

Heller Alumni Association Board Biographies 2021-2022



Nicole Rodriguez
MPP'14, President

Nicole Rodriguez is the Research Director for New Jersey Policy Perspective, a think tank that drives policy change to advance economic justice and prosperity for all New Jerseyans through evidence-based, independent research, analysis and advocacy. She is an experienced public policy advocate who researches and advocates for state policy solutions that centers the needs of communities. She is skilled in policy analysis, research, writing, communication, and nonprofit organization and management. Her research interests include labor and economic policy at the intersection of work and family. Before joining New Jersey Policy Perspective, Nicole was a Senior Researcher at Community Labor United (CLU), an organization that brings together community and labor partners to speak in one voice on issues that impact working-class families throughout Greater Boston. Specifically, Nicole drove strategic campaigns forward with rigorous research and leadership that stabilize and strengthen low-income families and communities of color. Prior to that, Nicole worked as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, an independent research organization that produces non-partisan policy research, analysis, and data-driven recommendations focused on improving the lives of low- and middle-income children and adults, strengthening our state's economy, and enhancing the quality of life in Massachusetts. Nicole has authored numerous reports focusing on family economic security and the state budget. She has also worked for foundations, non-profits, and state and local governments in Massachusetts. She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and a Bachelor of Arts' degree in Political Science from Villanova University.



Thomas Quinn
MBA'10, Vice President

Thomas Quinn is a Senior Partner at Witt/Kieffer, specializing in all aspects of executive search for healthcare and not-for-profit clients. Based in Boston, Tom has a particular interest in career counseling and helping healthcare executives advance at each professional level. He combines his strong networking skills with extensive experience when recruiting top financial, clinical and operational leaders, as well as leading CEO searches for hospitals and health plans. Tom has also developed a regional practice for recruiting senior leaders in physician group practices, hospitals and health plans and consults with clients on talent management, succession planning and organizational development, compensation and on-boarding. Previously, Tom was a healthcare associate for an international executive search firm in Boston and a consultant for a Boston-based boutique executive search firm. Tom started his career as a credit analyst for Boston Scientific Corporation, which sparked his interest in working closely with providers and health plans. He also has a BA in Journalism from the University of Massachusetts.



Ali Al Jundi
MA SID'14

Ali Al Jundi is a policy advocate from Syria. Ali currently works as a Policy and Diaspora Engagement Advisor at Oxfam America, where he contributes to the organization's advocacy work about the ongoing Syrian humanitarian crisis and engagement with other diaspora communities and organizations with a special focus on humanitarian crises and immigration and refugees' issues in the United States. Ali has participated in many panel discussions and events about the crisis including at Harvard University, MIT, UMass Boston, Tufts University, Microsoft, and more.

Before leaving Syria in 2012, Ali was a Senior Career Development Coordinator at United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) where he enhanced capacities of Palestinian refugees in Syria who live in various parts of the country. Ali previously worked as a Marketing Development Officer at the Aga Khan Foundation in Syria on rural development and women empowerment from 2005 to 2010. Ali has also worked in the private sector, specifically in Syria's textile industry for over ten years.

Ali holds a Master's Degree in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University/ Massachusetts and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Damascus University, Syria.



Jacqueline Daniels Braunthal
MMHS'84

Jacqueline Daniels Braunthal has 30+ years of experience and training in healthcare management. Since 2014, Jackie launched and operates out of Connecticut, as the Principal and CEO of a consulting practice, Health and Human Services Management Solutions, LLC, serving seniors and people with disabilities. Jackie leverages her industry knowledge, management experience and clinical skills when evaluating the needs and services of a client. Early on, she promoted best practices in provider management by creating solutions for clinical and administrative staff that had quality of care challenges with Medicare, Medicaid, State Licensure and JCAHO. Jackie served as the compliance expert for a large hospital corporation and as a hospital consultant for the State of Florida-Health Quality department. In 2019, Jackie was also selected to the Board of Directors of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra, a volunteer elected position. More recently, Jackie branded a regional start up that specialized in private-pay pediatric and geriatric home staffing. She created a large referral network of clinical, financial and legal professionals involved in healthcare delivery. Jackie also created a database of senior choices for residential care in Greater New York. Jackie holds a Master's degree in Non-Profit Management and Health Policy from Brandeis University and a B.A. in Psychology from Ithaca College.



