing Sub-Committee of the House Committee on Government Operations. Dr. Carnevale joined the Senate Budget Committee shortly after it was established by the passage of the Budget Impoundment and Control Act of 1974. He also served as senior economist for the Senate Democratic Leadership Council.

Leo Casey

Leo Casey is the Executive Director of the Albert Shanker Institute, a non-profit organization which focuses on issues of public education, unionism and democracy promotion. Before he assumed this position, Casey served as Vice President from Academic High Schools for the United Federation of Teachers.

After a stint in labor organizing, both for the United Farm Workers and in the first unionization drive of graduate teaching assistants in Canada, Casey began his teaching career in 1984 at Clara Barton High School in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. For ten years in a row, his classes – entirely students of color, largely immigrant and largely female – won the New York City championship of the national *We The People* civics competition, winning the New York State championship four times and placing fourth in the nation twice. He was recognized in the *Congressional Record* for the achievements of his classes in the competition. Casey's union activism at Clara Barton began in 1987, when he led an effort to have the school building closed to clean up major asbestos contamination caused by the Department of Education's renovations. He served as UFT Chapter Leader at Clara Barton for ten years. In 1999, he became a full-time UFT Special Representative for High Schools. He was elected Vice President from Academic High Schools in October 2007.

Mario Cilento

Mario Cilento was elected President of the New York State AFL-CIO on December 16, 2011 to fill the unexpired term of office of his predecessor, Denis Hughes. On August 20, 2012, Mario was unanimously re-elected by the delegates of the New York State AFL-CIO's Constitutional Convention to a full four-year term as President of the State Federation. A member of the Newspaper Guild-CWA since 1990, he began working at the New York State AFL-CIO in 1992.

As President, Cilento has focused on harnessing the collective power of the State AFL-CIO's 2.5 million members statewide by transforming the existing political campaign framework into a proactive year-round legislative action network. Prior to being elected President, Cilento served as Public Relations Director from 1992-1999. From 1999 through his election as President, he served as Chief of Staff and was also responsible for outreach, initiatives and strategies concerning the State Federation's Executive Board and affiliates. President Cilento has also served as a Commissioner of the New York State Insurance Fund and on the Executive Boards of the Workforce Development

Institute and the Working Theater. He currently serves on the Cornell University Board of Trustees as well as the New York State AFL-CIO/Cornell ILR Board.

Brenda Dann-Messier

Brenda Dann-Messier was nominated by President Obama as Assistant Secretary of Education for Vocational and Adult Education on July 14, 2009. She underwent Senate confirmation and began her official duties on Oct. 13, 2009. On May 6, 2013, the President also named her Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education. As the first assistant secretary who is also an adult educator, Dann-Messier leads the Department's efforts in adult education and career and technical education, as well as efforts supporting community colleges and correctional education. She runs the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), which oversees the administration of seven grant programs in these areas, totaling approximately \$1.7 billion annually. As the head of the Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Dann-Messier serves as the secretary's chief advisor on higher-education issues and administers more than 60 programs, totaling nearly \$2.5 billion annually, that are designed to provide financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in postsecondary institutions.

From 1993 to 1996, Dann-Messier worked for the Clinton administration under Secretary Richard Riley, serving as the Secretary's regional representative for Region I, including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Previously, she served for a decade as president of the Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center, a community-based adult education agency based in Providence, R.I. Dann-Messier also established the Rhode Island Welcome Back Center, a program that assists immigrant professionals resuming work in their careers.

Ronald Ferguson

Ronald F. Ferguson, Senior Lecturer in Education and Public Policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Harvard Kennedy School, is also an economist and Senior Research Associate at the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy. He has taught at Harvard since 1983, focusing on education and economic development. His research and writing for the past decade have focused on racial achievement gaps, appearing in a variety of publications. His most recent book is *Toward Excellence with Equity: An emerging vision for closing the achievement gap*, published by Harvard Education Press. He is the creator of the Tripod Project for School Improvement and also the faculty co-chair and director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University. Ferguson earned an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and PhD from MIT, both in economics. He is the father of two and very happily married to Helen Mont-Ferguson.

