

ED Challenge for Change Agenda

2:30 - 3:15 / **Sign-in** (*Sharp Auditorium*)

3:15 – 3:18 / **Opening remarks by Colorado Lt. Gov. Barbara O'Brien**

3:18 - 3:25 / **Joe Williams and Federico Peña kick off event**

3:25 - 4:15 / **PANEL 1: Introducing the Challenge** (*Sharp Auditorium*)

Moderated by:

John Merrow, PBS

Panelists:

Joel Klein, Chancellor, New York City Schools

Adrian Fenty, Mayor, Washington, DC

Cory Booker, Mayor, Newark

Roy Romer, Former Gov., Ed in 08

Peter Groff, Pres., Colorado State Senate

4:15 - 5:00 / **PANEL 2: The Faces of Change** (*Sharp Auditorium*)

Moderated by:

Jonathan Alter, Newsweek

Panelists:

Michelle Rhee, Chancellor, DC Public Schools

Michael Bennet, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

Larry Rosenstock, High Tech High (San Diego)

John King, Uncommon Schools

Don Shalvey, Aspire Public Schools

Michael Johnston, Co-Founder, New Leaders for New Schools

4:15 - 5:00 / **Panel 3: Standing up for the little guys:**

Why Democrats Need To Support A “Change” Agenda For Education (*Schlessman Hall*)

Moderated by:

Andrew Rotherham, Education Sector

Panelists:

Dianne Piché, Citizens Commission on Civil Rights

Rev. Al Sharpton, Education Equality Project

Delia Pompa, National Council of La Raza

Amy Wilkins, Education Trust

Jennifer Gonzalez, Parent Leader Organizer, Metro Organizations for People

5:00 - 5:15 / **Questions and Answers**

5:15 - 6:00 / **Reception** (*Main lobby*)

Participant Bios

Panelists & Moderators

Barbara O'Brien, Lt. Governor, Colorado

Barbara O'Brien is a long-time advocate for young children and teens and has a history of innovative policy initiatives. Prior to becoming Lt. Governor, O'Brien spent 16 years as president of the Colorado Children's Campaign, a statewide public policy and advocacy nonprofit organization. Her leadership has produced major statewide policy initiatives that increased funding for schools, created charter schools, expanded early childhood education, increased access to health care for uninsured children, reduced teen smoking and expanded after-school programs. As lieutenant governor, O'Brien has an ambitious agenda for education, health and wellness, and aerospace issues.

Federico Peña, Former Secretary of Energy

Federico Peña was United State Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 1997 and United States Secretary of Energy from 1997 to 1998, during the presidency of Bill Clinton.

Born in Laredo, Texas, Peña earned a B.A. and a J.D. (1972) from the University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas School of Law. Moving to Colorado, where he became a practicing attorney, Peña was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1979, where he rose to become Minority Leader. In 1983, Peña defeated a 14-year incumbent, William H. McNichols, Jr. to become the first Hispanic Mayor of Denver, a post to which he was re-elected in 1987.

Upon leaving the Clinton administration in 1998, Peña returned to Denver and joined investment firm Vestar Capital Partners. On September 7, 2007, Peña announced that he would endorse Senator Obama in the election and also serve as Obama's National Campaign Co-chair.

Joe Williams, Democrats for Education Reform

Joe is a former newspaper journalist and author of the controversial book "Cheating Our Kids: How Politics and Greed Ruin Education" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005). Previously, Joe covered the New York City schools system for the New York Daily News. As an education reporter with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Joe won numerous local, state, and national awards for his coverage of the Milwaukee Public Schools and that city's ground breaking school choice programs. Joe lives in New York City with his wife and two children, both of whom attend city public schools. Joe has contributed book chapters, articles and reports on numerous education-reform related topics.

Panel 1: "Introducing the Challenge" (*Sharp Auditorium*)

MODERATED BY:

John Merrow, PBS

John Merrow is the Executive Producer, Host and President of Learning Matters, Inc. An education reporter since 1974, when NPR aired his first investigative effort involving the nation's schools, Merrow quickly developed a devoted following with his program "Options In Education," which aired for the subsequent eight years. Merrow would later produce a seven part series for PBS along the same lines, entitled "Your Children, Our Children." Merrow has also served as an education correspondent for the MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour for five years, 1985-90, and briefly occupied a similar position with The Learning Channel before returning to PBS in 1992. His features, grouped under the title of "The Merrow Report," have become a staple of public radio and public television education reporting. In 1995, he established Learning Matters and returned to the NewsHour to report on education. He received the George Foster Peabody Award in 2001 for "School Sleuth: The Case of an Excellent School."

PANELISTS:

Joel Klein, Chancellor, New York City Schools

Joel I. Klein became New York City schools chancellor in July 2002 after serving in the highest levels of government and business. As Chancellor, he oversees more than 1,450 schools with over 1.1 million students, 136,000

employees, and a \$15-billion operating budget. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg appointed Mr. Klein, a native New Yorker, as the first Chancellor of the newly-reorganized Department of Education.

Mr. Klein's comprehensive reform program, Children First, is transforming the troubled public school system that existed when the Mayor was elected into a system of great schools. Student performance is rising, there are increasingly more and better choices for students, schools are safer, and educators are receiving additional autonomy, while being held accountable for progress.

From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Klein was assistant attorney general in charge of the U.S. Department of Justice's antitrust division, as Acting Assistant Attorney General and as the antitrust division's principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General. His appointment to the U.S. Justice Department came after Klein served two years (1993-95) as deputy counsel to President William J. Clinton.

