

GERARD ROBINSON

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Master of Education	1995
Howard University, Washington, DC Bachelor of Arts	1991
El Camino College, Torrance, CA Associate of Arts	1987

MEMBERSHIP ON NATIONAL COMMITTEES

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine <i>Committee on Promoting Learning and Development in K-12 Out of School Time</i> <i>Settings for Low Income and Marginalized Children and Youth</i>	2023-present
McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis, MN <i>Vibrant & Equitable Communities Program</i>	2023-present

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION TOURS

Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, England, Gambia, Germany, Haiti, Israel, Kenya, Norway, Senegal, and Scotland.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA <i>Professor of Practice in Public Policy and Law</i>	2023-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Interest: K-12 and higher education, criminal justice reform, and the role of nonprofit organizations in advancing the principles of civil society• Courses for Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Policy students<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Education, Prisons, and Public Policy</i>○ <i>Applied Policy Project I</i>○ <i>Applied Policy Project II</i>	
School of Law University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA <i>Professor of Practice in Public Policy and Law</i> <i>Lecturer</i>	2020-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research interest: K-12 education and criminal justice reform• Courses for 1L, 2L, 3L, and LL.M. students<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Education Inside U.S. Prisons</i>○ <i>Parental Choice in K-12 Education</i>○ <i>Seminar in Ethical Values</i>	2023 2020

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Faculty Affiliations at the University of Virginia 2023-present

- Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies
- Education Rights Institute, School of Law
- PEGLLLLab, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
- Miller Center of Public Affairs

PRESENTATIONS

- **“Prison Education: Why It Matters.”** Roadmap Scholars Initiative, University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, VA (June 5, 2024). Speaker.
- **“Charter Schools in Four Themes.”** New Mexico Charter Schools Conference, Albuquerque, N.M. (June 14, 2024). Keynote speaker.
- **“Charter Schools in Four Themes.”** Arkansas Charter Schools Conference, Bentonville, AR (May 23, 2024). Keynote speaker.
- **“Brown v. Board of Education at 70.”** A-Game Conference, National Charter Schools Institute, Chicago, IL (May 2, 2024). Keynote speaker.
- **“Criminal Justice Reform.”** Public Service Pathways, Office of the Vice President for Academic Outreach, the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (April 16, 2024). Panelist.
- **“Talking About Race and School Choice in the Year Brown v. Board of Education Turns 70.”** International School Choice and Reform Conference, Madrid, Spain (January 6, 2024). Speaker.
- **“School Choice History.”** The Independent Women’s Forum [online] (October 12, 2023). Speaker.
- **“Using the Three Languages of School Choice to Improve Coalition Communication.”** State Policy Network Annual Conference, Chicago, IL (August 29, 2023). Panelist.

PUBLICATIONS

- **“A Novel Approach to Pre- and Post-Release Prison Programs.”** [*The Daily Progress*](#) (May 4, 2024) (co-authored with Sadie Hurst).
- **“Black History Month and School Choice.”** [*AEI Ideas*](#) (February 20, 2024).
- **“A Solution to America’s K-12 STEM Teacher Shortage: Endowed Chairs.”** [*The Conversation*](#) (September 28, 2023).
- **“Back to School Means More than Back to Partying.”** [*The Daily Progress*](#) (September 22, 2023).
- **“The Limits of School Choice Debate.”** [*AEI Ideas*](#) (September 20, 2023).
- ***Engineering A Solution: Elevating STEM Teacher Quality.*** [*Policy Paper*](#), The Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research (September 7, 2023) (co-authored with Cara Candal).
- **“Addressing the School-to-Prison Pipeline Through Three Nontraditional Pathways.”** [*University of Virginia Law Review*](#), Charlottesville, VA (April 2023).
- **“From Undeserving Criminal to Second Chance Student: Pell Grant Eligibility and Incarcerated Students.”** [*University of Pennsylvania Journal of Law & Social Change*](#), Philadelphia, PA (April 1, 2022).

**Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**

2020-2023

Fellow of Practice

- The Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture is an interdisciplinary research center and intellectual community that is committed to understanding contemporary cultural change and its individual and social consequences, training young scholars, and providing intellectual leadership in service to the common good.

