

The Leaders Digest



Emerging Leaders Participant Directory
2020 - 2021



Emerging Leaders is an eight-month professional development program that transforms young professionals working in the public interest into invested nonprofit leaders. Participants develop the leadership capabilities, management skills, and confidence necessary to accelerate their careers while generating tangible results and lasting value for their organizations and the nonprofit sector.

Emerging Leaders nurtures the connection between self-development, leadership development, relationship building, and strengthening nonprofit and social sector leadership for the long-run. In a COVID-19 world, AlumniCorps has moved the Emerging Leaders program online, starting in September 2020.

The program employs experiential learning, professional experts, and speakers to build management skills, leadership competencies, and sector-specific knowledge. The following learning tracks are woven together throughout the course of the program:

- **Self-Management and Self-Awareness**
- **Managing Others and Team Dynamics**
- **Nonprofit Management and Skill-Building**
 - **Leadership Beyond the Office**

Nonprofit professionals from any academic background are encouraged to apply.

The Leaders Digest Directory

Program Leaders - p. 2

Program Facilitators - p. 3

Program Staff - p. 4

New York 2020-21 Emerging Leaders - p. 5

Mid-Atlantic/Chicago (MAC) 2020-21 Emerging Leaders - p. 11

2020- 21 Partner Organizations - p.17

The work of Princeton AlumniCorps is made possible by the more than 200 volunteers, 500 donors, and a network of 300 nonprofit partner organizations that support Princeton AlumniCorps' mission throughout the United States.

The 2020-21 Program Leaders for Emerging Leaders are Margaret Crotty and Elizabeth Lindsey. Princeton AlumniCorps' Executive Director is Caryn Tomljanovich.

The Princeton AlumniCorps Emerging Leaders program is made possible by grants from **American Express, Harris Finch Foundation, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, and individual donors.**

Program Leaders

Our volunteer Program Leaders are responsible for guiding the strategic direction of the Emerging Leaders program as it relates to the broader Princeton AlumniCorps mission and the needs of the nonprofit sector.



Margaret Crotty, [New York City](#)

Margaret Crotty has served in executive leadership roles in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors in the areas of education, technology, and training. She is currently the Executive Director of Partnership with Children, which serves New York City's most underserved children and works to stabilize and strengthen high-poverty public schools. In 2008, Margaret launched and ran Save the Children International's \$2 billion initiative to reduce child mortality in the developing world. Previously, she was the President and CEO of AFS-USA, which has provided intercultural exchanges for over 300,000 high school students since 1947. She also served as the VP and General Manager of a digital language education company, an independent business within the Reader's Digest Association, where she was brought in by the CEO to transform the business. Margaret spent seven years at the global corporation EF Education, the world's largest privately-held education company, and lived in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Paris. She was on the founding management team of EF's major online business and later served as President of EF's higher education business.

Margaret has also served as the Executive Director of a workforce development agency in New York City and Washington, DC. She has worked in Indonesia on two occasions, for McKinsey and Company and Save the Children. Margaret graduated with honors from Princeton University and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School. She serves on the boards of her Young Presidents Organization (YPO) chapter, the Glimpse Foundation, St. Mark's School of Harlem, and the Convent of the Sacred Heart. She is a Project 55 Fellowship alum and has served as a Princeton Project 55 mentor. She is also a Special Advisor to Save the Children's EVERY ONE Campaign. Others would describe Margaret as interested, entrepreneurial, and energetic.



Elizabeth Lindsey, [Mid-Atlantic/Chicago \(MAC\)](#)

Elizabeth Lindsey is the Executive Director of Byte Back, a dynamic Washington, DC based nonprofit providing a pathway of inclusive tech training that leads to living-wage careers. Under Elizabeth's leadership, Byte Back's innovative training is earning national attention and support. Prior to joining Byte Back in 2015, Elizabeth served as the Chief Operating Officer of Groundswell, overseeing its evolution from a community organization into a nationally-recognized social enterprise. She earned her bachelor's from Swarthmore College and her master's in public affairs and urban and regional planning from Princeton University.

Elizabeth serves on the Federal Communications Commission's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment and is a member of the Washington, DC Mayor's Innovation & Technology Inclusion Council. She is on the Board of Directors of The Workplace DC, the Goodwill Excel Center, The Engine Room, and the National Digital Inclusion Alliance.