Roy Romer, Former Gov., ED in 08

Roy Romer is the chairman and lead spokesman for Ed in '08. He is the former Superintendent of Schools for the Los Angeles Unified School District where he focused resources and attention on instruction and construction of schools. He advocated ambitious literacy and math plans that included computer-based learning programs and teacher training. As a result, scores in elementary school reading and math were above the national levels for the first time in decades. Romer was Governor of Colorado for three terms, from 1986 to 1998, becoming the nation's senior Democratic governor and he was the general chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 1997 to 2000. He was vice-chair of the Democratic Leadership Council, an information-age think tank that examines national political and policy issues, where he studied effective educational strategies and school reform initiatives. He served as chair of the Educational Commission of the States and the National Education Goals Panel. Romer was a legal officer in the U.S. Air Force and practiced law in Colorado. Romer earned his law degree at the University of Colorado.

Adrian Fenty, DC Mayor

Adrian M. Fenty is the fifth elected Mayor of the District of Columbia. He was born December 6, 1970 in the District and grew up in Mount Pleasant. Fenty attended Oberlin College before earning a Juris Doctorate from Howard University Law School. Fenty's commitment to public service began at an early age. In college, he worked as an intern in the offices of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio). These early experience gave him a flair for constituent service that would be a hallmark of his career as an elected official. After graduating from law school, Fenty served as an ANC Commissioner and President of the 16th Street Neighborhood Association. For two years, Adrian Fenty worked as the lead attorney and counsel for the DC Council Committee on Education, Libraries and Recreation. In 1999, he began his campaign for the Ward Four council seat at the age of 28. He defeated a four-term incumbent by knocking on every door in the ward and promising a new standard of constituent service. In his first term, Council member Fenty attracted new jobs and homes, fighting against nuisance properties that generated crime and decay, heightening police responsiveness and expanding community policing. Since he took office in 2001, the District initiated the construction or modernization of more than a dozen schools and recreation centers in Ward 4. In the same time, new sit-down restaurants and other local businesses opened and new housing was built.

Peter Groff, Pres., Colorado State Senate

The Honorable Peter C. Groff is the founder and executive director of the University of Denver Center for African American Policy. Developed and implemented by Mr. Groff, the Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to work for and achieve a positive change in the present and future lives of African Americans through academics, the arena of public discourse, community and public service. In addition to his role as Executive Director, Mr. Groff is a Senior Lecturer in the University of Denver's Public Policy Program and the editor of the Center's websites, blackpolicy.org. Senator Groff is the co-host of a weekly radio show on XM Satellite Radio's political channel POTUS '08 and the co-author of "Standing in Gap: Leadership for 21st Century." He is also the editor in chief of the bi-weekly Groff/Ellison Political Report on blackpolicy.org.

Senator Groff, currently serves as President of the Colorado Senate and is the first African American in Colorado to hold that post and only the third in the nation's history to hold the post of state Senate President. Mr. Groff became Colorado's sixth African American State Senator when he was appointed to the Colorado State Senate in February of 2003 and was elected to a full term on November 2, 2004. In January of 2005 he was elected the body's first African American President Pro Tem. He represents Senate District 33 in the City and County of Denver. Senator Groff was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2000 and was reelected in 2002.

Cory Booker, Mayor, Newark

The Honorable Cory A. Booker, 38 is the Mayor of Newark, New Jersey. Mayor Booker's political career began in 1998, after serving as Staff Attorney for the Urban Justice Center and as a Program Coordinator of the Newark Youth Project. He rose to prominence by upsetting a four-term incumbent to become Newark's Central Ward Councilman. During his four years of service, Cory earned a reputation as a leader with innovative ideas and bold actions, from increasing security in public housing to building new playgrounds. For this work, he has been recognized in numerous publications, including, among others, Time magazine, Esquire Magazine (naming him one of the country's 40 Best and Brightest in December 2002), New Jersey Monthly (naming him as one of New Jersey's top 40 under 40) and Black Enterprise in December 2005 (naming him to the Hot List, America's Most Powerful Players under 40). In addition to being the Founder of Newark Now, Cory is a member of several boards including Integrity Inc's Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee of Yale Law School, Columbia University Teachers' College Board of Trustees, the Black Alliance for Educational Options, North Star Academy, and the International Longevity Center

4:15 - 5:00 / Panel 2: The Faces of Change (Sharp Auditorium)

MODERATED BY:

Jonathan Alter, Newsweek

Jonathan Alter, a Newsweek senior editor, has written the widely acclaimed "Between The Lines" column since 1991, examining politics, media and society at large. Alter is also an originator and author of the weekly "Conventional Wisdom Watch," which uses up, down and sideways arrows to measure and lampoon the news. As an editor, he helps shape the magazine's overall news coverage. Alter has covered the past five presidential campaigns for Newsweek and frequently interviewed American presidents and other world leaders. In recent years, he has written extensively about the crisis of America's at-risk children, drug abuse, weapons of mass destruction and a wide variety of other issues. Since 1996, Alter has also been a contributing correspondent for NBC News, where he appears regularly on all NBC broadcasts including "Today," "NBC Nightly News," NBC News specials and MSNBC. In spring 1997, Alter was the Ferris Visiting Professor of Press and Politics at Princeton University. Alter joined Newsweek as an associate editor in the Nation section in March 1983, and became media critic the following year. He was named a senior writer in February 1987 and a senior editor in September 1991. For two years prior to joining Newsweek, Alter was an editor at The Washington Monthly. He has also been a freelance writer for such publications as The New Republic, Esquire, Slate, Rolling Stone and The New York Times. A Chicago native, Alter received his B.A. in history with honors from Harvard in 1979. He is the author of "Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope" (Simon & Schuster, 2006), co-author of "Selecting a President" (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux) and the co-editor of "Inside the System" (Prentice Hall)

PANELISTS:

