



## NASSP STAFF

### AMANDA KARHUSE, NASSP

Amanda Karhuse has served as the director of advocacy for NASSP since 2006. She coordinates all federal policy and advocacy efforts for NASSP, which includes lobbying congressional staff, monitoring legislation affecting school leaders, and participating in coalition-building activities with other national education organizations. Prior to joining NASSP, Karhuse was a senior writer and editor for the Women's Congressional Policy Institute in Washington, DC, and worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for former Congresswoman Karen L. Thurman of Florida. Karhuse has a B.A. from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA, and an M.A. from the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University in Washington, DC.

### ZACH SCOTT, NASSP

Zach Scott is the senior manager of federal engagement and outreach for NASSP. He serves as NASSP's lead lobbyist and advocates on behalf of the organization's positions to a variety of external audiences. Scott also aids in policy development by monitoring legislation affecting middle level and high school leaders and developing policy positions based on federal legislation. Prior to joining NASSP, Scott worked for more than three years on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for Congressman Bill Huizenga of Michigan. Scott has a bachelor's degree in political science from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI.

### GREG WAPLES, NASSP

Greg Waples is the senior manager of state engagement and outreach for NASSP. He manages grassroots advocacy efforts, coordinating with NASSP principals, educators, state associations, and partners. Prior to joining NASSP, Waples worked for more than three years as a campaign manager at the Center for American Progress focused on gun violence prevention issues. He also worked at the White House in the Obama administration and has several years of political campaign experience, including service as a regional field director on President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign.

### BOB FARRACE, NASSP

Bob Farrace is director of public affairs for the Marketing Design Group (**mdg**), a full-service firm specializing in event and association marketing and communications. Prior to joining mdg, Farrace served as director of communications for NASSP, where he launched the multiple-award winning *Principal Leadership* magazine and created the NASSP Digital Principal of the year award program to recognize innovators in technology leadership. A former high school teacher, Farrace holds a B.A. in English and Spanish and an M.A. in education, both from LaSalle University in his native Philadelphia, PA.

## NAESP STAFF

### DANNY CARLSON, NAESP

Danny Carlson serves as NAESP's assistant executive director, policy and advocacy. Prior to joining NAESP, Danny was a policy analyst for the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. In that role, he oversaw the education division's K-12 human capital work, advancing policies to address principal challenges across the country. Carlson previously served as an education advisor to Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, and was responsible for advancing her K-12 education agenda. In that capacity, he crafted policy provisions included in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to improve principal and teacher recruitment and retention, address chronic absenteeism, and boost opportunities for STEM education.

## ESSA PANEL

### LILLA TOAL-MANDSAGER, SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

As director of the Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership Development, at the South Carolina Department of Education, Lilla oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of a cohesive system that supports the professional practices of administrators, teachers, and other professional staff with the goal of building capacity to support the growth of all students.

She provides guidance and technical assistance concerning educational leadership to districts and administrators throughout the state. Additionally, the Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership provides



a continuum of professional learning for teachers, school leaders, and district staff, and fully supports teacher (ADEPT) and leader (PADEPP) effectiveness system implementation.

Previously, Lilla served as a professional development lead, a high school principal, a college mentor, and a high school English teacher for Summit Public Schools in California. Her professional passions include coaching and personalizing learning for students and educators.

Lilla is originally from Columbia, South Carolina. She has earned a BA in English and an MA in Education from Stanford University.

## **KELLY POLLITT, NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

Kelly Pollitt is chief advocacy officer at the National School Boards Association. Pollitt leads NSBA's federal advocacy and public policy group, which develops policies and strategies to secure legislation and regulations that represent and champion the interests of local school boards before the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. Pollitt also heads the efforts of the National School Boards Action Center, NSBA's grassroots organization, and the Center for Public Education.