Publications (examples)

- Reports published with support from a grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative:
 - **“A Story to Tell: The Importance of Education During Incarceration as Told by 22 Men and Women Who Know Firsthand,”** [\[online\]](#) (March 2021).
 - **“Observations About the Second Chance Pell Experimental Sites Initiative,”** [\[online\]](#) (June 2021).
- **“Virginia’s Scholarship Tax Credits Are an Educational Beacon of Hope.”** *Washington Examiner* (July 16, 2022).
- **“Schools in Crisis: Here’s How We Can Fix Education in America and Ensure Our Kids Succeed.”** *USA Today* (November 12, 2021) (co-authored with Jenee Henry).
- **“I Am a Black Republican: Here’s What My Party Should Know About Racism in America.”** *USA Today* (July 20, 2021).
- **“Bridge Partisan Divide to Support Civics Education.”** *The Virginia-Pilot* (July 17, 2021).
- **“America Divided: Why It’s Dangerous that Public Distrust in Civic Institutions is Growing.”** *USA Today* (March 15, 2021) (co-authored with Maury Giles).
 - This article was selected as one of the Top 10 reads on *USA Today* Opinion for the week based on views, reader feedback, and editors’ choice.
- **“Increasing Educational Opportunities for Virginia’s Prisoners Will Reap Rewards.”** *The Washington Post* (March 7, 2021) (co-authored with Rebecca L. Watts).
- **“The Americans with Disability Act Turns 30.”** *AEI Ideas* (August 7, 2020).

Presentations (examples)

- **“National Priorities for K-12 Education – Then and Now.”** The Legacy of A Nation at Risk Report at 40 Conference, The Aspen Institute, Washington, D.C. (April 25, 2023) (panelist).
- **“Resilience for Resignation in Education?”** A Discussion with Public Service Professionals during Public Service Week, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (March 23, 2023).
- **“The School-to-Prison Pipeline.”** 50 Years After *San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez*; New and Old Fights for Equity in Public Schools Conference, University of Virginia Law Review Online, Charlottesville, VA (February 17, 2023) (panelist).
- **“Parental Choice and the Black Question: A 30 Year Reflection.”** The Department of Education Reform Lecture Series, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR (February 10, 2023).

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- **“Justice and Purpose.”** Conversation with the Dean of the Boston College School of Education, Boston, MA (November 14, 2022) (panelist).
- **“The Future of Civics: A Conversation with State Education Leaders.”** Our Civics: Safeguarding American Democracy Conference, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, Simi Valley, CA (October 27, 2022) (moderator).
- **“Second Chances: A Better Path Forward for Criminal Justice.”** The 39th Annual Conference of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Chicago, IL (June 24, 2022) (panelist).
- **“What’s Going on with America’s School Boards?”** Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University, Medford, MA (March 16, 2022) (presenter).
- **“Standards, Assessments, and Accountability: Rethinking High-Stakes Testing.”** The 2021 Virginia Education Summit, Joint Meeting of the Senate Education & Health Committee and the House Education Committee, Norfolk, VA, (December 3, 2021) (moderator).
- **“Race, Education, and the Economy.”** The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN (January 12, 2021) (panelist).
- **“The Criminal Justice System: Public Opinion and Future Solutions.”** Gallup Center on Black Voice, Gallup, Inc., Washington, D.C. (November 19, 2020) (panelist).
- **“Race in America: Where Do We Go from Here?”** The Newt Gingrich Podcast, Washington, D.C. (July 25, 2020) (presenter).
- **“Race in America: A New Generation of Solutions.”** The Newt Gingrich Podcast, Washington, D.C. (June 25, 2020) (presenter).
- **“Education 2030 Project Workshop.”** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Paris, France (May 19-20, 2020) (panelist - virtual).

Education, Leadership & Culture Series

Host

Exchanged ideas about important topics of the day with leaders in K-12 education, higher education, and the public policy and nonprofit sectors.

- **“The Impact of Libraries on the Culture of Learning and Society”** [\[link\]](#) with Mark Ray (2012 Washington Teacher of the Year and librarian), Anthony Grisillo (2014 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year and librarian), Tish Calhamer (Community Engagement Manager at the Gail Borden Public Library District in Illinois), Katherine Bassett (2000 New Jersey Teacher of the Year and librarian), and Celeste Bleu (Assistant Manager of Adult Services, Programs, Partnerships, and Outreach Division at the Harris County Public Library in Texas) (January 26, 2022).
- **“K-20 Education: A Year in Review - 2021”** [\[link\]](#) with Derrell Bradford (President of 50 CAN), Kathy Hebda (Chancellor of the Florida College System), Marguerite Roza (Director of the Edunomics Lab and Research Professor at Georgetown University), and Elisa Clements (Chief Operating Officer for the American Federation for Children) (December 15, 2021).