Michelle Rhee, Chancellor, DC Public Schools

Michelle Rhee was appointed by Mayor Adrian Fenty June 12, 2007. In the Mayor's search for a change agent for schools in the District, experts in education recommended Ms. Rhee, who had already transformed many urban public school systems through her work with The New Teacher Project (TNTP). Results drive the Chancellor every day. Whether she is developing effective measurements to track student achievement and teacher quality; talking with principals and teachers in one-on-one meetings; developing new measures to hold herself and staff accountable for their roles in student achievement; traveling throughout the community to engage parents and other stakeholders in our schools; establishing partnerships with neighborhood organizations; meeting with business leaders as she transforms a broken organizational structure into one that works for students and families; or ensuring that needed repairs are completed to create physical learning environments serve students, Chancellor Rhee's vision rests on results. She had these results in mind when she founded The New Teacher Project (TNTP) in 1997, and it is now a nationally recognized leader in understanding and developing innovative solutions to the challenges of new teacher hiring. As Chief Executive Officer and President, she partnered with school districts, state education agencies, non-profit organizations, and unions, to transform the way schools and other organizations recruit, select, and train highly qualified teachers in difficult-to-staff schools. Her work implemented widespread reform in teacher hiring, improving teacher hiring in Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Miami, New York, Oakland, and Philadelphia. Thanks to TNTP, 23,000 new, high-quality teachers were placed in these schools across the country. Thanks to TNTP, 23,000 new, high-quality teachers were placed in these schools across the country.

Michael Bennet, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

Michael F. Bennet was unanimously appointed Superintendent of Denver Public Schools in July, 2005. Under Bennet's leadership, Denver Public Schools developed The Denver Plan, a strategic plan to address the challenges faced by DPS. The plan is a compilation of research-based, best practices created to guide the district in its effort to bolster student achievement. In its first year of implementation, The Denver Plan has guided DPS in the creation of unique professional development opportunities for teachers and principals, alignment of the curriculum, a balanced budget, and implementation of Student Based Budgeting. Bennet comes to DPS from the City and County of Denver where he served as Chief of Staff to Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper. Bennet moved to Denver 1997 to serve in the private sector as a managing director for the Anschutz Investment Company where he was responsible for restructuring billions of dollars of debt and lines of business, as well as investing of over \$500 million.

Bennet lives in the Congress Park neighborhood, and his two school-age daughters attend Denver Public Schools. Bennet began his career as a personal assistant for then Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste and later worked as a law clerk for Judge Francis D. Murnaghan on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit. Following a brief tenure at the Washington law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, Bennet served as Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General in the Clinton Administration. Bennet earned his bachelor's degree in history with honors from Wesleyan University and his law degree from Yale Law School where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Law Journal.

Larry Rosenstock, High Tech High (San Diego)

Larry Rosenstock is the CEO of High Tech High. High Tech High began in 2000 as a single charter high school launched by a coalition of San Diego business leaders and educators. It has evolved into a school development organization with a growing portfolio of innovative charter schools spanning grades K-12. HTH combats the twin problems of student disengagement and low academic achievement by creating personalized, project-based learning environments where all students are known well and challenged to meet high expectations. HTH schools attempt to show how education can be redesigned to ensure that all students graduate well prepared for college, work, and citizenship. Larry taught carpentry for eleven years, after law school, in urban high schools in Boston and Cambridge. He served as staff attorney for two years at the Harvard Center for Law and Education, and was a lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education for five years. Larry was principal of the Rindge School of Technical Arts, and of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. He directed the federal New Urban High School Project, was president of the Price Charitable Fund, and is the founding principal of High Tech High in San Diego. Larry's program, "CityWorks", won the Ford Foundation Innovations in State and Local Government Award in 1992, and he is an Ashoka Fellow.

John King, Uncommon Schools

John King is the Managing Director of the Excellence and Preparatory Networks of Uncommon Schools, a non-profit charter management organization. Dr. King is a Co-Founder and former Co-Director for Curriculum & Instruction of Roxbury Preparatory Charter School, a nationally recognized urban college preparatory public school that closed the Massachusetts racial achievement gap and was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of eight top charter schools in the country. Prior to co-founding Roxbury Prep, he taught high school history at City on a Hill Charter School in Boston and Saint John's School in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Dr. King earned a B.A. in Government from Harvard University, an M.A. in the Teaching of Social Studies from Teachers College, Columbia University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, and an Ed.D. in Education Administration from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Don Shalvey, Aspire Public Schools

Dr. Shalvey has 40 years of experience in public education and is widely recognized as a leader in public school reform and the charter school movement. Prior to founding Aspire Public Schools, Dr. Shalvey was the Superintendent of San Carlos School District, where he sponsored the first charter school in California in 1992. The San Carlos Charter Learning Center became a California Distinguished School and has since served as a model for many other charter schools. In 1998, Dr. Shalvey and entrepreneur Reed Hastings co-founded Californians for Public School Excellence, a grass-roots organization that led to the passage of the Charter Schools Act of 1998, which lifted the cap on the number of charter schools in the state. Dr. Shalvey is a frequent advisor to policy makers, practitioners and authorizers of charter schools across the nation. He currently serves as the Chair of the California Commission for Special Education; he is also a Board member on a number of not-for-profit organizations including: Jobs for the Future (JFF), Ed Source, and the Stanford University School of Education. His work has been recognized in a variety of national publications and television/radio shows including: The Wall Street Journal, Fast Company, Newsweek

and the Charlie Rose Show and NPR. The prestigious Ashoka Foundation recently recognized Don as a Fellow for his outstanding work as a social entrepreneur. Dr. Shalvey earned a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership/Administration from the University of Southern California, a Masters of Education in Counseling and Guidance from Gonzaga University and a B.A. from LaSalle College.

