

Arizona's Race to the Top Presentation Team



Dr. Karen Butterfield is the Associate Superintendent for the Academic Achievement Division at the Arizona Department of Education. She oversees Title IA, Title II-A/Highly Qualified Professionals, Certification, Innovative & Exemplary Programs, Budget & Operations and Health & Nutrition. Karen also is Superintendent Horne's charter school policy liaison for the Department as well as his appointee to the Governor's P20 Coordinating Council. In addition, Karen directs the State's federal Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program (AZCSIP), which focuses on supporting new rigorous Charter Schools that serve at-risk students in rural and urban areas. Prior to joining ADE, Karen served as a consultant for the National Charter Schools Institute. In 1996, she founded Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy, a charter high school that became a state and national model during her tenure as its executive director. Karen also served as an art teacher and administrator with Flagstaff Unified School District for 22 years. The majority of her professional career has been spent at the secondary level. Karen holds a BS and MA in education and a doctorate in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University. In 1993 she was named Arizona Teacher of the Year, and has received numerous other recognitions for her work in education.



Dr. Michael Cowan As the superintendent for the 87 schools and 67,000 students of the Mesa Public Schools, Dr. Michael Cowan has been involved in all aspects of the school system. As the district's organizational leader, he was identified by the *Arizona Republic* as one of the top 10 key people to watch as a "mover and shaker" for leading the district through some of the most significant changes in recent history. He works directly with community and business leaders, teachers, administrators and staff to establish services and coordinate resources to support student achievement and the community the district serves. Over the course of his 23-year career with the Mesa Public Schools, he has served in a variety of capacities, including teacher, curriculum specialist, curriculum director, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction and associate superintendent. Dr. Cowan's leadership led to infusing the district with programs and services that target all student populations, including those most at risk as well as those needing opportunities for acceleration. He has been instrumental in designing instructional services for the district's rapidly increasing Hispanic population by ensuring appropriate teacher education and certification, dedicating resources, and helping the community to embrace the changing populace. He has also developed small community schools committed to facilitating students with specific academic and social needs.

Recognizing the importance of reaching all student populations within a school community, he has also led the implementation of accelerated opportunities and coursework such as the Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies and other quality instructional programs. Dr. Cowan is a “people-oriented” leader who is able to successfully bring education and community groups together to collaboratively benefit students. He respects the contributions and abilities of others and the value they bring to the school system. His optimistic energy, positive perspective, and humor assist him in leading and coordinating people and resources in a non-threatening and relaxing manner. Understanding that involvement in the larger public is critical for educational leaders, Dr. Cowan is involved in a variety of community, state and national level organizations, boards, and agencies. Dr. Cowan completed his Bachelor of Science degree in education from Brigham Young University. At Arizona State University, he completed both master and doctorate degrees in education.



Rebecca Gau is the Vice President of the Arizona Charter Schools Association. Rebecca was a Senior Research Analyst at Morrison Institute for Public Policy, the “think tank” for Arizona State University for five years. Before that she was an analyst with Andersen Consulting (now Accenture), and an intern at the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, specializing in charter schools and education policy. She has had research published in journals such as *The Public Interest*, textbooks on education policy, and newspapers. She was a lead researcher and co-author of *Beat the Odds: Why Some Schools With Latino's Succeed and Others Do Not*; co-author of *Charter School Authorizing: Are States Making the Grade?*; and author of *Trends in Charter School Authorizing*. All are quantitative analyses of education policy issues. Rebecca received her Master’s Degree in Public Policy from Duke University and wrote her Master’s Thesis on charter schools in Dayton, Ohio. It was named Outstanding Thesis of the Year.



Eileen Klein is the Chief of Staff for Governor Janice K. Brewer. Ms. Klein previously served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Finance and Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting. Prior to joining Governor Brewer’s senior team, Ms. Klein was the Chief Operating Officer for Arizona Physicians IPA, a business unit of UnitedHealthcare. Ms. Klein’s career in public service includes tenure as Director of Policy at the Arizona House of Representatives, where she served four speakers on policy and state budget matters, as well as her work at the Arizona Office of the Auditor General, where she evaluated the effectiveness and efficiency of state agencies. Ms. Klein has also been a regulatory program manager in the state of Florida and the CEO of a non-profit corporation. She holds an undergraduate degree in French and Business from

The Florida State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Arizona State University. In 2008, Ms. Klein received the *Arizona Capitol Times*' Public Policy Leader of the Year award, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Volunteer of the Year award and the Arizona Business and Education Coalition's Business Partner of the Year award. Ms. Klein is a member of the State Board of Education.



Jacob Moore is the former president and current vice president of the Arizona State Board of Education and is a partner in the consulting group Generation Seven Strategic Partners, LLC. Jacob also serves as the Tribal Relations Coordinator for the ASU Office of Public Affairs where he helps to coordinate the American Indian Newly Elected Official (AINEO) program, which is an annual orientation program for newly elected tribal leaders. Mr. Moore previously served as the Special Assistant on Congressional and Legislative for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and also had a 14-year career in retail banking. Jacob Moore holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and an Executive MBA, both from Arizona State University. Mr. Moore is Tohono O'odham, Akimel O'odham, Lakota, and Dakota and is an enrolled member of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Jacob lives in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community with his wife Carmelita and three of their grandchildren; Sistine, Mina, and Dennis, Jr.



Vince Yanez was appointed as the Executive Director for the Arizona State Board of Education in January of 2005. In this capacity, Vince serves as the Board's chief advocate and policy advisor for issues impacting Arizona's K-12 system. During his tenure the Board's key accomplishments include: raising high school graduation requirements to include more math and science, adopting new rigorous academic standards, and overseeing the first state-level interventions in struggling schools and districts. In addition to his current duties as the Board's Executive Director, Vince has been appointed to serve on other education-related entities by both former Governor Napolitano and Governor Brewer. Most recently, Vince was named a member of Governor Brewer's P-20 Coordinating Council. Prior to this appointment Vince was employed with the Board as an Investigator and then as its Chief Investigator, where he supervised all investigations of alleged unprofessional conduct against certified school professionals. Vince earned a bachelor's degree in Government and Spanish from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in Social Work from Arizona State University.