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- **“Families, Students, and Afterschool Programs”** [\[link\]](#) with Si Ganzo (Executive Director of Our Bridge for Kids, an afterschool program for immigrants and refugees in North Carolina), Jodi Grant (Executive Director of the Afterschool Alliance), Taylor Treka (Director of Project Dream for the Lake County School District in Colorado and a 2022 National Afterschool Ambassador) and Rico X (Vice President of School Age Services at the YMCA of Middle Tennessee) (October 27, 2021).
- **“Back to School 2021: A Conversation with Educators”** [\[link\]](#) with Amber Bryant (Head of Lower School and Elementary Guide at The Forest School in Atlanta), Cristina Nica (Science Teacher at The Piney Woods Schools in Mississippi), Cicely Woodard (2018 Tennessee Teacher of the Year), and Michael Dunlea (2020 NEA Global Learning Fellow) (September 9, 2021).
- **“Back to School 2021: A Conversation with Administrators”** [\[link\]](#) with Ellen Bartling (National Director at Open Sky Education in Milwaukee), Rashid Bell (Founder and School Leader with KIPP One Primary School in Chicago), Duane Magee (Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools in Iowa), and Summer Wood (Principal of F.H. Jenkins Preparatory School in Nashville) (September 8, 2021).
- **“Charter Schools at 30: A Conversation with Members of the Founding Generation”** [\[link\]](#) with Linda Brown (Founder of Building Excellent Schools), Yvonne Chan (Founder of the Vaughn Next Century Learning Center in Los Angeles), Howard Fuller (Founder and Chair of the HLF Academy in Milwaukee), James N. Goenner (President & CEO of the National Charter Schools Institute), and Ember Reitchgott Junge (Former Minnesota State Senator and author of the first charter school law in the United States) (June 10, 2021).
- **“Character Education in Action: A Dialogue”** [\[link\]](#) with Peter Becker (Head of the Frederick Gunn School), Sarah Clement (Senior Director of Character Virtue Development at the John Templeton Foundation), and Andy Smarick (Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute) (May 6, 2021).
- **“Second Chance Month: People, Institutions and Criminal Justice Reform”** [\[link\]](#) with Stanley Andrisse (Director of Prison Cells to PhD and Professor at the Howard University School of Medicine), Tierney Fairchild (Executive Director of Resilience Education), Howard Henderson (Professor and Director of the Center for Justice Research at Texas Southern University), Heather Rice-Minus (Vice President for Government Affairs and Church Mobilization at Prison Fellowship), and Syrita Steib (Founder and Executive Director of Operation Restoration in New Orleans) (April 29, 2021).
- **“Women and Girls in K-12 Education: Practice, Programs, and Perseverance in Action”** [\[link\]](#) with Katherine Bassett (2000 New Jersey Teacher of the Year), Kara Bobroff (Founding Principal and Executive Director of the Native American Community Academy in New Mexico and its network of schools in California, Colorado, Minnesota, and South Dakota), Liz Hicks (Founder of the Girls Academic Leadership Academy in Los Angeles), and Alisha Morgan (Superintendent of Ivy Preparatory Academies in Atlanta) (March 31, 2021).
- **“The Education of Black Students: Policy, Practice and Performance”** [\[link\]](#) with Derrick P. Alridge (Professor at the University of Virginia and Director of the Center for Race and Education in the South), John King, Jr. (Former U.S. Secretary of Education), and Monica Washington (2014 Texas Teacher of the Year) (February 24, 2021).

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- **“HBCUs, Incarceration, and Second Chances”** [\[link\]](#) with Tracy Andrus (Professor at Wiley College), Erin Corbett (Founder and CEO of the Second Chance Educational Alliance), Jerome Green (President of Shorter College), Bahiyyah Muhammed (Professor at Howard University), and Joshua Snavley (Dean at Langston University) (February 19, 2021).
- **The U.S. Department of Education: Policy and Practice”** [\[link\]](#) with Melody Arabo (2017 Teaching Fellow Ambassador at the U.S. Department of Education), Jean-Claude Brizzard (Senior Advisor and Deputy Director of the U.S. Programs at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), Geneviève DeBose (2011 Teaching Fellow Ambassador at the U.S. Department of Education), and Kimberly Robinson (Professor at the University of Virginia School of Law) (January 27, 2021).
- **“K-20 Education: A Year in Review - 2020”** [\[link\]](#) with Jeanne DeColle (Director of the Center for Future Educators at The College of New Jersey), Michael Horn (Co-Founder and Distinguished Fellow at the Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation), Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi (Founder and CEO of RespectAbility), Michael Schuttloffel (Executive Director of the Council for American Private Education), and Thomas Stewart (President of John F. Kennedy University) (December 10, 2020).
- **“Presidential Elections and Education”** [\[link\]](#) with Peggy Brookins (President & CEO of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards), Javaid Siddiqi (President & CEO of The Hunt Institute), and Joanne Weiss (Chief of Staff to former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan) (November 19, 2020).
- **“Race, Ethics, and Culture”** [\[link\]](#) with Cornel West (Professor at Harvard University) and James Davison Hunter (Professor at the University of Virginia) (October 2, 2020).
- **“Education and the Good”** [\[link\]](#) conversation with Danielle Allen (Professor at Harvard University), Eric Hanushek (Senior Fellow at Stanford University), and Sarah Brown Wessling (2010 National Teacher of the Year) (September 20, 2020).

