



## ForwARd Arkansas Steering Committee Members

- **Shane Broadway** is the director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. He has served as a member of the Arkansas State Senate and State House of Representatives, Speaker of the House and member of the Senate and House Education Committees.
- **Toby Daughtery** is the lead recruiter and outreach coordinator for The STAND Foundation.
- **Kim Davis** is the director of economic development and external relations for the Northwest Arkansas Council and a member of the State Board of Education.
- **Bill Dillard III** is vice president of Dillard's, Inc. and serves on the board at eStem Public Charter Schools and the Arkansans for Education Reform Foundation.
- **Marcy Doderer** is the president and CEO of Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock.
- **Matt Dozier** is the president and CEO of the Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Initiative and former teacher at North Pulaski High School in Jacksonville.
- **Bob East** is the co-founder of East-Harding, Inc. and owner of Advanced Cabling, Inc.
- **Sen. Joyce Elliott** is a current Arkansas State Senator and former member of the Arkansas State House of Representatives. During her time in the General Assembly, she has served as Senate Majority Whip, vice-chairman of the Senate Education Committee and chairman of the House Education Committee.
- **Melanie Fox** has served on the Little Rock Board of Education, Little Rock Public Education Foundation Board and Little Rock PTA Council Board. She is co-founder of J&M Foods.
- **Lavina Grandon** is the founder and president of the Rural Community Alliance and a retired teacher, with extensive experience in rural schools.
- **Johnny Key** is the associate vice-president of university relations at the University of Arkansas system, former member of the Arkansas State Senate and State House of Representatives and former chairman of the Senate Education Committee.
- **Tom Kimbrell** serves as superintendent of Bryant Public Schools. He was the former commissioner of education for state of Arkansas, executive director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators and superintendent of the North Little Rock and Paragould school districts.
- **Ginny Kurrus** is the former state president of the Arkansas PTA, president of the Little Rock PTA Council, and long-time Little Rock School District volunteer.
- **Michele Linch** is the executive director for the Arkansas State Teachers Association. She is a former science teacher and director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy's Teacher Leadership Institute.

- **Hugh McDonald** is the president and CEO of Entergy Arkansas, Inc. and former director of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education.
- **Justin Minkel** is a former Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Milken Educator and Teach for America alumnus. He currently teaches at Jones Elementary in Springdale.
- **John Riggs** is the president of J.A. Riggs Tractor Company. He has been a member of the Arkansas State Senate, president of the Little Rock School District Board and member of the State Board of Career Education.
- **David Rainey** is the Assistant State Director of the JBHM Education Group and serves on the Arkansas Rural Development Commission. He is a former member of the Arkansas State House of Representatives and House Education Committee.
- **Scott Shirey** is the founder and executive director of KIPP Delta Public Schools and a Teach for America alumnus.
- **Ray Simon** is the former deputy secretary at the U.S. Department of Education, assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education, chief state school officer for Arkansas, superintendent of Conway School District and math teacher at North Little Rock High School. He recently formed a consulting company focused on education policy and practice.
- **Kathy Smith** is a senior program officer at the Walton Family Foundation, responsible for education initiatives. She has also served as a high school English teacher and secondary curriculum director.
- **Ladonna Spain** is a school improvement specialist and school improvement zone leader for the Arkansas Department of Education. She served as Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement Coordinator in the McGehee School District and taught in the Tiller School District, Delta Special School District and McGehee School District.
- **Bob Watson** is the former superintendent of El Dorado Public Schools. Well known for his innovative leadership in the south Arkansas community, he helped launch the El Dorado Promise and pass a bond initiative to build all new facilities in the district.
- **Sherece West-Scantlebury** is the president and CEO of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. She previously served as CEO at the Foundation for Louisiana, program associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation and has extensive experience with community development, public policy and advocacy and public service.
- **Darrin Williams** is the CEO of Southern Bancorp, Inc. and former member and Speaker Pro Tempore of the Arkansas House of Representatives.
- **Kenya Williams** is co-chairman of the Strong-Community leadership alliance and works closely with the Arkansas Public Policy Panel and the Opportunity to Learn Campaign. She is also a member of the South Arkansas Adult Education Advisory Council.
- **Diana Gonzales Worthen** is the director of Project RISE (Realizing and Increasing Student Excellence) at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.