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BEYOND API: RETHINKING ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE LCFF/LCAP ERA

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Secretary of State Office Building
1500 – 11th Street, Sacramento

Participant Biographical Statements

(Alphabetical by Last Name)

Keric Ashley is the Interim Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, for the District, School and Innovation Branch, California Department of Education (CDE). Ashley comes from a family of educators. His father was an assistant superintendent, but Ashley's real education started early at home, learning life's lessons from six siblings. Ashley taught elementary and middle school students for eight years and was a school site administrator for another seven years. During these 15 years, he worked at all levels – elementary, middle, and high school.

Ashley continued his career working for the California Department of Education. For the last 22 years, he has mastered the multisyllabic acronyms and initialisms required of all good state workers and has provided leadership related to compliance reviews, K-3 Class Size Reduction, CALPADS, API, LCAP, and Smarter Balanced. He currently serves as Interim Deputy Superintendent over the divisions that administer assessment, accountability, Title 1, charter schools, and data management.

Sue Burr is a Member of the California State Board of Education since 2013. Previously, she served as the executive director of the California State Board of Education and as education policy advisor to Governor Brown from 2011 to 2013. She served as the executive director of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) from 2006 to 2011 and was the Association's governmental relations director from 2003 to 2006. Burr was the assistant superintendent for business services with the Elk Grove Unified School District from 2000 to 2003. She served as the undersecretary of education under Governor Gray Davis from 1999 to 2000, also serving as interim secretary in 2000. Burr was co-director of the California State University Institute for Education Reform from 1995 to 1999, a principal consultant for the California Senate Education Committee from 1991 to 1994, and a principal consultant for the California Senate Appropriations Committee from 1986 to 1991. She earned a Master of Business Administration degree from California State University, Sacramento.

David Conley is the Founder and President of EdImagine Strategy Group. He is also a Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership, as well as founder and director of the Center for Educational Policy

Research (CEPR), at the University of Oregon. In addition, he is the founder, chief executive officer, and chief strategy officer of the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) in Eugene and Portland, OR. Dr. Conley conducts research on a range of topics related to college readiness and other key policy issues. His latest publication *Getting Ready for College, Careers, and the Common Core: What Every Educator Needs to Know* was published in 2014 by Jossey-Bass, and more information on the text can be found at www.collegecareerready.com. His previous books on this topic include *College and Career Ready: Helping All Students Succeed Beyond High School*, and *College Knowledge: What It Really Takes for Students to Succeed and What We Can Do to Get Them Ready*.

He received his B.A. degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Before joining the University of Oregon faculty, he spent 20 years in public education as a teacher, building level and central office administrator, and state education department executive. He has authored numerous journal articles, book chapters, and monographs. He serves on technical and advisory panels, including co-chairing the Common Core State Standards Validation Committee and as a member of the Smarter Balanced Technical Advisory Committee.

Linda Darling-Hammond is Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University Graduate School of Education, where she founded the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE), which conducts research and policy analysis on issues affecting educational equity and opportunity, including curriculum, assessment, and teaching policy and practices. She also founded the School Redesign Network and the Stanford Educational Leadership Institute, and served as the faculty sponsor of the Stanford Teacher Education Program, which she helped to redesign.

Darling-Hammond has conducted research on a wide range of policy issues affecting teaching and schooling and has advised policymakers and practitioners at all levels of government. From 1994 to 2001, she was Executive Director of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, whose 1996 report, *What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future*, led to sweeping policy changes affecting teaching and schooling and was named one of the most influential reports affecting U.S. education. In 2006, Darling-Hammond was named one of the nation's 10 most influential people affecting educational policy over the past decade, and in 2008, she served as the leader of President Barack Obama's education policy transition team. She was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2014.