In Character Series

Host

Interviewed more than 170 teachers and principals working in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Department of Defense Schools. Guests included seven winners of the National Teacher of the Year Award, a Milken Educator Award winner, and more than 100 State Teacher of the Year Award winners. [\[link\]](#)

Examples of topics:

- Equity in Classrooms [\[link\]](#)
- Administrators in Building School Culture [\[link\]](#)
- Preparing Educators for a Culture of Teaching and Learning [\[link\]](#)
- Building a Culture of Learning with Our Youngest Learners [\[link\]](#)
- Educating English Language Learners [\[link\]](#)
- Educating Students with Special Needs [\[link\]](#)
- Educating Students in Rural Schools [\[link\]](#)
- Teachers as Elected Official [\[link\]](#)
- State Education Departments [\[link\]](#)

The Learning Curve Podcast**2020-2023***Cobost*

Co-hosted 155 shows with Dr. Cara Candal. We discussed educational topics through the lens of the humanities, the social and natural sciences, law, public policy, and business. Our guests included university professors, think tank scholars, K-12 teachers and practitioners, entrepreneurs, public and private sector leaders, policymakers, and award-winning authors which includes 13 winners of the Pulitzer Prize. The Learning Curve podcast is carried on Audible, Google Play, iTunes, Podtail, Ricochet, Spotify, Stitcher, and Soundcloud, and is produced by the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research in Boston, MA. [[link](#)]

- **Marisela Martinez-Cola**, Professor of Sociology at Morehouse College, and author of *The Bricks before Brown: The Chinese American, Native American, and Mexican Americans' Struggle for Educational Equity* (University of Georgia Press, 2022) (May 9, 2023).
- **Dan Willingham**, Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia and the author of *Outsmart Your Brain: Why Learning is Hard and How You Can Make It Easy* (Gallery Books, 2023) (March 22, 2023).
- **Jack Rakove**, the William Robertson Coe Professor of History and American Studies at Stanford University, and author of six books including the Pulitzer Prize winner *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution* (Vintage Books, 1996) (November 2, 2022).
- **Maryanne Wolf**, Director of the Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners, and Social Justice, Professor in Residence at UCLA, and author of *Reader, Come Home: The Reading Brain in a Digital World* (Harper Collins, 2018) (October 19, 2022).
- **Timothy Garton Ash**, Professor of European Studies at the University of Oxford, Isaiah Berlin Professorial Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, and author of ten books including *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague* (Vintage Books, 1999) (September 7, 2022).
- **Angel Parham**, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia, author of award-winning author of *American Routes: Racial Palimpsests and the Transformation of Race* (Oxford University Press, 2017), and co-author of *The Black Intellectual Tradition: Reading Freedom in Classical Literature* (The Classical Press, 2022) (August 31, 2022).
- **Alan Taylor**, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Professor of History at the University of Virginia, and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, which includes *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic* (Vintage Books, 1996) and *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia: 1772-1832* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2014) (August 24, 2022).
- **Richard Epstein**, the inaugural Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, and author of *The Classical Liberal Constitution: The Uncertain Quest for Limited Government* (Harvard University Press, 2017) (July 27, 2022).
- **Joseph Ellis**, author of the Pulitzer Prize winner *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (Vintage Books, 2002), and the National Book Award winner *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson* (Vintage Books, 1998) (July 6, 2022).

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- **Cass Sunstein**, the Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard Law School, and author of several books including *The Ethics of Influence: Government in the Age of Behavioral Science* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), and *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth, and Happiness* (with Richard H. Thaler) (Yale University Press, 2008) (May 11, 2022).
- **G. Edward White**, the David and Mary Harrison Professor of Law at the University of Virginia, and author of the three-volume *Law in American History* (Oxford University Press, 2012, 2016, and 2019) and *Earl Warren: A Public Life* (Oxford University Press, 1987) (April 6, 2022).
- **Bari Weiss**, a former staff writer and editor for the opinion section at *The New York Times* and author of *How to Fight Anti-Semitism* (Crown Press, 2019), which won the National Jewish Book Award (January 5, 2022).
- **David Hackett Fischer**, the Earl Warren Professor Emeritus of History at Brandeis University, and author of *Washington's Crossing* (Oxford University Press, 2006) which is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for history (July 2, 2021).
- **Susannah Heschel**, the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College and editor of *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: Essays of Abraham Joshua Heschel* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1997) (March 31, 2021).
- **Terry Teachout**, drama critic at the *Wall Street Journal*, award-winning author of *Pops: A Life of Louis Armstrong* (Mariner Books, 2010) and *Duke: A Life of Duke Ellington* (Avery, 2013) (February 17, 2021).
- **Caroline Hoxby**, the Scott and Donna Bommer Professor of Economics at Stanford University, Director of the Economics of Education Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research (December 2, 2020), and the editor of *How the Financial Crisis and Great Recession Affected Higher Education* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), and *The Economic Analysis of School Choice* (University of Chicago Press, 2002) (December 2, 2020).
- **Stacy Schiff**, author of *The Witches: Salem, 1692* (Little, Brown & Co., 2015), *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America* (Henry Holt & Company, 2005), winner of the George Washington Book Prize and the Gilbert Chinard Prize of the Institut Francais d'Amerique, and *Véra (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov): Portrait of a Marriage* (Random House, 1999) which won the Pulitzer Prize (October 30, 2020).
- **Devery Anderson**, award-winning documentary producer and author of *Emmett Till: The Murder That Shocked the World and Propelled the Civil Rights Movement* (University Press of Mississippi, 2015) (August 28, 2020).
- **Dana Gioia**, the Judge Widney Chair of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California, former California Poet laureate, and author of highly acclaimed books such as *99 Poems: New & Selected* (Graywolf, 2016) which won the 2018 Poets' Prize (May 29, 2020).
- **Ashley Berner**, Deputy Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy, Associate Professor in the School of Education, and author of *Pluralism and American Public Education: No One Way to School* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2017) (April 24, 2020).
- **Ray Flynn**, former Mayor of Boston and former United States Ambassador to the Vatican (March 20, 2020).