Kimberly Green

Over the past seventeen years, Kimberly Green has worked extensively on federal policy impacting career technical education (CTE). Working closely with Congress, the administration, and a broad range of stakeholders, she represents the interests of and seeks support for CTE. In addition to this policy work, Ms. Green has helped establish and implement the States' Career Clusters Initiative, which is designed to ensure that career technical education meets the needs of the nation, the economy, employers, and students. Efforts include working with states to ensure that their CTE systems align with rigorous academic and technical standards, thus preparing students of all ages for success in the workforce of today and tomorrow. Currently, Ms. Green is working with several organizations on a project focused on technical skills assessments and is also a partner with the National Governors Association's policy academy on CTE.

Ms. Green is a member of the advisory boards of several groups, including Automotive Youth Educational Systems, Project Lead the Way, and the Cisco Networking Academy. She also belongs to the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council Executive Committee, the NCES Technical Review Panel on Career and Technical Education, the board of directors of the National Career Academy Coalition, and the High School Alliance Steering Committee. In addition, Ms. Green and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium serve as technical assistance partners of the National Research Center for CTE.

Norman Hill

Norman Hill, a highly influential African-American civil rights leader, labor activist, and policy strategist, is president emeritus of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI). In 1956, he became one of the first African-Americans to graduate from Haverford College. Joining the civil rights movement and working in Chicago, Hill was an organizer for the Youth March for Integrated Schools, and then Secretary of Chicago Area Negro American Labor Council, and Staff Chairman of the Chicago March Conventions. In the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Hill was first the East Coast Field Secretary and then National Program Director. He represented James Farmer, CORE's national director, on the March on Washington Policy Board and, in 1963, directly assisted Bayard Rustin and A. Philip Randolph in organizing the March on Washington, serving as its staff coordinator.

From 1964 to 1967, Hill was Legislative Representative and Civil Rights Liaison of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department. He also helped to coordinate Dr. Martin Luther King's six-city 1964 get-out-the-vote tour. He lobbied to increase the minimum wage and was in the labor delegation on the Selma-Montgomery March against racial discrimination in voting in the Deep South. In 1965 Hill was one of the key planners of the Joint Apprenticeship Program, sponsored by APRI and the Workers Defense League. This initiative, the Recruitment and Training Program (RTP), was an innovative and successful Career and Technical Education model, providing minority participants with the skills to integrate the stubbornly segregated building and construction trades without the use of quotas. Hill joined the APRI staff in 1967, became president in 1980, and retired in 2005.

James Jacobs

James Jacobs became President of Macomb Community College on July 1, 2008. Prior to his appointment, he concurrently served as Director for the Center for Workforce Development and Policy at the college, and as the Associate Director, Community College Research Center (CCRC), Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Jacobs has more than 40 years experience at Macomb, joining the college in 1967. He has taught social science, political science and economics. He has specialized in the areas of workforce skills and technology, economic development, worker retraining and community college workforce development, and is widely published in these areas of expertise.

He is the past President of the National Council for Workforce Education, a national post-secondary organization of occupational education and workforce development specialists, and a member of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Assessment of Career and Technical Education. He is also a member of the Community College Advisory Panel to the Educational Testing Service in Princeton New Jersey.

John Jackson

On July 2, 2007, Dr. John H. Jackson became the President and CEO of The Schott Foundation for Public Education. In this role, Dr. Jackson leads the Foundation's efforts to ensure a high quality public education for all students regardless of race or gender. Dr. Jackson joined the Schott Foundation after seven productive years in leadership positions at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He served as the NAACP Chief Policy Officer and prior to that as the NAACP's National Director of Education. Dr. Jackson also served as an Adjunct Professor of Race, Gender, and Public Policy at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute.

In 1999, President Clinton appointed Dr. Jackson to serve in his administration as Senior Policy Advisor in the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education. In 2008, Dr. Jackson served on the Obama-Biden transition team as a member of the President's 13-member Education Policy Transition Work Group.

