



Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education: *Conversation Series*

Promoting Children's Well-Being

March 8, 2017 | Noon to 2 p.m.

John Hill

On April 1, 2014, John Hill became the first Executive Director for the National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME). John is a founding member and a past President of NAME and served eight years as the Chair of its Governmental Affairs & Public Relations Committee. The NAME organization, chartered in 2003, brings together professionals who have an interest in Medicaid reimbursement for medically related services and Medicaid outreach in our nation's public schools. Hill's career has focused on state and federal-level policy affecting individuals with disabilities. He previously managed Indiana's Home & Community-Based Services Waiver for Persons with Developmental Disabilities and served as the Director of Indiana's Bureau of Developmental Disabilities. More recently, Hill worked for the Indiana Department of Education where his assignments included addressing racial/ ethnic disproportionality in special education and acting as the Department's liaison with the state Medicaid agency to enhance Indiana's public schools' reimbursement for medically related education services and Medicaid outreach.

Hill retired from state service in March 2014 as the Director of Policy, Planning and Program Development with the Division of Disability & Rehabilitation Services within Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration. In his nearly 40 years of service with and for persons with disabilities, Hill has provided leadership to numerous boards and commissions including serving as chair of the Indiana Commission of Rehabilitation Services on two occasions, president of the Jackson County Indiana ARC, and co-chair of the Covering Kids & Families Schools Committee. He also served on the Indiana Governor's Council for Persons with Disabilities, Indiana School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Board, and the Indiana School for the Deaf Board.

Sponsored by the Albert Shanker Institute and the American Federation of Teachers, this conversation series is designed to engender lively and informative discussions on important educational issues. We deliberately invite speakers with diverse perspectives, including views other than those of the Albert Shanker Institute and the AFT. What is important is that these participants are committed to genuine engagement with each other.

Andrew Masters

Andrew Masters has worked to support youth and families in Baltimore for more than ten years and in a variety of roles. Beginning as a school counselor in West Baltimore, he worked directly with students and their families to address academic, social/emotional, and behavioral concerns that often impact attendance. Moving to district administration, Masters led the systems Middle and High School Choice process. Through Choice, students and families have an opportunity to identify schools that best fit a student's interests and circumstances. He also coordinated the systems Student Support and 504 Teams. These multidisciplinary teams address issues that relate to school success, including attendance. After a number of years in Baltimore City Schools, Masters transitioned to Family League of Baltimore, a non-profit organization supporting youth and families. He led the organizations school age strategies, including community schools, out of school time, health initiatives, and school climate strategy. Most recently, Masters has led Baltimore's Youth Health and Wellness Strategy, a five-year road map to improving outcomes for young people ages 6 – 19. Their vision is a Baltimore where all young people are safe, engaged, and prepared.

Olga Acosta Price

Olga Acosta Price, Ph.D., is associate professor in the Department of Prevention and Community Health at the George Washington University (GW) Milken Institute School of Public Health. She is also director of the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools (CHHCS), a national resource and technical assistance center that promotes positive child health and education outcomes through the advancement of effective school health programs, policies, and practices, housed at GW. Acosta Price is a clinical psychologist with postdoctoral training in school mental health. As founding director of the District of Columbia School Mental Health Program (SMHP), Acosta Price coordinated, implemented, and evaluated comprehensive school-based mental health programs in more than 30 public schools across the city. Her contributions to the child health field have spanned efforts to maximize community participation and engagement in the development of school-connected interventions (particularly for those who experience disproportionate health outcomes), the development and evaluation of school mental health programs and practices, as well as on the dissemination of innovative strategies for maintaining proven community-based approaches long-term. Acosta Price has written numerous articles and book chapters on children's behavioral health and school-based services and frequently presents at national conferences and meetings on children's health and wellbeing. Acosta Price received her Masters and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and her undergraduate degree from Vassar College.

Mary Cathryn Ricker

Mary Cathryn Ricker was elected the executive vice president of the American Federation of Teachers in 2014. Ricker served as president of the Saint Paul (Minn.) Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 28, since 2005, as an AFT vice president since 2012, and a member of the AFT K-12 Teachers program and policy council since 2006. As president of the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, Ricker championed innovative, teacher-built solutions that improve teaching and learning as well as strengthen public education. These include the union's alternative teacher recruitment and licensure program, CareerTeacher; a full-spectrum peer assistance and review program; site-based school redesign and governance; a parent-teacher home visit project; comprehensive by-teachers/for-teachers professional development, including an annual SPFT professional conference; and meaningful community engagement in the union's work. In addition to being a National Board Certified middle school English teacher, Ricker also serves on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards board of directors. Her teaching and leadership skills have been recognized with a number of other honors, including receiving the Education Minnesota Peterson-Schaubach Outstanding Leadership Award, qualifying as a semifinalist for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, and serving as a contributor in the Annenberg Foundation's professional development series "Write in the Middle."

A native of Hibbing, Minn., Ricker has taught in classrooms in St. Cloud and Saint Paul, Minn.; Camas, Wash.; and Seoul, South Korea. She also has represented the AFT and the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers abroad in Finland, Germany, Mexico and the Middle East. Ricker serves on the Education Minnesota governing board and is the past president of the Education Minnesota Foundation for Teaching and Learning. She has also served as a member of the boards of Take Action Minnesota, the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, the Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation and the Twin Cities Generation Next. In 2012, Ricker was selected to co-chair the Minnesota Department of Education Teacher Evaluation Work Group, and she has served on the department's Education Finance Working Group since 2011. Among the current national boards Ricker serves on: United Way USA, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, AFL-CIO Department for Professional Employees and the Albert Shanker Institute.

Thomas Stinson

Thomas Stinson was born and raised in St. Paul, Minn. and currently resides in Cottage Grove, Minn. He has been a Registered Nurse since 1996 and has worked in various health care settings. Stinson has been a Licensed School Nurse since 1997 and his current position is at Harding High School located in St. Paul. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor the last seven years at the University of Saint Mary's of Minnesota Bachelors of Science in Nursing Program. Stinson received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Bethel University and received both a Masters in Education Administration as well as a Doctor of Education in Leadership from Saint Mary's University. Stinson has been a Member of the St. Paul Federation of Teachers for 19 years and has been focusing on bargaining contracts for the last 10 years as well as serving on the Special Education Professional Issues Committee of the SPFT. He is an active member with the American Federation of Teachers the last eight years and serves on the Program and Policy Council of AFT Healthcare.

Next Conversation: "School Turnarounds: What Has Worked and What Has Failed"

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 | noon to 2:00 p.m. | lunch will be served

American Federation of Teachers | 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. | Washington, DC 20001

Registration: shankerinstitute.org/event/school-turnarounds