

The Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence
Section 2 - Attachment 1.1 - Founding Group Biographies

Board of Directors

Chantalle Ashford, Educator, Co-Board Chair
Dr. Teresa Berry, Educator, Co-Board Chair
Betsy Renzo, Educator & Attorney, Vice Board Chair
Dr. Katherine Cauley, Retired Professor, Secretary
Denise Snyder, Retired Educator, Treasurer
Lori Crawford, Associate Professor, Founding Board member
Karl Armand, Attorney, Founding Board member
Karen V. Higgins, Retired Law Enforcement Executive, Founding Board member
Amy Shepherd, Educator, Founding Board member
Brad Owens, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, Founding Board member
Dr. Joseph Kim, Family Physician, Founding Board Member
Diaz Bonville, Community Outreach Coordinator, Founding Board Member
Stacie Burton, Community Outreach Coordinator, Founding Board Member
Derick Dailey, Attorney, Founding Board Member
Jonathan Edwards, Financial Professional, Founding Board Member

Principal Advisory Board Members

Bryan A. Stevenson, Attorney & Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative
Dr. Howard Stevenson, Professor, University of Pennsylvania (Racial Empowerment Collaborative) & Founder, Lion's Story
Christy Taylor, Educator & BASSE Founding Group

Founder

Alonna Berry, Educator & Consultant, Board Chair

Executive Director

Dr. Julius Mullen, Executive Leader and Nonprofit Manager, Executive Director*

School Launch Partner

Kirsten Croner, Educator, School Launch Partner, and Future Dean of Academic Excellence*

Director of Development

Crystal Timmons-Bryant, Nonprofit Consultant, Director of Development*

**Executive Director, School Launch Partner, and Director of Development are resumes included in Attachment 2 and 3.*

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Board of Directors

Chantalle Ashford, Educator, Co-Board Chair, Founding Board Member

Chantalle is a 2014 alumna of the College of William & Mary and a former Teach For America corps member. Receiving her master's degree in teaching from the Relay Graduate School of Education in 2017, she is currently in her seventh year of service as an educator. Over the course of her career, she has led in choral, special education, and English classrooms. Chantalle is also committed to pursuing educational leadership beyond the classroom, participating in both the national Rural School Leaders Academy (2016-2018) as well as the Delaware Department of Education's Educators as Catalyst Fellowship (2016). With the Rural School Leadership Academy, Chantalle deepened her knowledge of school leadership through a rural lens. After completing her initial fellowship at the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), Chantalle has continued to contract with the DDOE as a teacher consultant specializing in equity. Specifically, Chantalle has supported the DDOE's Diverse and Learner Ready Teacher's Initiative through the Council of Chief State School Officers and helped to develop Delaware's equity framework and guidance documents. Through these opportunities, Chantalle explored her ability to be an educational change agent, which led her to her current service as the vice board chair of the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Policy at American University. Chantalle is a Delawarean who is committed to educational excellence for all.

Dr. Teresa Berry, EdD, Educator, Co-Board Chair, Founding Board Member

Dr. Teresa Berry has had a wide array of educational experiences throughout her 30-year career. She has served in the roles of teacher, behavioral intervention specialist, in-school suspension specialist, dean of students, assistant principal, and pupil personnel worker until promoted to her current leadership position as principal of New Directions Learning Academy(NDLA) with Dorchester County Public Schools. Teresa set up and created an in-school suspension program in Guam. She has worked in the states of Arizona, Delaware, and Maryland.

Teresa holds certifications in Delaware and Maryland as Administrator I and II, Superintendent, History, Special Education, and Reading. She is currently participating in the Rural Leadership Academy with Teach for America.

Dr. Berry holds a Doctorate in Education from Wilmington University, writing her dissertation on the Impact of Teacher Absenteeism on Students Achievement in Rural schools. Additionally, she has a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instructions and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Delaware State University.

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Betsy Renzo, Educator & Attorney, Vice Board Chair, Founding Board Member

Betsy has extensive experience in law and education. After graduating from Skidmore College in 2004, and from the Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2007, she worked for four years as an attorney in Pennsylvania. In 2012, she graduated from Stanford University's Graduate School of Education with a Master's Degree in Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies.