The Center for Advancing Opportunity

2017-2020

Executive Director

- CAO was a Washington, D.C.-based research and education initiative created by a partnership between the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the Charles Koch Foundation, and Koch Industries. The mission of CAO is to develop evidence-based solutions to the most pressing education, entrepreneurship, and criminal justice issues in fragile communities throughout the United States by working with faculty and students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other postsecondary institutions.
- Managed \$11 million from a \$25.6 million commitment from the Charles Koch Foundation to support the work of CAO.
- Invested in a scholar managing a research center focused on education, entrepreneurship, or criminal justice. Under Robinson's leadership, CAO made a **\$8.7 million** commitment to the following postsecondary institutions:
 - **Winston-Salem State University** received a \$3 million grant in 2017 to create The Center for the Study of Economic Mobility to address challenges facing families, children, and employers in East-Winston Salem, Forsyth County, and the state of North Carolina.
 - **Texas Southern University** received a \$2.7 million grant in 2018 to create The Center for Justice Research to address challenges facing the incarcerated, families, and correctional authorities in Houston and the state of Texas.
 - **Albany State University** received a \$3 million grant in 2018 to create The Center for Educational Opportunity to address barriers facing K-12 families, students, and educators in Dougherty County and the state of Georgia.
- Awarded a scholarship to undergraduates attending an HBCU.
- CAO made a **\$637,000 commitment** to several professors at the following postsecondary institutions: Delaware State University, Howard University, Prairie View A&M University, and West Virginia State University.
- Organized a national "State of Opportunity in America Summit" in 2018 and 2019. More than 200 scholars, entrepreneurs, employers, educators, students, and civic leaders attended each event held in Washington, D.C.
- Managed the process that contributed to the publication of *The State of Opportunity in America Report* in 2018, 2019, and 2020 in collaboration with researchers at Gallup, Inc. The three reports contain a national representative sample of more than 18,000 residents living in fragile communities in 49 states and the District of Columbia to understand the perceived barriers to opportunity and to create evidence-based solutions. People included in these three reports live in some of the most socioeconomically challenged zip codes in the United States. The three research areas covered in each report are education, entrepreneurship, and criminal justice.
 - The 2018 and 2019 reports contain in-depth interviews with residents in Birmingham, AL, Chicago, IL, Fresno, CA, and the northern and central Appalachian regions, to get a more detailed comparative analysis about region, race, and historical factors that influence socio-economic outcomes.
 - The 2020 report contains in-depth interviews with residents in some Appalachian regions to obtain insights from rural America, as well as residents in the 11 largest combined statistical areas in the United States, to get a more

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detailed comparative analysis about region, race, and historical factors that influence socio-economic outcomes, which included the following areas: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Washington, D.C./Baltimore, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

- Selected keynote speakers for summits, which included Sir Angus Deaton, Winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2015, Terry Williams, Founder and CEO of the Nehemiah Global Foundation, Gene Wade, CEO of Honors Pathway and *Forbes* Education Disrupter winner, and Rich Dennis, CEO of Sundial Corporation.