Clifford Janey

Clifford Janey is currently a Senior Research Scholar at Boston University, School of Education. Previously, he was a Senior Weismann Fellow at Bankstreet College of Education in New York City. He is the former state district

superintendent for the Newark Public Schools and the former superintendent of schools for the District of Columbia. He previously served as vice president for education at Scholastic, Inc. where he worked closely with state education departments and national school reform organizations to help develop and implement strategies for improving student achievement and coordinated partnerships with urban school districts. Janey served as superintendent of schools in Rochester, NY where he led the implementation of Rochester's Performance Benchmarks and Public Engagement Plan and instituted a high performing national recognized pre-kindergarten program. Janey also has held a number of positions in Boston, MA which included chief academic officer, east zone superintendent (K-8), principal of Theodore Roosevelt Middle School, and reading teacher at the Bancroft School. He has also served as director of Black Studies at Northeastern University.

John King

As New York State Education Commissioner, Dr. John B. King, Jr. oversees more than 7,000 public and independent elementary and secondary schools (serving 3.1 million students), and hundreds of other educational institutions across New York State including higher education, libraries, and museums. Dr. King is a strong voice for education reform, and he was a driving force in New York's successful Race to the Top application. A former high school teacher and middle school principal, Dr. King has earned a national reputation for his vision and commitment to education reform. Dr. King earned a B.A from Harvard University, an M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, and an Ed.D. from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Francine Lawrence

Francine Lawrence was elected Executive Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), and assumed the office in September 2011. In October 2011, she was elected Secretary of the AFT Benefit Trust and Secretary of the AFT Educational Foundation. In the same month, she was elected to be Treasurer of the AFL-CIO Department for Professional Employees and, a month prior, joined the board of directors of the Learning First Alliance. In December, 2011, Lawrence was elected to the United Way USA board of trustees. Lawrence served on the AFT executive council as a vice president from 2008 until becoming the union's executive vice president and is a member of the AFT Teachers program and policy council, serving as the PPC chairperson from 2006 to 2008.

From 1997 to 2011, Lawrence was President of the 3,000-member Toledo (Ohio) Federation of Teachers and oversaw the implementation of the Toledo Review and Alternative Compensation System (TRACS). Lawrence co-chaired the union and district's Intern Board of Review, which oversees Toledo's peer assistance and review plan.

Stanley Litow

Stanley S. Litow is IBM's Vice President of Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs and President of IBM's Foundation. Under his leadership, IBM has been widely regarded as the global leader in corporate citizenship, and praised for societal and environmental leadership, labor practices, and civic leadership. Mr. Litow helped devise IBM's Corporate Service Corps, a corporate version of the Peace Corps, to train and deploy thousands of IBM's future leaders; the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH), a grade 9 through 14 schools initiative to engage companies, colleges, communities and schools to help strengthen America's economic competitiveness by connecting education to jobs; and IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge, which is helping 100 cities worldwide become more effective.

Mr. Litow is a frequent keynote speaker and panelist at major conferences on philanthropy and corporate leadership in the U.S. and around the world. He has served on the President's Welfare to Work Commission, and currently serves on the board of the Harvard Business School Social Enterprise Initiative, The Citizens Budget Commission, The After-School Corporation and the Albert Shanker Institute. Prior to joining IBM, Mr. Litow's career in public and nonprofit leadership included service as Deputy Chancellor of the New York City Public Schools, and founder and CEO of Interface, a nonprofit think tank.

Michael Mulgrew

Michael Mulgrew is the fifth President of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), whose 200,000 members include teachers and other professional staff in New York City public schools in addition to family child-care providers, nurses, adult education instructors and retired members. As UFT President, Mulgrew has led the union's efforts to transform education in New York City and to secure the rights to jobs, justice and freedom for all New Yorkers. He has led advocacy campaigns to lower class size, increase education funding and restore family child-care funding for working families. Responding to the high rate of poverty among New York City schoolchildren, Mulgrew has overseen the UFT's mobilization of a diverse coalition to pilot the Community Learning Schools Initiative. Each school in the project becomes a hub of its community by delivering health and social services on site to students, their families and community members.

Mulgrew also serves as a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers and an executive board member of the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT). He also sits on the boards of the Council for Unity, CUNY's Joseph S. Murphy Center for Labor, Community, & Policy Studies, and New Visions for Public Schools. Mulgrew spent 12 years as a classroom teacher at William E. Grady High School in Brooklyn, where he also served as UFT chapter leader. He was Vice President for Career and Technical Education High Schools and later Chief Operating Officer of the union before becoming UFT President in 2009.