She competed in two WeWork Creator Awards pitch competitions, winning a total of \$720,000 for Byte Back. As a recognized leader in tech, Elizabeth was selected in 2019 for Washington Business Journal's most competitive list – 40 Under 40. Elizabeth was also named a 2019 Enterprising Woman by Tagg Magazine and a 40 under 40 Queer Woman by the Washington Blade. She was a 2017 and 2018 Washingtonian Tech Titan and won a DC Inno 50 on Fire award, DCA Live New Power Woman of DC Tech award, and the Champion of Digital Equality Award from the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council. She led a panel at SXSW in 2018 and was named a top 100 leadership speaker in Inc. People who know and love Elizabeth describe her as passionate, dedicated, and vivacious.

Program Facilitators

Program Facilitators serve as the lead designers and facilitators of the Emerging Leaders curriculum.



Yael C. Sivi, **New York City**

Yael C. Sivi is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Collaborative Coaching. Yael plays multiple roles across professional contexts: she serves as an executive coach for leaders, a consultant for organizations and teams, and she is a psychotherapist in part-time private practice. Across these roles, Yael's focus is consistent; she seeks to understand the complexity of human behavior and supports human dynamics in the workplace to be more healthy and productive. Yael brings over seventeen years experience working in Fortune 1000 companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies – with the aim of increasing the emotional intelligence, consciousness, and psychological safety of our interactions at work.

Yael has worked on numerous global and domestic assignments. Current and past clients have included American Express, Boehringer Ingelheim, Citibank, Coca-Cola, Deutsche Bank, Genentech, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, NASA, NYSE/Euronext, New York Foundation for the Arts, Ogilvy, Partnership for Children, Securities Industry Institute, Success Academy, United Nations, US Forest Service, WL Gore, World Bank, among others.

Yael has been the lead facilitator for Princeton AlumniCorps' Emerging Leaders New York program since its launch seven years ago. She loves working with emerging leaders and brings a holistic understanding of who they are, what's important to them, as well as the specific challenges they face as leaders and as young adults. Drawing on adult development theory and her expertise in Gestalt psychotherapy, Yael sees professional and personal growth as two sides of the same coin; this mindset deeply informs her leadership development work with emerging and seasoned leaders alike. Others describe Yael as warm, curious, and reflective.



Hilary Joel, **Mid-Atlantic/Chicago (MAC)**

Hilary Joel is an executive coach and management consultant with over 25 years of experience across numerous industries. She is the founding principal of WJ Consulting, LLC. Hilary has partnered with the leadership and management of scores of nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government agencies to help them advance toward their own definitions of professional and organizational success more deeply, intentionally, quickly, and sustainably than they could on their own. Hilary focuses primarily on nonprofit organizations, providing one-on-one coaching, leadership development, team/retreat facilitation, and guidance in organizational effectiveness to nonprofit leaders, their teams, and their boards. She has partnered with the Executive Directors, management teams, and boards of international as well as national and local social sector organizations. Before starting her own coaching and consulting firm, Hilary spent a dozen years with management consulting firms focused on corporate clients in a range of industries. Her responsibilities included strategic planning, business analysis, and implementing management best practices.

Hilary holds a BA degree in Economics from Princeton University and an MBA degree from Harvard Business School where she was a Baker Scholar. After receiving her MBA, as the Charles M. Williams Research Fellow, she co-authored 11 business school case studies on a variety of management issues. Hilary graduated from the Georgetown Leadership Coaching Program and is a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) with the International Coach Federation. She is a certified administrator of several assessment tools, such as Myers-Briggs, DiSC, The Leadership Circle(T) 360-feedback profile, and CCL's Skillscope 360.

Hilary's passion for a strong nonprofit sector extends into her personal and volunteer life. She is a cofounder and board member of Compass, a consortium of MBA alumni who provide pro bono management consulting to nonprofits. She also serves as Vice President of the Board of CollegeTracks, which helps low-income, first-gen-to-college high school students enter and succeed in college. Those who know Hilary well would describe her as positive, insightful, and supportive.

Program Staff

Program staff are Princeton AlumniCorps employees who coordinate the recruitment and application process for the Emerging Leaders program. They collaborate with the Program Facilitators to design, evaluate, and amend the program each year, ensuring that it accomplishes AlumniCorps' mission of mobilizing people, organizations, and networks for the public good.