Next, she worked as an Executive Specialist to the CEO of Aspire Public Schools, a charter school management organization in Oakland, California, before teaching AP Government to underserved students in East Palo Alto for two years at Eastside College Preparatory School. In 2015, she moved to Delaware and taught Global Peace and Justice Studies to 9th-grade students at Wilmington Friends School. Currently, Betsy leads WAVE, a non-profit working to increase the effectiveness of remote learning for students across the city of Wilmington. Betsy also works part-time at Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP, as a law clerk.

Dr. Katherine Cauley, Ph.D., Retired Professor, Secretary, Founding Board Member

Katherine Cauley, PhD., is a graduate of DePauw University, BA, the University of Cincinnati, MEd, the University of Maryland, PhD, and the MCP Hahneman University Executive Women's Leadership Program. After eight years teaching English, speech, and theater in public secondary schools, Dr. Cauley joined the faculties of Iona College (1985-1989), George Washington and Johns Hopkins Universities (1989-1993), and Wright State University, Schools of Medicine, Public Health and Professional Psychology (1993-2017) where she taught psychology, interprofessional ethics, global health, and community-based primary care, served as Vice Chair of the Department of Community Health, Directed a community-academic partnership called the Center for Healthy Communities, directed the University Community Engagement Program, Directed the International Education Program, developed service-learning curricula, secured \$5mil in grants and contracts, conducted research, and published over forty peer-reviewed books, and articles. Much of Dr. Cauley's research focused on the impact of service-learning related to social responsibility and academic success. Retired in 2017, Dr. Cauley is Professor Emerita and now resides in Rehoboth Beach, DE, where, in addition to serving on the BASSE Board of Directors, she teaches ESL classes, as is a member of the Advisory Board of the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware.

Denise Snyder, Retired Educator, Treasurer, Founding Board Member

Denise is an educator with over 35 years of experience with the public education system in Delaware. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in special education, a Master of Elementary Education, and an additional 60 credits as a retired educator in the State of Delaware. After teaching 35 years in the Indian River School District, Denise went back on a part-time basis as a special education coordinator to assist Sussex Academy Charter School

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for 2 two years. She is the author of a Children's study titled "What About Our Money," which was published by United Methodist Women in 2018. Denise Snyder was chosen as one of the 25 founding members of the Teachers' Leadership Network, a partnership with the Department of Education and the Rodel Foundation in Delaware.

Lori Crawford, Educator, Founding Board Member

Lori is an Associate Professor of Art at Delaware State University. Ms. Crawford has been a faculty member in the DSU Department of Art since 1996. Additionally, Lori is the parent of a Delaware high school student who attended Providence Creek Academy.

Karl Armand, Attorney, Founding Board Member

Karl serves as the National Contracts Manager for Comcast Business and specializes in school district/public library contracts and requests for proposals with Comcast. This experience allows him to understand the forethought and trajectory planning for K-12 education and infrastructure. He graduated with a BA in law and business from Temple University in 2009 and went on to receive his JD from Widener University Law School in 2016. Following graduation, he was an Anti-Money Laundering Analyst for J.P. Morgan Chase in Newark, DE, before entering his current position as a National Contract Manager for Comcast.

Karen V. Higgins, Retired Law Enforcement Executive, Founding Board Member

Spanning a career of 32 years with the U.S. Postal Service, Karen retired as the lead executive, Inspector in Charge, for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's Philadelphia Division. As the Inspector in Charge, Karen had oversight and responsibility for the division's investigators, administrative, and uniformed police personnel; and overall division management. Karen is a native Delawarean, raised in Sussex County. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Delaware, a Criminal Law Paralegal certificate from the Philadelphia Institute for Paralegal Training, and a Master of Arts degree in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University. Post-retirement, Karen serves on the Board of Directors for the Priority Plus Federal Credit Union, Wilmington, Delaware, and volunteers with the Literacy Delaware tutoring program. Karen serves on the Governance subcommittee of the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence.