Pollitt's career in education policy, advocacy, and association management has been extensive. She worked on Capitol Hill, including service as a special assistant to the chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and professional staff on the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Subcommittee on the Census. She also worked at a DC-based government relations firm representing school districts and nonprofits. For nearly a decade she advocated for federal education reforms in support of the nation's 65,000 elementary and middle level Pre-K-8 principals at the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Pollitt received a bachelor's degree in International Studies at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH, and a Brevet d'Etudes in French from the Institut de Touraine in Tours, France.

## **MONICA TAYLOR, COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS**

In her role as the senior program director of school leadership and continuous improvement for the Council of Chief State School Officers, Monica Taylor is responsible for identifying, developing, and implementing school leadership strategies designed to elevate and prioritize the roles of school leaders in advancing continuous improvement in all schools. Through a variety of initiatives, networks, and projects, Taylor works with state education agency officials to strategically center school leadership and continuous improvement at the core of change in educational systems. Prior to joining CCSSO, Taylor worked as a program manager of educational services for Goodwill Industries, project director at the Maryland State Department of Education, and public school administrator in the Washington metropolitan area.

## **SARAH ROSENBERG, NEW LEADERS**

Sarah Rosenberg is the senior director for policy at New Leaders. Most recently, she worked as an education policy advisor on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee for Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA). Her portfolio includes education issues from K-12 through higher education. She has also worked as a policy analyst at the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank, and Education Sector, an education policy think tank, where she researched and authored reports on urban district reform efforts, innovative state accountability systems, and human capital policy. Rosenberg also taught high school English for three years in rural North Carolina.

## **EDUCATION AND THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION**

### **JOHN B. KING JR, THE EDUCATION TRUST**

John B. King Jr. is the president and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to identify and close opportunity and achievement gaps for students from preschool through college. King served in President Barack Obama's cabinet as the tenth U.S. Secretary of Education. In tapping him to lead the U.S. Department of Education, President Obama called King "an exceptionally talented educator," citing his commitment to "preparing every child for success" and his lifelong dedication to education as a teacher, principal, and



leader of schools and school systems. Before becoming education secretary, King carried out the duties of the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education, overseeing all policies and programs related to P–12 education, English learners, special education, and innovation. In this role, King also oversaw the agency’s operations. King joined the department following his tenure as the first African American and Puerto Rican to serve as New York State Education Commissioner.

King began his career in education as a high school social studies teacher in Puerto Rico and Boston, MA, and later served as a middle school principal.

King’s life story is an extraordinary testament to the transformative power of education. Both of King’s parents were career New York City public school educators, whose example serves as an enduring inspiration. Both of King’s parents passed away from illness by the time he was 12 years old. He credits New York City public school teachers—particularly educators at P.S. 276 in Canarsie and Mark Twain Junior High School in Coney Island—for saving his life by providing him with rich and engaging educational experiences and by giving him hope for the future.

King holds a bachelor of arts in government from Harvard University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, as well as a master of arts in the teaching of social studies and a doctorate in education from Teachers College at

Columbia University. King serves as a visiting professor at the University of Maryland’s College of Education and is a member of several boards, including those for The Century Foundation, The Robin Hood Foundation, and Teach Plus. He also serves on several advisory boards, including Former First Lady Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher Initiative, the Rework America Task Force, the GOOD+ Foundation’s Fatherhood Leadership Council, and the National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement at the University of California.

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

#### **MATTHEW SCOTT CRISP, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Since 2009, Scott Crisp has been the principal of Jackson Hole High School in Jackson, WY, which serves 720 students in grades 9–12. In 2008, Crisp also served as the principal for one year of Summit High School, the alternative high school in Jackson, WY. Both Jackson Hole High School and Summit High School are part of Teton County School District #1. Before entering school leadership as a school principal, Crisp spent 10 years as a high school social studies teacher. Crisp taught for six years at Jackson Hole High School; three years at Summit High School in Bend, OR; and one year at Bluffton High School in Bluffton, SC.