Jack Powers

Jack Powers is the Director of New York's the International Informatics Institute (IN3.ORG), a center for research and education in media, technology, business and society founded in 1982. An experienced business educator and the author of six books and numerous research articles on communications technology, Jack edits the Institute's web journals IN3.ORG, HealthcareNBIC.org and Pervasive.TV. He conducts executive education workshops in emerging technologies for corporate and government clients around the world and serves on several education advisory boards in the public sector.

In 2009, Powers was also elected Chairman of the New York City Advisory Council for Career & Technical Education, an all-volunteer panel made up of 30 executives from the city's leading corporations, trade unions, universities and community organizations appointed by the New York Schools Chancellor to help link schools to the world of work.

Sterling Roberson

Sterling Roberson has devoted his entire public school career to ensuring that New York City's students receive a quality academic education with practical skills, in a healthy and safe learning environment. He brings this lifelong commitment to the post as Vice President for Career and Technical Education (CTE) High Schools, to which he was elected in September 2009.

In the 1980s, Roberson brought his electronics skills to shop classrooms, the precursor of today's CTE, as a substitute teacher. Committed to his students, Sterling entered the Substitute Vocational Assistant (SVA) Program, graduating in its inaugural class. Currently termed "Success Via Apprenticeship," this five-year internship program launched Roberson into full-time teaching, where he instructed students in electronics at Samuel Gompers HS for over a decade. In 1997, Sterling was recognized by the Mayor of the City of New York as an outstanding public school educator for his innovative teaching methods, his work with parents and with the community and his ability to create a stimulating learning environment for his vocational students. Sterling seamlessly progressed from advancing safe conditions in the shop classroom to promoting safety throughout the school system. He served for seven years as a Violence Prevention Facilitator and School Safety Specialist for the UFT's Victim Support Program and the union's School Safety Department. Following the merger of UFT's School Safety and Environmental Safety departments in 2006, Sterling assumed the helm as Director of the School Safety and Health Department until his transition in 2009 to the CTE vice presidency.

Roberto Rodriquez

Roberto J. Rodríguez serves in the White House Domestic Policy Council as Special Assistant to President Obama for Education. Previously, Roberto was Chief Education Counsel to United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. In this capacity, he managed the Democratic education agenda for the Committee and led policy development and strategy for legislation addressing early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, higher education, and adult education. Roberto began his tenure on Capitol Hill working for the Senate HELP Committee on the development of the No Child Left Behind Act. He has worked on various reauthorizations of federal legislation, including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Head Start, Child Care, Higher Education, and the America COMPETES Act. Prior to working on Capitol Hill, Roberto worked as Senior Education Specialist at the National Council of La Raza, where he conducted research and analysis of federal and state education reform issues, as well as the development and evaluation of community-based education programs. He is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a graduate of the University of Michigan and of the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Al Sharpton

Rev. Al Sharpton is the founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), a not-for-profit civil rights organization headquartered in Harlem, New York, with over sixty chapters nationwide including a Washington, DC Bureau and regional offices from coast to coast. Rev. Al Sharpton is currently the host of a daily television show on MSNBC that analyzes the top political and social news and features the country's leading newsmakers. "PoliticsNation" with Rev. Al Sharpton airs at 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Rev. Sharpton also hosts a nationally syndicated radio show "Keepin it Real" that is heard daily all over the country as well as two weekend radio shows that air in markets within the U.S. Reverend Al Sharpton, is the author of *The Rejected Stone: Al Sharpton and the Path to American Leadership*, in stores on October 8, 2013.

Al Sharpton began his ministry at the age of four, preaching his first sermon at Washington Temple Church of God & Christ in Brooklyn. Just five years later, the Washington Temple church's legendary Bishop F.D. Washington licensed Al Sharpton, his protégé, to be a Pentecostal minister. Rev. Sharpton's civil rights career began almost as early as his ministry. At thirteen, Revs. Jesse Jackson and William Jones appointed Sharpton youth director of New York's SCLC Operation Breadbasket, an organization founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1971. At the age of sixteen, Sharpton founded the National Youth Movement, Inc. which organized young people around the country to push for increased voter registration, cultural awareness, and job training programs. From 1994 to 1998, Rev. Sharpton served as the Director of the Ministers Division for the National Rainbow Push coalition under Rev. Jackson.