The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

Adjunct Fellow

2017-present

Resident Fellow in Education Policy Studies

2015-2017

- The American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. is a public policy think tank committed to expanding liberty, increasing individual opportunity, and strengthening free enterprise.
- Areas of scholarship included the following: school choice in the public and private sectors; prison education and reentry programs; regulatory development and implementation of K-12 standards; the role of for-profit institutions in education; and the role of community colleges and HBCUs in adult advancement.
- Managed the prisoner education and reentry initiative that worked with elected officials, judges, nonprofit organizations, universities, and formally incarcerated men and women to reform federal and state criminal justice laws.
- Advised members of congress, governors, lieutenant governors, and elected state and local officials about K-12 education and criminal justice policy.
- Testified before legislative bodies including the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the Virginia Commission on Economic Opportunities for Virginians in Aspiring and Diverse Communities.
- Presented in the Emerging Education Policy Scholars Program, a three-day workshop for assistant professors and for graduate students working on a dissertation, and in the Education Policy Academy for graduate students in the social sciences, public policy, law, and business.
- Reviewed *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* plans submitted by states to the U.S. Department of Education as a member of a 45-person national review team convened by the Collaborative for Student Success and Bellwether Education Partners.
- Co-edited with Nat Malkus and Adam Peshek *Education Savings Accounts: The New Frontier in School Choice* (Roman & Littlefield, 2017).
- Co-edited with English Elizabeth-Smith *Education for Liberation: The Politics of Promise and Reform Inside and Beyond America's Prisons* (Roman & Littlefield, 2019).
- Lectured about education, public policy, criminal justice, or civil society before students, faculty, or both at the following postsecondary institutions: American University, Brown University, Boston College, Cedarville University, College of William & Mary, Davidson College, Dillard University, Fayetteville State University, Furman University, George Washington University, Indiana University, University of Georgia, Harvard University, Northwestern University, North Carolina State University, University of Richmond, Tufts University, and Yale University.

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City University of New York, Institute for Education Policy

2014-2015

Senior Fellow

- Supported the mission and goals of the Institute.
- Delivered the opening speech at an event dedicated to a discussion about *Smarter Charter: Finding What Works for Charter Schools and Public Education* by Richard Kahlenberg and Halley Potter.

UniversityNow, Inc., San Francisco, CA

Vice President of Partnerships

2013-2014

Trustee of Patten University

2013-2018

- UniversityNow, Inc. was a social venture based in San Francisco, CA, whose mission was to ensure that a quality higher education is available to people everywhere.
- Served as a Trustee of Patten University, a regionally accredited higher education institution located in Oakland, CA, and managed by UniversityNow, Inc.
- Patten University offered on-campus degrees at the associate, bachelor and master levels, and online degrees to students in 50 states and seven countries.
- Patten University partnered with the Prison University Partnership to offer an A.A. degree to inmates at San Quentin State Prison. President Barack Obama awarded the National Humanities Medal to this program in 2016.
- Represented the company before corporate, government, and educational audiences to highlight the importance of education to our economy and the role technology plays in workforce development.
- Traveled to China with the university president to establish relationships with
- universities to support exchange programs for Patten University students and faculty.

State of Florida

2011-2012

Commissioner of Education

- Managed the Department of Education and its staff of 3,000 employees, including the Chancellors for K-12 Education and the Division of Florida Colleges.
- Advised Governor Rick Scott in the development and implementation of Pre-K-20 education policy in Florida.
- Served on the Board of Governors for the State University System of Florida that sets policies for 12 public higher education institutions that served more than 300,000 students and 60,000 faculty and staff.
- Worked with the Governor's office and the State Board of Education to finalize a FY 2011 education budget of \$16 billion and started the negotiation for FY 2012.
- Collaborated with the State Board of Education to approve several new postsecondary degree programs.
- Partnered with the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and the Council of 100, to support college and career readiness initiatives and workforce development programs.
- Approved for the first time in 10 years new achievement level scores for grades 3-10 in reading, and 3-8 in mathematics, for the annual state examination.
- Approved a new achievement level score on FCAT 2.0 reading so high school graduates could enter one of Florida's 28 colleges without need to enroll in non-credit bearing remediation courses.

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- Adopted new competency and skill standards for public school STEM teacher certification.
- Developed new pre- and post-assessment measures for the Voluntary Pre-K Program.
- Chaired a Taskforce on Inclusion and Accountability to improve learning opportunities for English language learners and students with special needs.
- Chaired the Florida 2.0 Digital Learning Group.
- Secured approval of Florida's Strategic Plan for Pre-K-12 and Higher Education, 2012-18.
- Partnered with Microsoft to create the nation's first IT Academy Program focused on middle and high school students.
- Represented the Department before the Florida senate and house on Pre-K-20 education budget and policy priorities.
- Managed Race to the Top, Common Core, and PARCC federal programs.
- Hosted four-day Race to The Top workshops for 2,000 teams representing 67 counties and 8,000 educators.
- Established a Teachers' Cabinet to obtain advice from educators about public policy.
- Created a "Just for Teachers" community portal to encourage educators to communicate with each other about closing the achievement gap, professional development, and classroom strategies for improving student outcomes.
- Created a "Just for Parents" portal to inform them about changes to the Florida school accountability system, and partnered with Hillsborough, Duval, Orange, and Broward school districts to send a personalized school grade telephone message from me to over 100,000 homes in each county.
- Partnered with the National Alliance for Charter School Authorizers to host three workshops to discuss best practices associated with the review, denial, or approval of a virtual public charter school application.
- Earned a provisional *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* waiver from the U.S. Department of Education.
- Hosted the 2012 and 2013 Florida Teacher of the Year ceremony in partnership with Macy's.
- Represented Florida before national policymakers, scholars, philanthropists, and thought leaders.
- "Our Schools: A Source of Strength in America." *The Gainesville Sun* (July 2, 2012).