Oluwaseun Ayanniyi
MS'12

Oluwaseun Ayanniyi is a Contracts Specialist at UNICEF Supply Division and based in Copenhagen, Denmark. At UNICEF, her work involves ensuring uninterrupted supply of affordable vaccines of assured quality for children for the prevention of diseases. She is a seasoned health supply management professional with experience in contracts management, procurement, supply chain management, market research and data analysis, capacity development, process management and demand forecasting.

She has extensive work experience with non-government organizations, UNICEF, USAID, Global Fund, and Ministries of Health, in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia.

Previously, Oluwaseun was a Quantification Advisor at John Snow Research and Training Institute in Arlington, Virginia where she supported countries in their quantification for health commodities. She began her career as a Pharmacist in Nigeria. Working as a pharmacist and volunteering sparked her interest in public health which led her to apply for the International Health Policy and Management course at Heller. Oluwaseun holds a certificate in Leadership and Management from the University of Washington, a Masters in International Health Policy and Management, a Bachelors in Pharmacy and is a Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP).



Alissa Brooks
MBA/MPP'15

Alissa Brooks is the Senior Director of Client Services with Jewish Vocational Service (JVS Boston), a nationally recognized leader in workforce development. In this role she manages agency-wide client recruitment, screening, and referral, as well as alumni engagement. Previously, she was the Project Manager at JVS Boston for a \$15M Pay for Success project. Her previous work experience includes roles with the Mayor's Office in Lawrence, Boston After School & Beyond, and the YMCA of Central Ohio. In addition to her Master's degrees, she holds Bachelor's degrees in Theology and

English Literature from Walsh University (Ohio).



Sara Chaganti
PhD'18

Sara Chaganti is the Deputy Director of Research in Regional and Community Outreach at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. She previously worked as a Senior Research Associate at the Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP) at the Heller School. Sara has expertise in jobs and job quality, poverty and inequality, and the racial wealth divide. She holds a PhD in Social Policy and Sociology from Brandeis University, an MS in Law, Policy and Society from

Northeastern University and a BA in Anthropology from Yale.



Isaac Cudjoe
MA COEX'18

Isaac Cudjoe is a community organizer, social entrepreneur, and champion for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Prior to joining Walden in 2019, Isaac co-founded the ReTurn Movement and Brothers With Books. ReTurn works to inspire immigrants to reengage with their roots, and Brothers With Books aims to improve literacy rates by providing free books to underserved families.

Currently serving as the Director of the Center for Social Change at Walden University, Isaac is driven by his passion for community development and youth engagement. Isaac has also created youth-led initiatives organized from the ground up in sub-Saharan Africa. Isaac plans to use his training from the Young African Leaders Initiative and The African Middle Eastern Leadership fellowship to help inspire social change agents to do more and be more for the places they call home. Isaac is also earning his Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration.



Jessica Pacheco-Estévez
MM'98

Jessica Pacheco-Estévez has passionately invested her service and expertise in empowering and developing inclusive leadership and management for thousands of nonprofits, K-12, higher education and corporate audiences. For over 20 years she has created, developed and implemented educational and organizational capacity building initiatives that foster equitable spaces and facilitate thriving communities, locally and internationally. As the current vice-president of Estrategia Group, she uses her collaborative management skills to help the consulting firm provide ideas, strategies and solutions to non-profits, educational institutions and businesses. Previous employers include the Institute for Community and Justice at Greenville College; the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as a national fellow for its Community Leadership Network; and the Community Tampa Bay programs director. The United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group, invited her to present on the nonprofit's trademarked "ANYTOWN" program in Geneva, Switzerland. Jessica's efforts earned her the USA Network Characters Unite Award in 2010. She's also a certified trainer for the Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute and a certified strength coach for the Gallup School of Management. Born in New York and raised in the Dominican Republic, she has earned her Heller degree and a Bachelors of Arts from Mount Holyoke College, where she graduated at the age of 19. Her husband Edwin Estévez and daughters Taina and Natalia share residence in IL and FL.