Caryn Tomljanovich (she/her/hers), **Executive Director**

Caryn joined Princeton AlumniCorps in November 2013 and focuses on growing and strengthening AlumniCorps programs across the country. Prior to joining AlumniCorps she worked for both the Hunterdon Land Trust and the Hunterdon Art Museum as Director of Development. At both organizations, she was responsible for grant writing, event planning, direct appeals, and major donor strategies. She previously helped start the Upstate Institute at Colgate University working with faculty and administrators to develop the Institute's strategic plan and structure their summer fellowship program. Her work there involved connecting students and faculty with civic engagement projects in the Central New York region, and working with nonprofits throughout the region on their strategic plans. Prior to the Upstate Institute, Caryn worked for the Partnership for Community Development where she focused on downtown and small business development in Hamilton, NY. She also spent time teaching adult micro-enterprise classes throughout the beautiful Finger Lakes region of NY and managing a microfinance revolving loan fund while at Worker Ownership Resource Center (WORC). Caryn applied her expertise to develop and teach online undergraduate and graduate level grant writing classes for Excelsior College. During her career, she has developed and helped implement strategic plans for a variety of nonprofit organizations in multiple sectors.

She earned a BA in economics from Connecticut College and a Masters in public policy with a focus in community development from Rockefeller College at SUNY Albany. She has also completed a certificate in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from Cornell University. She is compassionate, tenacious, and energetic.



Jessica Mazzeo (she/her/hers), **Communications and Program Associate**

Jessica is a creative communications professional with a passion for fostering community through innovative events and programming. Princeton AlumniCorps stood out to her because of its collaborative, growth-oriented nature. Jessica holds a dual role in both supporting communications/social media and managing the Emerging Leaders program. She is a graduate of Rutgers University with a B.A. in English, a minor in women's, gender, and sexuality studies, and a creative writing certificate. As a student, she worked in administration at the Rutgers Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Upon graduating in 2018, she began her role as a Clerical Assistant at Answer, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive sexuality education resources for youth and adults. For the past two years, she has volunteered as Digital Media and Communications Coordinator for New Brunswick LASER, a series of evening gatherings designed to intertwine the worlds of art and science via lightning presentations and audience Q&As. At the core of her work is a drive to help create a world in which everyone can fulfill their highest potential and create healthy connections. In her free time, she creates & enjoys art, writing, music, movies, comedy, and fulfilling relationships with her loved ones. She is passionate, curious, and observant.

New York Emerging Leaders

New York's Emerging Leaders cohort consists of 16 mid-career professionals who work for nonprofit organizations located in New York and New Jersey. The 2020-21 cohort will be the ninth group to participate in Princeton AlumniCorps' Emerging Leaders program in New York. The New York cohort is facilitated by Yael Sivi (Collaborative Coaching).



Edsel Batucan (he/him/his), [The Opportunity Network \(OppNet\)](#)

Edsel works at The Opportunity Network (OppNet), a nonprofit organization that supports NYC high school students in igniting their drive, curiosity, and agency on their paths to and through college and into thriving careers. As the Assistant Director of College Guidance & Transition, Edsel works with his team to provide comprehensive college application support to their 11th and 12th-grade students and transition support to their first-year college fellows.

Prior to joining OppNet, Edsel worked as a College Advisor at the Bronx Lab School on behalf of the College Advising Corps at NYU for two years. In his role, he helped raise the college application and enrollment rate of his seniors, as well as promote a stronger college-going culture. Edsel also worked in academic and career services within higher education at the Stony Brook's Academic Advising Center and Career Center, and at the NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development. Edsel has almost ten years of supporting students in making important transitional life choices during young adulthood. He enjoys making a longitudinal impact in the lives of young people, to and through college and career. He holds an M.A. in applied psychology and school counseling (K-12) from the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, and a B.A. in sociology from Stony Brook University. Edsel is known to his students and fellow team members for being consistently empathetic, enthusiastic, and energetic.



Aliza Caplan (she/her/hers), [DonorsChoose](#)

Aliza works at DonorsChoose, the leading platform for giving to public schools. DonorsChoose started helping America's public schools in 2000 and was equal parts tech startup and education nonprofit. More than 85% of U.S. public schools have at least one teacher who has created a project on their site, and to date, DonorsChoose has raised over \$900 million for books, art supplies, field trips, and more.