Commonwealth of Virginia

2010-2011

Secretary of Education

- Advised Governor Bob McDonnell in the development and implementation of Pre-K-20 education policies in Virginia.
- Provided guidance to 16 public universities, the Virginia Community College System, five higher education and research centers, the state department of education, and state-supported museums.
- Managed the Governor's Opportunity to Learn K-12 agenda and helped secure enactment of the following legislation, among other initiatives:
 - A new charter school law to expand opportunities within the public school sector;

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- A new college laboratory school law that allows a public institution of higher education operating a teacher education program approved by the State Board of Education to partner with a local school district to create an innovative learning environment for students;
- A new virtual education law that established guidelines for local school boards to utilize technology to offer students an opportunity to learn fulltime through distance learning; and
- A law that strengthened the financial literacy graduation requirement.
- Supported a partnership between EverFi and the Genworth Foundation to strengthen financial literacy programs in more than 300 high schools.
- Directed the Governor's Top Jobs for the 21st Century agenda for higher education and helped secure the enactment of the following legislation:
 - The Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act that invested an additional \$100 million into postsecondary education to support the conferral of 100,000 additional degrees by 2025; and
 - Postsecondary benefits for active-duty military, veterans, and their families.
- Worked with the Governor's office and the State Board of Education on a budget for FY 2010 and FY 2011.
- Approved the hiring of executive staff in the Virginia Department of Education.
- Organized the Governor's Innovate to Educate Summit.
- Chaired the Governor's Forum on Aligning Education, Economic Development and Business.
- Member of the Virginia Citizen-Solider Support Council and P-16 Education Council.
- Partnered with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce to support college and career readiness initiatives and workforce development programs.
- Partnered with the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation to support a U.S. Department of Defense nationwide pilot partnership to provide military families in active service with access to high-quality early education programs.
- Assisted the Secretary of the Commonwealth with appointments of trustees to Virginia colleges and universities.
- Partnered with Microsoft to create an IT Academy Program for high school students, making Virginia the third state in the nation with such a program.
- Represented Virginia before national policymakers, scholars, and thought leaders.
- Delivered a commencement address at Piedmont Virginia Community College, Northern Virginia Community College, Bluefield College, Averett University, Danville Community College, and the George Mason University Graduate School of Education.
- Received an Honorary Doctorate from Bluefield College for working to improve learning opportunities for students at all levels of education.

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Black Alliance for Educational Options

President

2007-2010

Program Director

2005-2007

- BAEO was a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization whose mission was to increase access to high-quality educational options for Black children by actively supporting transformational education reform initiatives, and parental choice policies, that empowered low-income and working-class Black families.
- Managed a budget of \$4 million and a full-time staff of 15 employees and 30 consultants that worked in 10 states and the District of Columbia.
- Solicited grants from public and private philanthropic organizations.
- Provided leadership to national, state, and local education and policy initiatives.
- Implemented board-approved strategic initiatives in: Connecticut (charter schools); Florida (tax credit scholarships); Georgia (tax credit scholarships and charter schools); Louisiana (private school scholarships in New Orleans and charter schools); Milwaukee (private school scholarships and charter schools); Missouri (charter schools and private school scholarships); Ohio (private school scholarships and charter schools); Pennsylvania (tax credit scholarships and charter schools); and Milwaukee (private school scholarships and charter schools).
- Supervised the BAEO-Gates Foundation Small High Schools Initiative that resulted in the creation of new public schools in Baton Rouge, Milwaukee, and Philadelphia.
- Partnered with the Harvard Program on Education Policy and Governance at the Kennedy School of Government to host an “Education Policy and Parental Choice” seminar for Black elected state and local officials from 22 states and the District of Columbia between 2005 and 2009.
- Secured a \$300,000 grant from The Open Society’s Campaign for Black Male Achievement to create the Parents, Power, and Purpose (P3) Initiative. P3 trained more than 2,000 parents in Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and four cities in Louisiana (New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Lake Charles) about how to advocate for black boys enrolled in special education classes.
- Managed BAEO’s Annual Symposium to inform, inspire, and empower 600 to 1,000 parents, educators, youth, donors, and education reform allies between 2007 to 2009.
- As Program Director, Robinson managed a \$200,000 grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation that required a mixed methods investigation of 407 low-income and working-class Black parents who had children and adolescents enrolled in a public afterschool program located in Detroit, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, or Washington, D.C.
- Developed a curriculum for the Bailey-Sullivan Leadership Fellows Program.
- Worked with allies to promote charter legislation in Alabama and Mississippi.
- National Alliance for Public Charter Schools Model Legislation Working Group, Washington, D.C. (2008-2009) (member). Efforts resulted in the publication of *A New Model Law for Supporting the Growth of High-Quality Public Charter Schools* (June 2009).
- A founding member of KIPP STIVE Academy in Atlanta in 2009. It is a public charter school serving a mostly black and low-income student population. Our founding team consisted of Teach for America and Building Excellent Schools alumni. We received a Blue Ribbon Award from U.S. Education Department in 2015.
- Advisor board member to the Program on Education Policy and Governance at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