Sheldon Gelman
PhD'73

Sheldon Gelman, Dean Emeritus, is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers and a Fellow of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) and the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM). He has held office and served on national commissions of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), including the board of directors and Commission on Accreditation, the National Association of Social Work Deans (NADD), the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The author of more than 100 professional articles and book chapters, he has served as a consultant to many social welfare organizations, presented testimony before legislative bodies and served as an expert witness in more than a dozen cases. He was named a "Social Work Pioneer" by NASW in 2009.



Shirley Girouard
PhD'88

Shirley Girouard, RN, FAAN is Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Innovations at the College of Nursing at SUNY Downstate since 2014. She holds a PhD in health & social policy from the Heller School, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, a master of science in nursing from Yale University, New Haven, CT, a master of arts in medical sociology from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, a bachelor of arts with a major in sociology from Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT and a diploma in nursing from Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, Hartford, CT. Her present research activities are related to both research and evidence-based practice: to improve patient care transitions; exploring the organization and delivery of stroke services across the continuum of care; support persons with chronic conditions and their caregivers; adverse childhood experiences among health care providers and their related educational needs; and, promoting innovations in nursing education. Her research and professional experience inform her policy and advocacy work including her present work on the State of Connecticut's Practice Transformation Task Force, a committee of the CMS initiative to develop state level

healthcare improvement models. In addition, she is a member of the Packard Foundation funded national advisory board project to engage families to improve quality and outcomes of CSHCN and the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement advisory committee. Dr. Girouard's professional career has included clinical practice in a variety of settings including work as an advanced practice nurse. She has held positions in philanthropy, public service (elected & appointed), management and administration in professional organizations, healthcare and education. Her scholarly work has focused on the nursing workforce, evaluation, public policy and nursing education through publications, grantsmanship, service on several editorial boards and professional speaking. Serving on national, state and local committees, reviewing for several nursing and health journals, and engaging in education and advocacy, Dr. Girouard is committed to improving health and healthcare and advancing the profession of nursing.



Alexandria Glaize
MA SID'17

Alexandria Glaize is the Senior Community and Partner Engagement Manager at Mentor Collective – an organization that is committed to ensuring that students receive mentorship and support. Before joining Mentor Collective, she worked with True Blue Inclusion, where she crystallized novel approaches to the multi-faceted challenges faced by senior diversity and inclusion leaders. After shifting away from the corporate sector, she served with the National Black Justice Coalition as a practical expert on translating vision & strategy into operational excellence.

Through her work with Mentor Collective, National Black Justice Coalition, and True Blue Inclusion, she has tremendous experience building and maintaining collaborative relationships with executive leaders & visionaries. While working across industries, she was inspired by the work I saw happening at the nexus of technological innovations and the future of work. She decided to transition to tech to create and make a sustainable impact on people's lives. Alexandria holds a MA in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management and a BA in Business Administration and Management from Milligan College.



Calvin Harris
MPP'10

Calvin Harris serves as the communications director for Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott. Prior to this role, Harris and Pine Street Strategies advised several Black mayors across the nation on messaging, storytelling, and communications strategy. Most notably, the firm created successful strategies and narratives that led to historic mayoral wins for Randall Woodfin (Birmingham, Ala.) and Frank Scott, Jr. (Little Rock, Ark.). During the 2020 election cycle, he served as senior advisor for Nicole Galloway for Missouri and central regional communications director for Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg. A former senior associate in SKDKnickerbocker's Washington, D.C. office, Harris is a graduate of Morehouse College and the Heller School of Public Policy at Brandeis University. He is also a former PPIA Fellow at the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.



Carmen Hicks
MPP'14

Carmen Hicks is a Senior Product Manager at Checkr, a consumer reporting agency dedicated to creating a fairer future through human-focused background checks. Prior to this, Carmen worked as the Senior TurboVote Product Manager at Democracy Works, where she was instrumental in helping over 11 million voters across the country in 2021. She holds a Master in Public Policy from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management and a BA in Political Science. Carmen currently lives in Somerville, MA.