At DonorsChoose, Aliza is responsible for the Internship and Fellowship Programs. She also supports the organization's Diversity & Inclusion strategy and employee experience, striving to build a workplace culture that is equitable, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse teacher and student population DonorsChoose serves.

Aliza arrived at DonorsChoose by way of Philadelphia, where she studied Sociology and Jewish Studies as an undergraduate and completed a master's degree in nonprofit leadership at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to moving to NYC, she worked at Penn Hillel building Jewish community and supported undergraduate growth and leadership. A learner, listener, and cheerleader, Aliza is always game for a stroll and a snack. Collaborators and friends might describe Aliza as curious, empathetic, and relentless.



Grace Chung (she/her/hers/they/them/theirs), [Local Initiatives Support Corporation \(LISC\) NYC](#)

As a Senior Community Development Officer, Grace is responsible for managing fundraising and resource development for Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) NYC, whose services and programs aim to create a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable New York City. In this role, she also works closely with LISC NYC leadership and the program team on new program development. She has over ten years of experience working in the public sector with a focus on community development, fundraising, and program management.

Prior to joining LISC NYC in 2015, she served as a graduate intern in the LISC Philadelphia program and a Fellow at the Philadelphia Commerce Department's Office of Neighborhood Economic Development. Previously, Grace was a Communications Associate at Rising Tide Capital, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to build resilient communities through entrepreneurship. A former Fulbright Fellow, Grace holds a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Pennsylvania. Grace's friends and colleagues would describe her as strategic, curious, and compassionate.



Dorteia Damaskos (she/her/hers), [DonorsChoose](#)

Dorteia works at DonorsChoose, the premier crowdfunding site for public school classrooms. Since its founding in 2000, DonorsChoose has connected educators with generous supporters, providing \$100 million annually in classroom resources for three-quarters of the nation's high poverty public schools. At DonorsChoose, she is a leader of the Partnership Operations team where she manages the processes and systems that deliver funding on behalf of our partners, as well as the people who execute and scale that work.

Dorteia felt a deep connection to her alma mater's motto of "Non Ministrari sed Ministrare" (Not to be ministered unto, but to minister). With the bachelor's degree she earned in sociology and Spanish language & literature from Wellesley College, she channeled her energy into learning how she could have a positive impact on our society. What started as learning from Boston nonprofits with an impassioned yet unfocused desire to support those who need it, grew to a decision to dedicate herself to battling gender and racial inequality and education inequity. Her ability to support the infrastructure of her work and her colleagues at DonorsChoose motivates her to consistently improve herself in pursuit of supporting teachers—the change-makers for students' classroom experience nationwide. In this way, Dorteia is dedicated, optimistic, and resourceful.



Gina Darnaud (she/her/hers), [Student Success Network \(SSN\)](#)

Gina is energized by her work and is grateful to partner with the incredible people she meets at Student Success Network (SSN). SSN is a community of youth, practitioners, researchers, communicators, fundraisers, and executive directors working together to fuel equitable outcomes for all youth in NYC. As the Communications & Operations Manager, Gina has the unique opportunity to shift narratives with 70 youth-serving organizations. Having held former communications roles at nonprofits and the Department of Education, she is dedicated to exploring the intersectionality of wellness, education, and identity.

Embracing a strengths-based approach to storytelling and centering youth-adult partnership, she leads SSN's communications strategy and supports internal operations. Gina strongly believes that when voices, experiences, and identities are amplified, we create spaces for their authority and power. To Gina, being a communicator is expressing the truth, the silence, and everything in between. With this in mind, she believes that communication and operations are both accountability tools necessary for catalyzing liberation and sharing power. Whether she's curating an email campaign, building an internal feedback tool, or adding the perfect emoji, Gina tries to be observant, collaborative, and celebratory.



Audrey Davis (she/her/hers), [Let's Get Ready \(LGR\)](#)

Audrey works at Let's Get Ready (LGR), an innovative, growing nonprofit that provides students from low-income circumstances with free SAT preparation, admissions counseling, and other support services needed to gain admission to and graduate from college. Founded in 1998, Let's Get Ready has reached more than 33,000 students with 11,000 committed and highly trained college coaches. LGR has worked in partnership with schools and community-based organizations from throughout the northeastern United States in diverse communities ranging from Maine to Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts. LGR operates with a staff of 25 out of its headquarters in NYC and a regional office in Boston. At LGR, Audrey leads the College Success Team as the Senior College Success Program Manager, managing several college coaches, university partnerships, and projects.