Michael Johnston, co-founder of New Leaders for New Schools

Michael Johnston is the founder and principal of MESA (Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts), a 7-12 Gates funded small high school in north Denver. His experience teaching English in the Mississippi Delta with Teach For America led him to write his best selling education memoir, "In The Deep Heart's Core". Michael also co-founded New Leaders for New Schools, a national non-profit that recruits, prepares and places outstanding urban school leaders. He previously served as the principal of Joan Farley Academy, and the Marvin Foote Youth Detention Center. He is an adjunct professor of Education Law at the University of Denver and serves as an education advisor to state and federal political campaigns around the country. Michael holds degrees from Yale College, the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Yale Law School.

**4:15 - 5:00 / Panel 3: Standing up for the little guys:
Why Democrats Need To Support A "Change" Agenda For Education (Schlessman Hall)**

MODERATED BY:

Andrew Rotherham, Education Sector

Andrew Rotherham is co-founder and co-director of Education Sector, an independent national education policy think tank. Rotherham, who Washingtonian Magazine describes as being "at the forefront of U.S. education policy," is also a member of the Virginia Board of Education. In addition, Rotherham writes the widely read and award winning blog Eduwonk.com, which an Education Week study found to be among the most influential sources of information sources in American education today. In 1998, Rotherham launched the Progressive Policy Institute's 21st Century Schools Project, which he directed until 2005. Under his leadership, the project became a leading Washington D.C.-based education policy center. It developed public policy strategies to eliminate systemic inequities in American education and to redesign American public education into a system based on universal access to high-quality instruction, public sector choice and customization, common academic standards, and accountability for results. The project's ideas have been implemented in national and state education policy. Washington Post columnist David Broder cited one of the project's major proposals as "the clearest evidence of change" in the national education policy debate. Rotherham previously served at The White House as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy during the Clinton administration. He managed education policy activities at the White House and advised President Clinton on a wide range of education issues including the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, charter schools and public school choice, and increasing accountability in federal policy. Rotherham also led the White House Domestic Policy Council education team, the youngest person to have done so.

PANELISTS:

Dianne Piché, Citizens Commission on Civil Rights

Dianne M. Piché is Executive Director of the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights. A civil rights lawyer, writer and advocate, she has specialized in legislation and litigation to promote educational equity. Prior to assuming her current position, Ms. Piché directed the Commission's Title I Monitoring Project, which examined the impact of education reforms on disadvantaged children and documented widespread violations of federal requirements to protect poor and minority students. As a litigator, she has represented plaintiff school children in desegregation cases in St. Louis, Fort Wayne, and elsewhere.

Ms. Piché has written and lectured on subjects including education reform, school finance, affirmative action, and school desegregation and has taught a graduate course in education law at the University of Maryland. She has been an advisor to congressional committees, including the House Committee on Education and Labor and the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, and to education and advocacy groups, including the Title I Reform Network. Ms. Piché has also served as a national organizer and as Maryland's state director for the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.

Rev. Al Sharpton, Education Equality Project

Reverend Al Sharpton is the President and founder of the National Action Network (NAN), and one of America's most-renowned civil rights leaders. A USA Today/Gallup Poll conducted in July 2008 calls him the second leader in the country that Blacks turn to speak for them on the issue of race, just behind Senator Barack Obama, and in February 2007, Rev. Sharpton was called "the most prominent civil rights activist in the nation" by the New York Daily News. Whether it was his noteworthy Presidential run as a United States Democratic candidate in 2004, or his compelling speech at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, Reverend Sharpton has had an irrefutable impact on national politics because of his strong commitment to equality and progressive politics. In April of 2001, Coretta Scott King hailed him as "a voice for the oppressed, a leader who has protested injustice with a passionate and unrelenting commitment to nonviolent action in the spirit and tradition of Martin Luther King Jr."

Rev. Sharpton is also a co-founder, along with Chancellor Joel Klein, of the Education Equality Project, a non-partisan group of elected officials, civil rights leaders, and education reformers. It was formed to help ensure that America brings equity to an educational system that, 54 years since Brown v. Board of Education, continues to fail its highest needs students.

Delia Pompa, National Council of LaRaza

Delia Pompa is the Vice President for Education at the National Council of La Raza. In this position, she oversees programs ranging from early college high schools and charter schools to pre-kindergarten and early childhood education. Her work on public school reform has been shaped by more than 30 years of experience leading local, state, and federal agencies and national and international organizations. Prior to her current position she was the founder and principal of DMP Associates, a consulting firm focused on improving educational access for children. Ms. Pompa is the former Director of the Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs in the US Department of Education where she provided national leadership in ensuring equal access to a high quality education for language minority children. She is also the former Executive Director of the National Association for Bilingual Education where she positioned the organization as the premier representative of second language learners and immigrant students for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners. She has served as Director of Education, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, and Youth Development for the Children's Defense Fund and as an Assistant Commissioner for the Texas Education Agency. Ms. Pompa began her career as a kindergarten teacher in the Edgewood Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas and then went on to serve as the Executive Director for Bilingual Programs and Early Childhood Education for the Houston Independent School District. She serves on a variety of national boards and committees for a wide range of institutions addressing the educational needs of children.

Amy Wilkins, Education Trust

Amy Wilkins is an experienced political and community organizer with a special skill in media communications. Amy oversees the Trust's media, data, government affairs and coalition work. She has sharpened her skills in advocacy over years of successful work for the Children's Defense Fund, the Democratic National Committee, the Peace Corps, and the White House Office of Media Affairs, among others.