Shayna Jones Perry
MPP'18

Shayna Jones, (she/they), is an embodied healer committed to the practice of living out wild imaginative Black futures right now. Shayna is an experienced facilitator, trainer, and organizational consultant. She has supported individuals and communities with the work of integrating a Black feminist ethic of care into their lives and work, through transformative justice, political education, policy and practice. She is a proud auntie and has learned from her nibblings the value of felt joy, resilience and dance. Shayna is a co-founder of blackyard Learning Community, a practice in alternative systems building that emerged in 2019 following years of base-building, direct action, policy advocacy and organizing in Cambridge, MA. This project offers a full day co-operative school for Black children and families and a political home for Black youth. Shayna is currently based in Durham, NC and is dedicated to exploring the ways Black communities heal from generational trauma and the impacts of white-supremacy, by regaining our connections to our bodies, each other, and the land.



Parisa Kharazi
MS'13

Parisa Kharazi is a public health professional specializing in health information technology. She has ten years of public health experience domestically and internationally. For over five years she worked as a Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor at Jhpiego, a leading NGO on global maternal and child health affiliated with Johns Hopkins University. In her role, she was a key player in the business plan development, communications, and deployment of the organization's centralized reporting health database. Parisa's interest in global health led her to serve as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana, where she worked with vulnerable youth, faith-based groups, and local community leaders on HIV/AIDS prevention projects. Her experience living and working in a remote village in southern Africa shaped her career in public health. After graduating from Heller, she was selected as a USAID HIV/AIDS Care and Support Fellow with the Global Health Fellows Program II/The Public Health Institute. She also has a passion for working with students interested in health care. She was a teaching assistant for an online graduate course on the design of healthcare informatics systems at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is also a mentor with the National Peace Corps Association in which she helps Returned Peace Corps Volunteers with professional networking, future career planning, transitioning from serving abroad to serving at home, and sharing her Peace Corps experience with students of all ages. Parisa previously served on the Executive Board of American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP), a national nonprofit organization focused on professional development, health education centered on the unique needs of American-Muslims, and advocacy for minorities and underserved communities. While at Heller, she served as class representative for the MS class and was a recipient of the Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Scholarship. In addition to her Heller degree, she also holds an MBA Certificate in the Business of Healthcare from Johns Hopkins University, and a BS in Public Health and Middle Eastern Studies from Rutgers University.

In her spare time, she volunteers as a Farsi language interpreter for Afghan refugee entrepreneurs. She is currently taking time off from her professional career to focus on raising her son.



Simone LaPray
MBA/MA SID'15

Simone LaPray currently serves as the Program Manager of Techstars Boston where she works with the most promising startups in the vibrant local ecosystem. She previously served as the Executive Director for TiE Boston to support its mission to support entrepreneurs through mentoring, networking, education and funding. She is passionate about supporting entrepreneurs, emerging businesses and promoting the innovation ecosystem in the Boston area. She has served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine from 2006-2011 where she worked in small business development, education, youth empowerment and HIV/AIDS awareness. She also serves on the Board for the Boston Network for International Development (BNID).



Gabriel Malseptic
MBA'14

Gabriel Malseptic is a Program Director for Utilization Review at Gainwell Technologies-supporting MassHealth's Acute Hospital Program. Prior to his current role, Gabe was a Senior Program Manager at the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission where he managed a portfolio of community hospitals grants to transform care delivery for the Commonwealth's most at-risk populations. While at Heller, he co-founded SQ Technologies, a health technology startup that creates health education programming and platforms for higher education institutions. He is a graduate of the University of Rochester, with degrees in socio-cultural anthropology and cognitive science.