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Amy Shepherd, Educator, Founding Board Member

Amy Shepherd is the BASSE subcommittee chair for Community Engagement. Amy has spent her 26-year career as an educator, with a deep commitment to educating the whole child with a focus on equitable teaching practices. She is currently the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and School Librarian at St. Anne's Episcopal School in Middletown, DE, where she has served for 16 years. Amy is certified in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and holds a professional certificate from Cornell University in Diversity and Inclusion. In addition to her work with BASSE and St. Anne's, Amy is also a board member of the Unequal Justice Project through the Delaware Historical Society and a board member of the Delaware Social Justice Remembrance Coalition, which was founded by her 15-year-old daughter after she was inspired by Bryan Stevenson's work at the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Amy currently serves on the leadership team of an independent school and plans to facilitate professional development in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Brad Owens, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, Founding Board Member

Brad serves as the Director of Outreach and Engagement with Delaware Psychological Services (DPS): a behavioral health care provider with two clinic locations in Delaware. Prior to DPS, Brad served in various roles related to prison reentry, including a role as the Director of Reentry Planning Services for Connections, CSP. Currently, Brad focuses his work on initiatives related to workforce development, case management, behavioral health care, and reentry services. Brad earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from West Chester University in 2010 and a Law Degree from Charlotte School of Law in 2015.

Dr. Joseph Kim, MD, Family Physician, Founding Board Member

Dr. Joseph Kim is a family physician in Laurel, Delaware, employed with the Nanticoke Physicians Network and has over 17 years of experience in the medical field. He is the current President of the Medical Staff for Nanticoke Memorial Hospital and serves on the Board of Directors. Dr. Kim is a board trustee and past president of the Delaware Academy of Family Physicians, as well as Delaware alternate delegate for the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Kim and his wife, Nicole, started a charitable foundation, the Kim and Evans Family Foundation, Inc, to better the lives of disadvantaged people and animals in Sussex County and beyond. He has one daughter who attends Sussex Academy. They currently reside in Seaford, Delaware.

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Diaz Bonville, Community Outreach Coordinator, Founding Board Member

Diaz serves as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Office of Lisa Blunt Rochester, U. S. Representative. Additionally, Diaz is the co-founder of the West Rehoboth Children & Youth Program, a community-based afterschool program for at-risk, low-income, disadvantaged youth. Diaz is a graduate of Cape Henlopen School District and has an associate's degree in Human Services with a concentration in Program Management.

Stacie Burton, Community Outreach Coordinator, Founding Board Member

Stacie serves as the Community Relations Liaison for the Office of the Governor in Delaware. She is presently an active mentor with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization. Stacie is a committee member of the 20th District Democratic Committee. She is also on the broadcasting committee for the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice, also known as SDARJ. Stacie serves as the President of the Sussex County Women's Democratic club. Recently, Stacie was named to the National Board of Directors for Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.

Stacie Burton recently graduated from Wilmington University with a Master of Science degree in Public Administration. Stacie has lived and worked in Sussex County, Delaware, her entire life, with nearly 10 ten years of public service with Sussex County Government. She presently works as a staff assistant and constituent services representative for Governor John Carney.

Derick Dailey, Attorney, Founding Board Member

Derick D. Dailey is an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware. In his role, Derick is Chief of the Financial Litigation Unit, represents the United States and its interests in chapter 7, 11, and 13 bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings, and litigates affirmative civil enforcement cases (ADA, FCA, etc.), general defensive, and white-collar criminal matters in federal court. Derick also serves on the District's Re-entry Court and is a member of the District's Leadership Council.

Jonathan Edwards, Financial Professional, Founding Board Member

Jonathan currently works as the Distribution Change Agent, managing multiple branches for Citizens Bank. He has expertise in loan processes, banking, fraud disputes, and branch processes. During his career, he has worked for several national and local financial institutions, including Dover Federal Credit Union, Sallie Mae, and Citizens Bank.