Jennifer Gonzalez, Parent Leader with Metro Organizations for People

Jennifer Gonzalez has lived in Denver for over 12 years. She is married and has five children, four of whom attend Denver public schools. She is an active parent leader in three of these. Her youngest child will graduate from DPS in 2023. Jennifer is a member of Metro Organizations for the People, an affiliate of the PICO National Network, and one of the leaders on MOP's education committee. Jennifer believes that the only way to better our future is by bettering our education system. She wants the focus back on the children's needs, a fairer system of distributing funding to schools, and more available power and autonomy to principals and staff deserving of it to make these decisions. Jennifer has testified many times in front of the Denver school board, led public meetings with hundreds of parents in attendance and works with DPS on many different issues. She also has testified at Colorado's state capital on the recent School Innovations Bill sponsored by Senate President Peter Groff which was passed into law in May of 2008. Jennifer believes that parents can and must be at the center of our public debate about education reform. She has experienced firsthand the positive effects of a parent's voice in organizing to effect real and concrete changes in our schools.

DEMOCRATS
for **EDUCATION REFORM**



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CHARTER SCHOOLS
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Other Attendees & Sponsors

A+ Denver

The coalition, a non-profit independent citizens' organization, was established to ensure that every student attending Denver Public Schools receives the quality education they deserve. Formed in 2006 and headed by former Denver Mayors Federico Peña and Wellington Webb and joined by co-chair Anne Bye Rowe, the coalition has approximately 100 members and provides the school district with oversight and broad-based experience from the business, civic and governmental communities.

American Solutions for Winning the Future

A unique non-partisan organization designed to rise above traditional gridlocked partisanship, to provide real, significant solutions to the most important issues facing our country. The breakthrough impact of this organization is driven by its powerful approach:

- Broad scale engagement of elected officials and candidates of both parties at all levels of government, interested citizens, private sector leaders, reporters, scholars and students.
- Development of big, real, breakthrough solutions to the most important issues facing this country - education, energy, more effective homeland and national security, a new model of retirement savings, a renewed sense of American civilization and citizenship, creating efficient, information age government and more.
- A process to educate, ignite collaboration and implement these solutions across all levels of government with widespread support from citizens.

AXL Academy

AXL is a new college-preparatory charter school in Aurora, Colorado, serving students from preschool through 8th grade. AXL prepares students to create their own futures with an ambitious, language-enriched education in a safe and stimulating environment. AXL believes that all students deserve an outstanding education including both the challenges and the supports to prepare for college. AXL is located in central Aurora in one of the most diverse areas of the city socio-economically, linguistically, racially, and culturally. AXL opens in August 2008 with 240 students in grades K-5.

Center for African American Policy at the University of Denver

The University of Denver Center for African American Policy (CAAP) is a unique blend of academics, public policy, community and public service. The Center was formed to encourage public discourse and increase the flow of information on issues, policies and trends affecting African Americans. The goal of the Center is to work for and achieve a positive change in the present and future lives of African Americans through academics, the arena of public discourse, community and public service.

Center for Policy Entrepreneurship

The Center for Policy Entrepreneurship (CPE) is a Denver-based, private, non-profit public policy research and advocacy organization dedicated to identifying, developing and bringing to life creative and effective solutions to critical challenges. In the spirit of entrepreneurship, CPE looks at issues from all angles to find and create innovative public policy that provides measurable benefits to the public. The goal is to advance progressive principles and values, such as improving the lives of the disadvantaged and underserved, promoting economic self-sufficiency, expanding access to educational opportunity and health care, and protecting the environment. CPE engages in the analysis, design and advocacy of innovative and entrepreneurial policy remedies and proposals, utilizing concepts and approaches from a broad spectrum of ideas. CPE has the ability to act quickly and aggressively, and looks for opportunities to achieve meaningful change through highly-leveraged actions. In addition, CPE seeks to partner with other organizations as they develop their own policy and research products and capacity.

Citizens Commission on Civil Rights

The Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights is a bipartisan organization established in 1982 to monitor the civil rights policies and practices of the federal government. Its work is grounded in the belief that the civil rights agenda benefits the entire country, not just particular interest groups. For the nation to remain strong, we must continue to struggle together to fight bias and invidious discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity in education, employment, and housing, to promote political and economic empowerment and to guarantee equal treatment in the administration of justice. Achieving these goals depends upon vigorous civil rights enforcement as a duty and obligation of the federal government.

College Summit

College Summit builds the capacity of schools to dramatically increase college-going school- and district- wide. Trained student influencers build college-going culture, while teachers and counselors use a managed curriculum and technology tools to help all students create postsecondary plans and apply to college. Data and accountability tools equip school leaders to manage improved student outcomes. The result? All students see high school graduation as a launching pad to successful futures.

Colorado Children's Campaign

The Colorado Children's Campaign is the leading voice for nearly 1.2 million children in Colorado – and that number and their needs are growing. The Children's Campaign's mission is to create hope and opportunity for not just one of those children, or 100 children or 1,000 children – but one million Colorado children at a time. The Colorado Children's Campaign was established in 1985 as a statewide nonprofit organization. Since then, it has been the leading bi-partisan voice for children from the state capitol to communities across the state, focusing on expanding access to quality healthcare, early childhood experiences and K-12 education.

Colorado League of Charter Schools

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is a Colorado non-profit (recognized organized around the needs of our charter school members. Membership ranges from operating schools to schools currently on the drawing board to other groups. The League of Charter Schools began as a study group commissioned by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to share information and develop knowledge about the nascent charter school movement. Following passage of the Charter Schools Act it became apparent that the CDE study group was limited by their technical role; the cause needed an advocacy and support group to go beyond CDE's role. As school organizers began meeting to share information and provide mutual support, the group coalesced into the League. Thanks to assistance and support from CDE, the Colorado Children's Campaign, and the Gates Foundation, the League reached its short-term goal of organizational and financial stability by the beginning of 1995. The League's mission is to improve student achievement and expand choice among high quality public schools by serving and supporting Colorado's charter schools. Our mission reflects a commitment to individual charter schools, as well as the overall charter school movement both in Colorado and across the nation.