Ty Leisey
MA COEX/MA SID'17

Ty Leisey is a systems thinker with a focus on the intersection of power dynamics and social justice, a perspective he relied on throughout his graduate career. While at the Heller School, Ty was a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee, Co-Chair of the Anti-Oppression Working Group, and recipient of the Barbara Wakefield Leadership Award. He has experience planning and leading anti-oppression workshops in small and large settings and spearheaded the first completely student-created and -run Heller Anti-Oppression Community Day for incoming students in the fall of 2015. While at Heller, Ty interned at MaeBright Group, where he partnered with community stakeholders in Boston, MA to design and implement a legal name change clinic for transgender and gender nonconforming residents. In addition to his graduate degrees, Ty received a Bachelor's in Liberal Studies in Peace and Intercultural Relations with a concentration in Sub-Saharan Africa from Salem State University. Ty now lives in Austin, Texas and works for CASA of Travis County as a Sr. Teen Advocacy Specialist, where he manages a team of volunteers to advocate in court for children in the Texas foster care system. Ty works on a team that advocates specifically for youth likely to face additional barriers to finding permanency; through this work with CASA, he has continued to engage in equity and social justice work, including co-chairing CASA's Equity and Inclusion Committee, representing CASA on variously community stakeholder committees, and becoming a certified facilitator of CASA's internal anti-racism workshop for staff and volunteers.



Sara Miller-Paul
BA'11, MBA/MA Hornstein'16

Sara Miller-Paul, CFAR's Coaching Practice Manager, is a coach, consultant, and facilitator based in the greater Boston area. In addition to her client-facing roles, she has served as Richard Levin & Associates' Managing Director—overseeing several marketing and operational initiatives and striving to understand the needs of potential clients in order to connect them with the best coaches, consultants, and facilitators. As Coaching Practice Manager, Sara connects the administrative piece of the work with coaches and clients and strategizes for communication externally and internally.

As a coach, Sara prioritizes developing trusting relationships with her clients, such that shared goals and challenges alike can be approached with understanding and strategic savvy. She enjoys helping leaders find creative solutions that position them for success and believes that learning across organizations and fields can yield strong results.

Sara has previously worked in Providence, Rhode Island at a campus-based organization devoted to student engagement and education, as well as with organizations such as a museum, an arts institute, and a women's shelter abroad. She has a B.A. from Brandeis University. A graduate of the MBA program at the Heller School for Public Policy and the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program (Brandeis University), Sara devoted her graduate fieldwork to a diversity of competencies: education, data analysis, and human resources policy research. Sara is on the board of the Jewish Alliance of Greater RI and is a co-founder of Mentoring for Equity.



Ryan Mishler
MPP'18

Ryan Mishler is passionate about public health, policy analysis and advocacy for the LGBTQIA community. During their time at Heller, they co-founded the first campus-wide LGBT graduate student organization and received the Barbara Wakefield Award in May 2018. They also received the Sylvia Rivera Graduate Student award from the Brandeis Gender and Sexuality Center in April 2018. After graduation, they served as the Program Administrator for the Brandeis Gender and Sexuality Center until January 2019. Prior to arriving at the Heller School, Ryan served for a year and a half in the AmeriCorps VISTA program in Sacramento, California. They graduated with a Bachelor in Arts degree in Community Leadership and Civic Engagement from Northern Illinois University in 2013. They are currently an Office Support Specialist at the McLean County Health Department in Bloomington, Illinois, assisting with the COVID-19 vaccination process.



Ye Pogue
PhD'19

Ye Pogue is a research public health analyst at RTI International, has broad experience in developing quality measures and in evaluating quality of care in post-acute care settings. She is an expert in health service research related to mental illnesses and other behavioral health conditions and a passionate advocate for bridging group differences through shared humanity. She contributes to public policy debate through interviews, opinion articles, and testimonies at hearings. Dr. Pogue holds a PhD and an MA in Social Policy from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. She also holds an MA in Economics from Duke University and a BA in Economics from Shanghai Jiaotong University.



Bria Price
MPP'19

Bria Price is a College Success Manager for Achieve Atlanta, a nonprofit organization in Atlanta, Georgia. The mission of Achieve Atlanta is to ensure that Atlanta Public School System students have access to college and succeed once they get there.