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Principal Advisory Board Members
<p><i>Bryan A. Stevenson, Attorney & Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative</i></p> <p>Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated, and the condemned. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. Mr. Stevenson has successfully argued several cases in the United States Supreme Court and recently won a historic ruling that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger are unconstitutional.</p>
<p><i>Dr. Howard Stevenson, Ph.D., Professor, University of Pennsylvania (Racial Empowerment Collaborative) & Founder, Lion's Story</i></p> <p>Dr. Howard Stevenson is the Constance Clayton Professor of Urban Education, Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the Executive Director of the Racial Empowerment Collaborative, designed to promote racial literacy in education, health, and community institutions. His most recent research focuses on helping children and adults develop and use assertive coping strategies during face-to-face microaggressions. Key to this racial healing work is the use of culture to reduce in-the-moment threat reactions and increase access to memory, physical mobility, and voice.</p>
<p><i>Christy Taylor, Educator & BASSE Founding Group</i></p> <p>Christy is a lifelong music educator in Sussex County, Delaware. Over her 30 year career, she has taught music in public and private schools across the state of Delaware. Additionally, she's instructed professional musicians at Delaware State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Christy is deeply committed to the local community in Sussex County and an active member of various community organizations. She leads a local jazz group, Shades of Blue, and runs a local music business, Taylor Music.</p>

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Executive Director

Dr. Julius Mullen, Executive Leader and Nonprofit Manager, Executive Director

Dr. Julius Mullen comes to BASSE with over two decades of education experience, executive leadership, non-profit management, and behavioral health expertise. A native of Sussex county, Julius brings a unique set of skills, knowledge, and background which align perfectly with the fundamental mission of BASSE - proximity. Dr. Mullen has embraced the concept of proximity throughout his professional and personal journey. He has earned a portfolio of credentials and experiences propelling his ability toward getting proximate or closer to solving real challenges impacting so many students and families in Delaware. He has served as the chief clinical officer for Children & Families First for the last ten years primarily overseeing an array of education services. Julius graduated with an education doctorate in innovation and leadership from Wilmington University; completed executive leadership certification from University of Michigan and Alliance of Strong Families and Communities; managed multi-million dollar education program operations; lead a variety of school-based multi-tier services; taught hundreds of doctorate, master and bachelor level education, psychology and prevention science courses; developed and implemented a grassroots parent-driven mentoring program and trained thousands of education professionals, mental health practitioners, community leaders, parents and youth in a variety of topics. Dr. Mullen values the significance of board governance and education policy as he sits on several state and national boards including the role of interim president for Trauma Matters Delaware, long-term board member for Sussex Child Health Coalition (founding board president), former board member for professional mental health counselor, board member of national Executive Leadership Institute and advisory member of the national education policy committee for Social Current.

Complimenting his educational leadership expertise, Dr. J is a licensed professional counselor of mental health in Delaware, a nationally board-certified counselor, and trained in several evidence-based therapeutic interventions. He is also a national expert in trauma-informed care/social emotional learning where he conducts keynotes, presentations, and seminars at national conferences and events. He also developed and lead several organization-wide initiatives at Children & Families First including a Brain Science Training Institute for professional and community disciplines, a professional development program for leaders, and a trauma response support team for helping professionals. Most recently, Julius has increased his attention on infusing equity policies and procedures across systems where he co-chaired United Way Racial Justice Collaborative, serves on Populations of Inequities Coalition with Beebe Healthcare, and oversees an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force at Children & Families First. Dr. J and his wife, Natasha wrote two children's books Just Love Me and I Got A Big Brain highlighting student diversity and youth resilience in schools.

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Reflecting on his new role, Julius commented, “I am excited, honored, and humbled to join a diverse team of talented and compassionate parents, students, founders, board members, professionals, and stakeholders. Our mission focuses on proximity which emphasizes the closer we get to people and things, the better we understand the answers. We will use hands-on service opportunities, academic rigor, personalized learning, and community partnerships to help students be who they were meant to be regardless of any life circumstance. When we “get closer” to understanding what matters most to students, a bridge of hope, healing, and promise can make the ultimate difference in a child’s trajectory. Families, generations, and communities can be forever changed. Our school plan is to partner with other schools in Sussex County by ensuring options for all students to obtain the most suitable education based on their holistic needs. There is no “I” in BASSE but there is a powerful “A”. The success of our school will take All of us, so All educational dreams and aspirations for All students can be realized.”

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School Launch Partner

Kirsten Croner, Educator, School Launch Partner, Future Dean of Academic Excellence

Kirsten began her professional career in the banking industry and has used that experience in her educational career. In 2010, Kirsten transitioned into her career in education as a classroom teacher supporting various grade levels and students, including students in the traditional classroom setting, special education students, and English language learners. Since then, Kirsten has held a variety of roles in the education field, including special education case manager and curriculum developer. Kirsten co-wrote several math curriculums focusing on the needs of students classified as Special Education as well as co-writing the math portion for a charter renewal application for the state of Delaware.