Colorado League of Charter Schools

The Colorado League of Charter Schools is a Colorado non-profit organized around the needs of its charter school members. Membership ranges from operating schools to schools currently on the drawing board to other groups. The League of Charter Schools began as a study group commissioned by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to share information and develop knowledge about the nascent charter school movement. Following passage of the Charter Schools Act it became apparent that the CDE study group was limited by their technical role; the cause needed an advocacy and support group to go beyond CDE's role. As school organizers began meeting to share information and provide mutual support, the group coalesced into the League. Thanks to assistance and support from CDE, the Colorado Children's Campaign, and the Gates Foundation, the League reached its short-term goal of organizational and financial stability by the beginning of 1995. The League's mission is to improve student achievement and expand choice among high quality public schools by serving and supporting Colorado's charter schools.

Communities for Public Education Reform: A Project of Public Interest Projects.

Communities for Public Education Reform (CPER) supports the growing field of education organizing through grants and technical assistance to community organizations working to ensure that parents and students have a strong voice in shaping the policies that affect their public schools. By bringing new resources to at least four sites for a minimum of three years, CPER promotes innovation and supports systemic reforms that address educational inequities. CPER links a wide range of funders to:

- Increase the visibility of and support for effective education-organizing strategies at the local, state and national levels
- Leverage local dollars with national funds
- Engage in mutual learning and strategizing
- Facilitate collaboration among the grant partners to form a more strategically connected group with a related set of messages and stories; and
- Encourage the emergence of new voices in the public discourse around public-education reform

Daniels Fund

Bill Daniels brought his unique style to all his philanthropic endeavors - a very personal concern for and involvement with individuals in need, and the organizations that serve them. The Daniels Fund, which carries on his legacy of generosity, provides grants to nonprofit organizations and college scholarships to deserving students in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Each year the Daniels Fund Grants Program applies approximately 70% of the Fund's community investments in the areas Bill Daniels identified. The Daniels Fund allocates these funds to the following geographic areas: Colorado 65% (50% in Metro Denver, 15% in balance of state), New Mexico 10%, Utah 5%, Wyoming 10%, and National 10% (national grants are by invitation only).

The Daniels Fund is dedicated to honoring Bill Daniels' mission of "Making Life Better ... One Individual at a Time."

Democrats for Education Reform

Democrats for Education Reform (DFER) is a New York City-based political action committee whose mission is to encourage a more productive dialogue within the Democratic Party on the need to fundamentally reform American public education. DFER operates on all levels of government to educate elected officials and support reform-minded candidates for public office.

Denver School of Science and Technology

The Denver School of Science and Technology is dedicated to providing a diverse student body with an outstanding liberal arts high school education with a science and technology focus. By creating a powerful learning community centered on core values and a shared commitment to academic excellence, DSST will increase the number of underrepresented students (women, minorities and economically disadvantaged) who attain college science and liberal arts degrees. DSST graduates will be responsible, engaged citizens who are prepared to be leaders of the future.

Denver Venture School

Denver Venture School is a public charter school opening in the fall of 2008. DVS is free to attend and open to all students in the metro Denver area. Serving approximately 400 students in grades 9 through 12, DVS will offer a small school environment dedicated to academic excellence

Donnell-Kay Foundation

The Donnell-Kay Foundation improves public education and drives systemic school reform in Colorado through solid research, creative dialogue and critical thinking. The Foundation focuses on funding

systemic reform and state level policy in the areas of early childhood, K-12, and higher education. The Foundation also provides operating and program funding to school districts and non-profit organizations statewide - with a focus on urban schools in metro-Denver.

ED In '08 & Strong American Schools

Strong American Schools is a nonpartisan public awareness and advocacy effort aimed at elevating discussion amongst America's leaders about the need for education reform.

This campaign seeks to unite all Americans around the crucial mission of improving our public schools by elevating the discussion to a national stage. We want a serious nationwide debate on education reform where every presidential candidate addresses three priorities that hold great promise for improving education 1. Agreeing on American education standards; 2. Providing effective teachers in every classroom; 3. Giving students more time and support for learning. The campaign will not support or oppose any particular candidate for public office or any political party. Nor does it take positions on legislation. Strong American Schools is a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation have provided grant funding for Strong American Schools.

EEducation Reform Now

Education Reform Now (ERN) envisions an America whose commitment to social justice is realized by every child having the social and economic opportunity afforded by a quality public education, regardless of race, gender, geography, or socio-economic status. Achieving this vision necessitates a powerful chorus of voices within the education policy debate advancing a true agenda of reform, and speaking up on behalf of America's children. Education Reform Now seeks to empower individuals with reliable information so that the chorus may be informed and impactful.

Education Trust

The Education Trust was established in 1990 by the American Association for Higher Education as a special project to encourage colleges and universities to support K-12 reform efforts. Since then, the Ed Trust has grown into an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to make schools and colleges work for all of the young people they serve. The Ed Trust believes that it is impossible to achieve significant change in K-12 without simultaneously changing the way that postsecondary education does business. It also believes that postsecondary education needs improving as much as K-12. The Education Trust works for the high academic achievement of all students at all levels, pre-kindergarten through college, and forever closing the achievement gaps that separate low-income students and students of color from other youth. Our basic tenet is this — All children will learn at high levels when they are taught to high levels.

Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound

Expeditionary Learning Schools Outward Bound (ELS) is a national, non-profit organization that opens new elementary, middle and college-oriented secondary schools, and partners with existing schools, to improve student achievement; build student character; enhance teacher practices; and instill a positive school culture. The ELS approach promotes rigorous and engaging curriculum; active, inquiry-based pedagogy; and a school culture that demands and teaches compassion and good citizenship. At the heart of ELS are learning expeditions, interdisciplinary units aligned with state and district standards. The ELS approach is experiential and project-based, involving students in original research – with experts – to create high-quality products for audiences beyond the classroom. The ELS approach to teaching has been proven effective by third-party research conducted by the Rand Corporation, the Academy for Educational Development, the American Institutes for Research and the National Staff Development Council.

Gary-Williams Company

Gary-Williams Energy Corporation (GWEC) is a small, independent oil and gas company, headquartered in Denver, with operations primarily in the Mid-Continent region of the United States. With approxi-

mately 275 employees, the company's subsidiaries include Wynnewood Refining Company (Oklahoma), Gary-Williams Retail Solutions, Inc., Gary-Williams Production Company and Gary-Williams Real Estate Company. Refining and wholesale marketing are now the company's primary businesses. The company maintains a small marketing office in Oklahoma City.

Historically, Sam Gary spearheaded extensive philanthropic activities primarily through The Piton Foundation. Piton was formed in 1977 to focus on issues related to the disadvantaged. Now considered the community investment arm of the company, Piton is an operating foundation working to create opportunities for families and children in Denver to move from poverty and dependence to self-reliance.

GetSmart Schools

Get Smart Schools (GSS) seeks to dramatically increase the number of high quality autonomous schools serving low-income students in the front range. Schools that are part of the GSS network will have demonstrated success in closing the achievement gap and a firm belief that all students can learn. By strategically addressing key barriers to new school creation, we intended to create an environment that will attract leading educational entrepreneurs from around the nation and stimulate innovate new thinking. Specific tasks of GSS include:

- Increasing the number of effective school leaders by developing targeted leadership training programs
- Increasing the resources available to new school developers. This includes financial resources and access to facilities
- Increasing awareness of and demand for new high performing schools
- Relentlessly pursuing quality improvements in our network of schools and ensuring that only those schools which meet our high standards can carry the "Get Smart Schools" mark
- Serving as a coordinator and catalyst for the many organizations locally and regionally that are engaged in education reform

Great Education Colorado

Great Education Colorado has been across the state of Colorado collecting stories, conducting interviews, photographing, learning and teaching about the condition of Colorado's public schools.

Howard Fuller, former Milwaukee Superintendent

Howard Fuller, Ph.D. is a Distinguished Professor of Education and Director of the Institute for the Transformation of Learning at Marquette University. Immediately before his appointment at Marquette University, Dr. Fuller served as the Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, June 1991 - June 1995. He is the Chair of the Board of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO); the Chair of the Board of the Wisconsin Municipalities Private School Finance Commission; the Chair of the Board of CEO Leadership Academy and the Chair of the Board of the Alliance for Choices in Education in Milwaukee. Dr. Fuller also serves on the Board of Directors of Transcenter for Youth; the Johnson Foundation; the Joyce Foundation and Advocates for School Choice, and he is a member of the Charter School Review Committee for the City of Milwaukee.

Manual High School

Manual High School reopened its doors in the fall of 2007 to the first class of 9th grade students since it was closed in the spring of 2006. Manual's students are immersed in an environment that supports their learning and development and one that is centered on high expectations and opportunities for all. Denver Public Schools (DPS) believes that Manual High School will emerge as a premier high school in Denver and has made a commitment, along with the community, to support Manual students with future college and career success. Manual will grow into a 9-12 high school starting with a freshman class in the 2007-2008 school year, adding a class of students every year thereafter.

Metro Organizations for People

MOP is Building an Organization of Hope in Metro Denver Many people are concerned about the rise in community isolation, lack of involvement in the democratic process, decline of trust among neighbors, and the decline in civic engagement in our society. The members and staff of Metro Organizations for People feel we have a critical contribution to make toward reversing these trends. In association with the PICO network we have developed, through our 25 year history, an organizing model that engages large numbers of church, school, and community members in work that builds community, develops new community leaders, creates hope, and teaches people ways to powerfully engage the civic and democratic process. Acting from a foundation of democratic Judeo-Christian values, we are building a regional community organization capable of impacting issues from the local neighborhood to city, regional and statewide arenas.

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Through its diverse board and broadly representative committees, the national Alliance for Public Charter Schools develops sound, cogent policies that support high quality public education options for families who need them the most. Key priorities include lifting arbitrary “caps” on charter growth, closing the finance gap between charters and other public schools, and updating the federal Charter Schools Program to spur a new era of charter achievement.

National Association of Charter School Authorizers

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is a professional organization of authorizers and other education leaders who work to achieve quality public charter schools.

Fifteen years of chartering has resulted in thousands of quality charter schools. Authorizers protect the public interest as these entrepreneurial schools come into being. Authorizers include:

- state and local boards of education
- colleges and universities
- special-purpose boards
- municipal bodies
- nonprofits.

These are the entities charged by law to approve, oversee, and evaluate the performance of public charter schools.

National Center on Time & Learning

The National Center on Time & Learning is dedicated to expanding learning time to improve student achievement and enable a well-rounded education for all children. We start with a simple premise – that time matters when it comes to education. In order to help close the achievement gap and see all students excel, we need to give them more time in the school day.