Among Darling-Hammond's more than 400 publications are *The Flat World and Education: How America's Commitment to Equity will Determine our Future* (winner of the 2012 Grawemeyer Award in Education); *Preparing Teachers for a Changing World: What Teachers Should Learn and Be Able to Do* (with John Bransford, for the National Academy of Education, winner of AACTE Pomeroy Award in 2006); *Learning to Teach for Social Justice* (with Jennifer French and Silvia Paloma Garcia-Lopez); and *The Right to Learn* (recipient of AERA's Outstanding Book Award for 1998).

Jannelle Kubinec is the Director of the Comprehensive School Assistance Program at WestEd. Kubinec combines her knowledge of effective education strategies with a deep understanding of the operational and management conditions that support student success. Kubinec also directs the California Comprehensive Center, a federally funded technical assistance center charged with building the capacity of California to implement the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and close the student academic achievement gap. In addition, she oversees the Migrant Student Information Network project in California. This project produces the unduplicated count of migrant students in California by providing the tools, technical assistance, and training to ensure that each of the migrant regions is entering, maintaining, uploading, and updating information needed to produce the count as required by the U.S. Department of Education.

Prior to joining WestEd in 2011, Kubinec served in executive level positions in public sector consulting firms, where she provided support in educational productivity and management effectiveness. She has worked with federal, state, and local education agencies providing support in the areas of school finance, management, strategic planning, special education, and technology planning. She is a recognized expert on effective school planning and resource alignment to support student achievement. In addition, Kubinec served as fiscal and policy advisor on school finance issues to the California Legislature while at the California Legislative Analyst's

Office. Kubinec received a B.A. degree in rhetoric and a Master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

Michal Kurlaender is an Associate Professor and Chancellor's Fellow at the School of Education, UC Davis, and a PACE Director. She investigates students' educational pathways, in particular K-12 and postsecondary alignment, and access to and success in college. Kurlaender has expertise on alternative pathways to college and on college readiness at both community colleges and four-year colleges and universities. In addition to working with national data, she works closely with administrative data from all three of California's public higher education sectors: the California State University, the California Community Colleges, and the University of California. Kurlaender also studies the impact of socioeconomic and racial and ethnic diversity on student outcomes in both K-12 and higher education settings. She serves on the executive committee of the UC Davis Center for Poverty Research, is the UC Davis site director of the UC Educational Evaluation Center, and is a researcher with the Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment at Teachers College, Columbia University. She received her doctorate from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education in 2005.

Ted Lempert is the President of Children Now, a national research and advocacy organization based in Oakland, California. He is also a Lecturer in the Political Science Department at UC Berkeley. Previously, Lempert was the founding CEO and co-founder of EdVoice, a California education reform organization.

Lempert was a California State Assemblymember representing San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties from 1996 to 2000 and 1988 to 1992. He served as chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and the Select Committees on Education Technology and Coastal Protection, and co-chair of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education. He had more than 75 bills signed by Governors Deukmejian, Wilson and Davis, including major laws in the areas of education, health care, children and families, tax policy and the environment. He also served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, where he was President of the Board in 1995. He was the founder of the County's Youth Commission and chaired the Task Force on Violence Against Women. Prior to holding public office, Lempert was special counsel and an associate for the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton in San Francisco.

Lempert received the "Al Rodda Lifetime Service Award" from the California School Boards Association (CSBA); was named "Legislator of the Year" by numerous leading education groups, including the National Association of Educational Service Agencies, the California Association of School Administrators, California Community College Faculty and the UC and CSU Students Associations; and was recognized five times with the "High-Tech Legislator of the Year" Award from the American Electronics Association.

He graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and earned his law degree from Stanford University.

Rick Miller serves as the Executive Director of the CORE districts. CORE provides the connective tissue for a partnership between Clovis, Fresno, Garden Grove, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, Sanger, San Francisco, and Santa Ana unified school districts. These 10 districts, representing over a million students, have committed to participate in a collaborative learning community to facilitate and expedite shared education reforms.

Prior to joining CORE, Miller was the Deputy State Superintendent for P-16 Policy and Information Branch of the California Department of Education. Miller also worked at Microsoft Corporation as well as having served as a strategic communications advisor to the Chancellor of the California State University System (CSU). Prior to working at CSU, Miller served the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. as Press Secretary to Richard W. Riley, Secretary of Education in the Clinton Administration.