After spending seven years in the classroom, Kirsten joined the Teach For America Delaware team as the Manager of Teacher Leadership Development. During this time, Kirsten coached, mentored, and developed 20+ novice teachers yearly and created alignment between TFA and its partner schools. Additionally, Kirsten has experience tracking student and teacher data trends, implementing social-emotional learning standards in the classroom, and developing diversity, equity, and inclusion training for teachers.

Kirsten graduated from Neumann College with a B.S. in Sport Management, followed by obtaining her M.Ed. in Elementary Education with a concentration in Special Education. Kirsten also obtained her School Leadership certification, with all graduate coursework being completed at Wilmington University.

As a native Delawarean, Kirsten is committed to positively impacting her community both inside and outside the classroom. Her volunteer efforts include coaching girls' basketball, as well as sitting on several committees focused on bullying in schools and teacher engagement in the communities they serve. Currently, Kirsten works as a tutor for Path to Success, a program developed by Delmarva Power to bring high school juniors and seniors job opportunities upon graduation.

Kirsten is the founding instructional school leader of The Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence.

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Director of Development

Crystal Timmons-Bryant, Nonprofit Consultant, Director of Development

Crystal Timmons-Bryant has worked in Nonprofit for over 15 years, building and maintaining grassroots relationships with funders, social service partners, community, faith leaders, elected officials, and others throughout the state. Over the last 7 years building her business consulting for Nonprofits she helped to improve the quality of life for all Delawareans by focusing on improving community outcomes in the areas of education, income, and health.

Crystal started her career in Nonprofit with the Food Bank of Delaware as the Milford Branch Manager. Crystal's role evolved when she took over the Summer Food Service and After School at Risk Food Service Program through the Department of Education, she and her team served meals to over 2,000,000 at-risk youth in one summer throughout Delaware. Crystal also secured a grant that led her to work with Feeding America as a train-the-trainer and helped to open several school pantries in at-risk communities in other states as well as securing funding to pilot school base mobile pantries in all three counties which lead to securing the funding to open more. During that time Crystal also secured a grant to purchase a mobile food truck that provided mobile pantries in the at-risk communities. Crystal worked with local businesses and community members to secure funding for a capital campaign for the Milford Expansion that would provide a culinary school and training program in Sussex County.

During her time at The Food Bank of Delaware, Crystal, a single mother, completed her Bachelor of Science in Communication with a concentration on Asian, African American, and Hispanic cultures. Crystal knew the importance of wrap-around services for people needing a hand up and knew she wanted to be able to help raise awareness and money to provide the services for those in need. Crystal started working with United Way of Delaware as their Community Relations Manager and was responsible for fundraising, community engagement activities, and advancing UWD's relationships with stakeholders throughout Sussex County. During this time, Crystal used her skills in grant writing and secured a USDA grant that provided her the first \$300,000.00 to build a Poultry Farm in Sussex County. Crystal took pride in her farm and placed as a top grower several times before selling in 2018.

For the past five years, Crystal has served as a consultant for Sussex County Health Coalition where she helped drive the mission to engage the entire community in a collaborative family-focused effort to improve the health of children, youth, and families in Sussex County by working in proximity with public, private and nonprofits.

Crystal's love of the community and desire to provide EVERYONE who works and lives in this community a place of hope. La Esperanza became near and dear to her after her friend Matt Haley introduced her to the Carmelite Sisters of Charity—Sister Maria Mairlot, Sister Rosa Alvarez, and Sister Ascencion Banegas, Crystal started volunteering and later became the

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Interim Executive Director in 2015 & 2016 where she worked closely with the board to hire and train the leadership and grow programs. For the past two years, Crystal acted as a part-time operations consultant.

Crystal has volunteered her services to many smaller nonprofits in Sussex County helping them with startup questions, board governance, and grant writing.

Crystal is excited and eager to bring her skills to the team at BASSE and continue to support the mission to create pathways through proximity, for our students, their families, and our community.