Melissa H. Silberman

Melissa H. Silberman has served students in New York City for the last nineteen years, including the last three as Deputy Executive Director of the Office of Postsecondary Readiness in the New York City Department of Education. In this role, she is responsible for defining and implementing a policy vision for the City's Career and Technical Education portfolio, which includes 38 dedicated schools and over 400 programs serving approximately 140,000 students each year.

Melissa began her career as an English teacher, taking on greater responsibilities as Coordinator of Student Activities at Telecommunications High School and then Assistant Principal at Automotive High School in Williamsburg, Brooklyn before becoming Principal at Automotive in 2004. During her five-year tenure, Automotive registered dramatic gains in student performance, was twice profiled in the New York Times and was studied as a "Beat the Odds" school by the Wallace Foundation. Through her experience at Automotive, Melissa developed a deep commitment to social justice and equity, both in New York City and beyond.

James R. Stone

James R. Stone III is the Director of the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE) at the University of Louisville. Dr. Stone's research has focused on strategies that improve the capacity of CTE programs to improve the engagement, achievement, and transition of secondary and postsecondary CTE participants, including longitudinal studies on the effects of work-based learning and the effect of whole-school, CTE-based school reforms on educational outcomes of youth in high-poverty communities. He is also Professor and Distinguished University Scholar in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville.

Dr. Stone has maintained an active program of research over the past twenty years. He has been responsible for more than \$40 million in external grants focusing primarily on the role of schools in linking youth and adults to the workplace. He directed or co-directed eight studies in the National Center for Research in Vocational Education-University of California-Berkeley. He was the lead researcher on the Math-in-CTE study of contextualizing math in occupational curricula. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 reports of research, journal articles, or books. His most recent publication is entitled, *College and Career Ready in the 21st Century: Making High School Matter* (Teacher's College Press, 2012).

Bill Symonds

Bill Symonds is an internationally-recognized education reformer, speaker and author. He helped launch the Pathways to Prosperity Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2008, and served as its Director through June 2013. He is now working to create a Pathways Institute to help lead a national movement aimed at preparing all young Americans to lead successful lives. Symonds was the primary author of the seminal 2011 report, *Pathways to Prosperity: Meeting the Challenge of Preparing Young Americans for the 21st Century*. Since the report's release, he has been invited to speak about the report in 40 states, as well as in New Zealand and Canada. He was also the principal organizer of a national conference held at Harvard in March, 2013, called, "Creating Pathways to Prosperity." The conference attracted more than 400 leaders from education, business and government, and featured more than 100 prominent speakers.

Symonds helped create the Pathways Project while he was a Senior Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in 2007-8. Prior to that, he spent nearly 25 years as a Senior Correspondent and Bureau Chief for *Business Week Magazine*. During his career at *Business Week*, he led bureaus in Pittsburgh, Denver and Boston, and also spent nearly a decade abroad, in both Italy and Canada. He also served as *Business Week's* chief education correspondent for many years, and wrote extensively about the role of U.S. business in school reform.

Randi Weingarten

Randi Weingarten is President of the 1.5 million-member American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, which represents teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel; higher education faculty and staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals; local, state and federal government employees; and early childhood educators. The AFT champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for students, their families and communities. The AFT and its members advance these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through members' work.

Prior to her election as AFT President in 2008, Weingarten served for 12 years as President of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, representing approximately 200,000 educators in the New York City public school system, as well as home child care providers and other workers in health, law and education. From 1986 to 1998, Weingarten served as counsel to the UFT President Sandra Feldman, taking a lead role in contract negotiations and enforcement, and in lawsuits in which the union fought for adequate school funding and building conditions. A teacher of history at Clara Barton High School in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood from 1991 to 1997, Weingarten helped her students win several state and national awards debating constitutional issues.