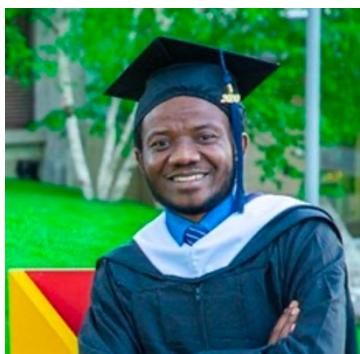
As a college success manager, she works with incoming college students, on campus student ambassadors and college support partners on 11 college campuses in Georgia and Scholars across the United States. Bria's work in the public-school systems has created a passion for further research of the impact of outreach and emotional support for students during their college years.

Bria received a Bachelor of Arts from The College of Wooster in Wooster Ohio. It was during her time at Wooster that Bria felt the tug to work with students in underserve communities. She spent the first three years following Wooster serving in the AmeriCorps program, City Year- Washington, D.C from AmeriCorps Member to Impact Manager. In 2016, Bria was name AmeriCorps Alum fellow for the Eli J. and Phyllis N. Segal Citizen Leadership Program. It was the example of citizen leadership demonstrated by fellow Segal Fellows that led Bria to pursue the master's in public policy program at the Heller School. During her time at Brandeis, Bria was active in several organizations, Heller Student Association, Founding Member of the Black Graduate Student Association and worked in the Segal Citizen Leadership program as a liaison to Segal Fellows. In 2019, she received the inaugural Heller Award for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. One of Bria's personal goal is to create a non-profit organization, Melanin Book Mobile. A mobile library of books to serve underserve communities of Melanin children with books written by Melanin authors.



Miriam Rubin
MBA'15

Miriam Rubin has extensive professional experience in youth development and K-12 education. She has held several leadership roles in non-profit Organizations, including Program Director at Bottom Line, a college access and success organization in Boston, and Director of Programs at Big Sister Association, an organization focused on providing mentoring to girls. Miriam has developed skills in strategic and operations management as well as staff development, and is particularly strong in developing strategic partnerships with community stakeholders. She spent five years leading partnership efforts within the Boston Public Schools (BPS), where she worked to increase equity, access to, and effectiveness of high-quality partnership opportunities for schools, students and families throughout the district. While in this role, she oversaw "the Partnership Fund", a \$6Million dollar fund directed towards schools to spend on partnership opportunities for students. This experience led to the transition into her current role as Budget Director of the Boston Public Schools where she oversees the \$1.3 billion-dollar BPS budget, striving to support schools and central offices to make equitable, strategic, student-centered budgetary decisions.



Prince Mujumbe Salama
MA SID'20

Prince Mujumbe Salama has 10 plus years' experience working in private and non-profit organizations leading projects in entrepreneurship, sexual and gender-based violence, healthcare, nutrition and community development. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Management Systems from Université Lumière de Bujumbura.

Prince served as Associate Researcher with the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan (WDI), and is currently working as an independent consultant based in Africa, working on various projects with interest in sustainable development in low-to Middle income countries. For six years, he worked with the International Center for Advanced Research and Training (ICART), first as Financial Administrator, and then Director of Operations. ICART is a research center co-founded by the Panzi Foundation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the University of Michigan.

Dynamic, self-motivated, multicultural, independent, Prince is fluent in French, English, Swahili, and Lingala. He is the recipient of the Barbara Wakefield Award and the Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf & Ari Hahn Peace Endowment Award.



Sheilanee Shona Sen
MBA/MPP'15

Sheilanee Shona Sen is a Program Officer at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)-an organization committed to forging resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America. Shona is primarily engaged in managing the development and implementation of LISC's Financial Opportunities Centers and Community Practice including all fundraising, grants management, training and technical assistance. Prior to this role, Shona was a Social Impact Consultant for Taproot Foundation where she developed landscape analyses and

business plans in support of various nonprofit organizations. She holds a Social Impact Master of Business Administration and a Master of Public Policy from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management and a BA in Government from the University of Texas at Austin.