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University of Arkansas School Choice Demonstration Project **2006-2007**

Senior Research Associate

- Supported a longitudinal study in partnership with Westat Research Corporation to compare the impact school choice has on student achievement for low-income students enrolled in traditional public schools, public charter schools, and private voucher schools.
- Provided advice to the SCDP on various subjects including research protocols, survey preparation, outreach to economically disadvantaged communities, family sessions, data analysis, interpretation, and report preparation.
- Collaborated with a research team that included some of the top education policy analysts, political scientists, and economists in the country.

Marquette University Institute for the Transformation of Learning **2004-2006**

Senior Fellow

- Researched K-12 education reform in the city of Milwaukee.
- Secured foundation funding to partner with College Summit, Inc. to prepare urban and first-generation students for the transition from high school to college.
- Secured a \$2 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to utilize the Institute for the Transformation of Learning as an innovation hub to provide technical support to existing schools in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and to help create new schools for the program.
- Participated in advocacy activities to expand public and private school choice to families in Milwaukee, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., and other urban cities nationwide.
- Testified before the Wisconsin and Minnesota state legislators regarding education policy for low-income and working-class families.
- Reviewed applications for a Walton Family Foundation early-stage charter school grant.
- Co-chaired the Milwaukee Chapter of the Black Alliance for Educational Options.

Alliances for Quality Education **2001-2004**

Consultant

- AQE is a Largo, MD-based small business specializing in building the capacity of academic, government, and corporate organizations to better assist constituencies.
- Developed education programs for schools and universities.
- Conducted workshops for service providers.

District of Columbia Public Schools **1999-2000**

Legislative Liaison

- Worked for School Superintendent Arlene Ackerman.
- Prepared the superintendent and central office staff for policy and budget hearings before the District of Columbia City Council, and the U.S. Congressional House Subcommittee on the District of Columbia.
- Reviewed and drafted education policies for the public school system.
- Gathered data for dissertation at the University of Virginia.

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United States House of Representatives **1999**

Intern

- Provided administrative and research support to the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia chaired by Tom Davis (R-VA).
- Analyzed legislation related to school and government reform.
- Researched and compiled materials used for the D.C. College Access Act.
- Performed administrative duties and gathered data for dissertation.

Virginia General Assembly **1998-1999**

Intern

- Worked in the Office of Delegate Mary T. Christian (D-Hampton).
- Performed administrative duties.
- Analyzed legislation introduced in the education committee.
- Prepared a policy paper titled “Charter Schools and African American Males” for the Joint Education Task Force of the Virginia General Assembly.

Children’s Academies for Achievement **1995-1997**

Executive Director

- CAA was a New York City-based nonprofit organization focused on academic and social development of at-risk youth.
- Drafted a proposal to open the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Academy Charter School, which the New Jersey Department of Education approved in 1997.
- Solicited funding from foundations, corporations, and individuals.
- Represented CAA before local, state, and national policymakers.

St. Peter’s College **1995-1997**

Teacher

- Taught courses on logical reasoning and African American history to Jersey City and Newark public school students that participated in a Saturday and summer Pre-College Academic Program.
- Attended cultural activities with students, parents, and staff.

California State Legislature **1992-1993**

Senior Fellow

- Public policy fellow in the Office of Senator Bill Leonard (R-Upland).
- Analyzed legislation presented in education and appropriations committees.
- Drafted legislation to grant parents the authority to create charter schools.
- Drafted legislation to revitalize Los Angeles after the civil unrest/riots following the verdict in the Rodney King decision in 1992.

Marcus Garvey School **1991-1992**

Fifth Grade Teacher

- Developed education programs for schools and universities.
- Taught English, geography, reading, writing, and other subjects at this private inner-city school in Los Angeles, CA.
- Organized field trips for students and parents.