Miller lives in Rocklin, California with his wife, Julie, an elementary school speech therapist, and their two sons, Casey and Ryan.

David N. Plank is the Executive Director of PACE, Professor (Research) in the Stanford University Graduate School of Education, and Researcher in the Stanford Lemann Center for Educational Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Brazil. Before joining PACE in January 2007, Plank was a Professor at Michigan State University, where he founded and directed the Education Policy Center. He was previously on the faculties at the University of Pittsburgh and at the University of Texas at Dallas, where he taught courses and conducted research in the areas of educational finance and policy. Plank is the author or editor of six books, including the *AERA Handbook of Education Policy Research*. He has published widely in a number of different fields, including economics of education, history of education, and educational policy. His current interests include the role of the state in education, the relationship between academic research and public policy, and the development of state policies to encourage and support the use of digital technologies in schools. In addition to his work in the United States, Plank has extensive international experience. He has served as a consultant to international organizations, including the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Ford Foundation, and also to governments in Africa and Latin America. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1983.

Rick Simpson is the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the California State Assembly, Toni Atkins. In this capacity, Simpson is responsible for advising the Speaker and other members of the Assembly on a wide variety of policy and budget issues. He has spent more than 36 years working in and around the State Capitol, primarily on issues of public education. He served as a senior advisor for eight Assembly Speakers and has staffed the Education Committees in both the Assembly and the Senate. In 1999, Simpson served in Governor Gray Davis' cabinet as his first Legislative Secretary.

Simpson is one of California's experts on education policy and school finance. He has either written or played a key role in developing most of California's major education reforms of the past three decades. He is the Assembly's lead negotiator on the annual budget for public education. Last June, Simpson was appointed by the Speaker to a four-year term on the Commission on Judicial Performance. This constitutional body is responsible for discipline of the judicial branch of state government. But don't get on his bad side! He is also a champion fencer. He was Pacific Coast Champion, has competed in five National Championships – winning a bronze medal in the 1977 Nationals – and was named to the U.S. Olympic Fencing Squad in 1977 and 1978.

Samantha Tran is a Senior Managing Director of Education Policy for Children Now, the leading non-partisan, multi-issue research, policy development, and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting children's health and education in California, and the leader of The Children's Movement in California. Tran helps to shape and implement Children Now's education policy agenda, including helping to oversee the after school and K-12 portfolio. She also actively participates in Children Now's foster youth, early care, education, and health policy work.

Prior to joining Children Now, Tran was a senior research and policy consultant at the California School Boards Association (CSBA), where she tracked and provided guidance on state and federal policy issues, including early childhood education, school finance reform, before and after school programs, conditions of children, English Language Learners, foster youth and community partnerships. She represented CSBA in meetings with the State Board of Education, Department of Education, California First 5 Commission, and other state bodies. Tran completed her B.A. degree in Communications at the University of San Francisco, and her M.A. degree in Education Policy at Stanford University.

Michael Watkins is the Superintendent of Schools for Santa Cruz County Office of Education. He was born and raised in Oakland, California. Watkins attended California State University, Hayward, where he was awarded a B.A degree in Psychology and teaching credentials in both History and Special Education. He also received a Master's degree in School Administration. Watkins has over 35 years of experience in education. He has held the positions of Learning Handicapped Program Specialist, Director of Special Education, Director of Alternative Education, and is now the elected Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, a position that he has held for eight years.

He has been recognized for his work in the community by both the Watsonville City Council and the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. In addition, he has been recognized statewide by serving as the State President of the Juvenile Court and Community Alternative Schools Association and the President of the 58-county Superintendents Association. He was recently appointed by the California Senate Rules Committee to sit on the five-member California Collaborative for Educational Excellence and the statewide Special Education Task Force. In addition, Watkins has served on a number of Boards of local non-profit agencies.