Jarnail Singh
MA SID'13

Jarnail Singh currently serves as the Deputy Director of the India Office for the MacArthur Foundation. Jarnail works with the India Country Director to deliver the Foundation's Climate Solutions strategy and grant making in India. Most recently, he led the India team of The Climate Group, a UK-headquartered international nonprofit and was the youngest member of their senior leadership team. Jarnail spent the early part of his career with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) where he co-managed clean energy initiatives across several Indian states. He specializes in

business-led climate action, international climate policy and using strategic communications as a lever for change. With a strong interest in visual art, he also runs a photo-journal. Jarnail was selected as a Feldman Fellow to pursue an MA from the Heller School, Brandeis University and holds an Environmental Studies from TERI University. He lives in New Delhi with his family.



Jeanette C. Takamura
PhD'85

Jeanette C. Takamura has held principal leadership positions at the national and state level and has been a higher education administrator and member of the faculty at several U.S. universities. She is currently dean emerita and professor of gerontology, social policy, and social enterprise administration at Columbia University, where she was the 17th dean and the first female leader of its School of Social Work. During her 15-year tenure as dean, she instituted multidisciplinary global, national, and statewide education, research, and service programs and collaborations that engaged academic institutions and scholars worldwide and prioritized diversity as a cross-cutting academic initiative. She was assistant secretary for aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1997 to 2001. There, she led the development and enactment of a modernized Older Americans Act and established the National Family Caregiver Support Program, the federal government's first formal recognition of the significant contributions and needs of family caregivers. She also spearheaded an initiative to lay the foundation for aging policy and program coordination and collaboration across executive branch departments and agencies for the first decade of the new millennium.

Early in her career, Jeanette was a practicing social worker serving youth and families. She held senior executive positions in the Hawaii state government and faculty and administrative appointments in higher education in Hawaii and California. She has served on numerous national and international boards, commissions, and working groups, is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Social Insurance, the National Academy for Public Administration, the New York Academy of Medicine, and the Royal Society of Medicine, and has received numerous awards, among them the Lucy Stone Award from the White House for her advocacy on behalf of older women and the enactment of the National Family Caregiver Support Program. Professor Takamura was invited to serve on the Obama Transition Team, specifically for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2009, she was honored by the Japanese Government with The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, for contributions to the promotion of social welfare policies and programs and the status of Japanese Americans. In 2019, Advancing States, a national association for state aging departments, established the Jeanette Takamura Long Term Care Leadership Award which is given to a national leader in long term care policy and services. She is also featured in the American Society on Aging Legacy Series of interviews of 12 gerontology leaders. She was named a Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers. In addition to her Heller PhD degree, her bachelor's degree in political science and sociology and her master's degree in social work are from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. She received special training in gerontology at Harvard Medical School-Massachusetts General Hospital and the University of Southern California Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center. She is an invited featured speaker at national and international conferences on health, long term care, aging, women's issues, and higher education.



Roberta Ward Walsh
PhD'89

Roberta Ward Walsh joined Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) as a founding faculty member during the institution's inaugural year in 1997. She served as departmental chairperson for public administration and political science until 2006. She is credited with laying the foundation for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree program to receive the first professional accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration for an exclusively internet-based degree. Dr. Walsh earned Emeritus status at FGCU in 2009 for "...exemplary support of public affairs education...[and] a distinguished record of accomplishment both as an academic and public servant." She continued on-line graduate teaching and consulting

in public administration for Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont and served as an adjunct online professor for the University of Virginia.

Prior to her FGCU appointment, she was a tenured associate professor at the University of Vermont and also held visiting professorships at Simmons College, The University of Texas at Austin and Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, Scotland. Her undergraduate degree is from Framingham State University where she received the institution's Alumni Achievement Award in 1981 and Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019. She holds a master's degree in consumer economics with a minor in American Government from Cornell University. For her doctoral dissertation at the Heller School she conducted an inter-regional, inter-industry input-output analysis to estimate economic effects of energy savings in the federal Low-income Weatherization Assistance Program.

Dr. Walsh's career in public service began with anti-poverty programs in New York State. Later, she served with the Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Department of Energy, and Northeast Solar Energy Center, all in Boston, Massachusetts. She has authored over 50 publications and presentations in energy program evaluation, receiving the Aaron Wildavsky Book Award from the Policy Studies Organization in 1998.