National Council of La Raza

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, works to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. Through its network of nearly 300 affiliated community-based organizations (CBOs), NCLR reaches millions of Hispanics each year in 41 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. To achieve its mission, NCLR conducts applied research, policy analysis, and advocacy, providing a Latino perspective in five key areas – assets/investments, civil rights/immigration, education, employment and economic status, and health. In addition, it provides capacity-building assistance to its Affiliates who work at the state and local level to advance opportunities for individuals and families. Founded in 1968, NCLR is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, tax-exempt organization headquartered in Washington, DC. NCLR

serves all Hispanic subgroups in all regions of the country and has operations in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix, Sacramento, San Antonio and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

New Schools Venture Fund

New Schools Venture Fund was created by social entrepreneur Kim Smith and venture capitalists John Doerr and Brook Byers, each of whom had witnessed the power of entrepreneurs to create change in other sectors, such as technology. They had seen these visionary leaders create new, innovative organizations that had a dramatic impact on their field. Recognizing the need for significant change in public education, New Schools' founders believed that education entrepreneurs could help bring about this change if they were given strategic, hands-on support in starting and growing their organizations.

Padres Unidos

Padres Unidos was born out of a struggle at Valverde Elementary School in Denver where parents removed a principal for refusing to stop the practice of forcing Mexicano children to eat their lunches from the cafeteria floor as a form of punishment. In 1992, after a year of organizing and successfully replacing the administrative leadership at Valverde, parents determined that it was necessary to build off of their experience and work with other parents in dealing with similar issues within Denver Public Schools. Parents from all over the district were calling Valverde parents for guidance, advice and support. With no office, staff, or money, Padres Unidos was formed by parents willing to organize in their efforts for educational justice, equity and excellence in the Denver Public Schools.

PICO National Network

PICO is a national network of faith-based community organizations working to create innovative solutions to problems facing urban, suburban and rural communities. Since 1972 PICO has successfully worked to increase access to health care, improve public schools, make neighborhoods safer, build affordable housing, redevelop communities and revitalize democracy. PICO helps engage ordinary people in public life, building a strong legacy of leadership in thousands of local communities across America. Non-partisan and multi-cultural, PICO provides an opportunity for people and congregations to translate their faith into action. More than 50 different religious denominations and faith traditions are part of PICO. With more than 1,000 member institutions representing one million families in 150 cities and 17 states, PICO is one of the largest community-based efforts in the United States. Together we are lifting up a new vision for America that unites people across region, race, class, and religion.

Piton Foundation

The Piton Foundation, an operating foundation, was established by Sam Gary in 1976. The foundation is supported principally by contributions from The Gary-Williams Company and is considered the "community operating division" of the company. Its mission is to help children and their families move from poverty and dependence to self-reliance. Piton's areas of interest are improving pre-kindergarten - high school education, creating economic opportunities, and strengthening communities.

As an operating foundation, Piton collaborates with others to conduct and disseminate relevant research, develop initiatives, and work to improve public systems and institutions that serve low-income families. Piton does not accept unsolicited grant proposals, but uses its private funding to support the foundation's activities and those of its strategic partners.

Progressive Policy Institute

The Progressive Policy Institute is a research and education institute that is a project of the Third Way Foundation Inc., a nonprofit corporation. PPI's mission is to define and promote a new progressive politics for America in the 21st century. Through its research, policies, and perspectives, the Institute is fashioning a new governing philosophy and an agenda for public innovation geared to the Information Age.

Public Education & Business Coalition

PEBC is a Colorado-based non-profit partnership of business and education leaders committed to strengthening our public schools and improving academic achievement for all students. Our program of work is organized around two central areas of focus, both of which guide our mission to cultivate excellence in public schools so all students succeed in learning and in life:

- **Professional Development**
PEBC's professional development services and products provide teachers, principals and administrators with intensive professional development and leadership training aimed at raising the performance level of those directly charged with educating our students.
- **Policy and Business Engagement**
PEBC builds public awareness and understanding of fundamental education issues and needs, advocates for effective education policies, and mobilizes the business community to support key initiatives at the ballot box.

School of Public Affairs at University of Colorado

The School of Public Affairs faculty and students are committed to working together to lead the field of public affairs, solve pressing social problems and change the world for the better. SPA continues to be a nationally ranked, top-tier school. SPA is the only school of public affairs in the Rocky Mountain West. Concentrations include Criminal Justice, Public Affairs, Emergency Management among others.

The Odyssey School

At Odyssey we believe children learn best through personal, direct experience. Expeditionary Learning begins with children's curiosity about the world. It harnesses children's natural passion to learn and helps them develop the curiosity, knowledge, skills, and personal qualities they need for successful adulthood. Expeditions - journeys into the unknown for a definite purpose - are the heart of this methodology. Students acquire knowledge and skills primarily through learning expeditions that cut across and make connections among disciplines. Most recently, The Odyssey School was praised by the state for their strong growth and performance on this year's CSAP scores. We believe best practice in the classroom is the best way to get results – and not just academic results. Our model and mission is to make sure we teach in such a way that students are engaged in the learning and take responsibility for what they know and what they don't know. It is nice to know that by all measures, Odyssey is on the right track.

West Denver Preparatory Charter

West Denver Prep is a college-preparatory public charter middle school. In the most recent year, 189 students applied for about 140 spots. As a public charter school, West Denver Prep is open to all students and selects them by lottery, with no review of grades, test scores, or past academic experience.

On the 2008 CSAP tests in 7th grade, West Denver Prep students were ranked first in all subject area proficiency among open enrollment Denver schools serving a similar population. The school's 7th grade math CSAP scores ranked second among all Denver schools regardless of student population. 72% scored proficient or advanced, exceeding the state average by 26% and exceeding the average proficiency in such suburban districts as Cherry Creek and Douglas County. The school serves 300 students in grades 6-8. The student population is 90% Latino and 87% qualify for free or reduced lunch.

West Denver Prep is currently preparing to open a second middle school campus in the fall of 2009.