Prior to working with Let's Get Ready, Audrey spent the past few years working in college access and providing guidance and support to high school students in New York City as they prepare for their college journey. Audrey is originally from California, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Saint Mary's College of California. She also holds a Master of Arts in counseling from Manhattan College. Audrey is passionate about helping others and is dedicated to helping students get to and through college. Whether it's related to supporting students or just helping friends, Audrey is always solutions-oriented, thoughtful, and passionate.



Lucy Eilbacher (she/her/hers), [Planned Parenthood Federation of America \(PPFA\)](#)

Lucy Eilbacher currently works at Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). Planned Parenthood is a trusted health care provider, an informed educator, a passionate advocate, and a global partner helping similar organizations around the world. Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide.

Lucy has been with the Planned Parenthood family for nine years. She has been with PPFA for six years and previously worked at Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, managing all fundraising and educational events. Currently, she is the Associate Director of Affiliate Resources and Leadership Engagement. She is responsible for leading affiliate strategies and educational programs that foster strategic partnerships among key affiliate staff and PPFA's Development Division. Lucy's success can be attributed to her compassionate, generous, and often adventurous attitude.



Nayah Harper (she/her/hers), [Peer Health Exchange \(PHE\)](#)

Nayah works as a New York Program Manager at Peer Health Exchange (PHE), a national health equity organization that trains college students to teach socio-emotional health in high school classes. Nayah is primarily responsible for assisting with the development, management, growth, and evaluation of the Staten Island Chapter of Peer Health Exchange. Having graduated from Howard University with a B.S. in political science with a concentration in administration of justice and Black politics, Nayah has reserved a fervent belief for the need for social justice through equitable advancement. This past year, while continuing this passion as a Program Manager at PHE, Nayah served as a National Urban Fellow at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy where she studied and analyzed social policy and systems of racial equity, or the lack thereof. This work, combined with personal lived experiences, has fostered her favor for building equality through equity cultivated by community engagement and greater access for marginalized groups. Nayah would describe herself as a passionate, effective, tenacious leader.



Shane King (he/him/his), [New Alternatives for Children](#)

Shane was born and raised in NYC in a single-parent household. He is also a first-generation college graduate among the males on the maternal side of his family. Shane graduated with his MSW from Hunter College School of Social Work in 2011 and is a Licensed Master Social Worker.

Shane is a Supervisor who has been at New Alternatives for Children since 2017 in the Medically Fragile/Developmental Prevention program for families and children. Prior to joining New Alternatives for Children, Shane worked at the Hawthorne Cedar Knowles RTC for four years as a Supervisor with the Jewish Board. Prior to this, Shane worked at other agencies as a multisystemic therapy (MST) therapist and also as a school counselor. Shane worked at the CUNY Gear Up program in 2014 as an instructor promoting college awareness and facilitating workshops that educate students on the importance of completing high school and enrolling in college. Shane has done volunteer work as a mentor for young teenagers who have had some experience or interaction with the Juvenile Justice System at Community Connection. He provided mentorship to teenagers to create a caring environment for guidance, skill-building, and individual development.

Shane also does work with families and teenagers in a clinic providing individual psychotherapy. In addition to that work, he co-facilitates an Undoing Racism Middle Management group in the Bronx that is currently occurring virtually due to COVID-19. Shane uses a quote to help keep others and himself stay inspired that says, "Never Give Up. Great Things Take Time." Shane shared that quote with a former client who was having a hard time but believed that Shane had his family's best interest in mind. He is a conscientious change agent who is attentive to the needs of others, and passionate about equity and social justice.



Rhema Mangus (she/her/hers), [Storm King Art Center](#)

Rhema works at Storm King Art Center, a 500-acre outdoor museum located in New York's Hudson Valley where visitors experience large-scale sculpture, site-specific commissions, and dynamic programming under the open sky. As the Executive Assistant to the President, she helps Storm King nurture the vibrant bond between art, nature, and people by supporting high-level business functions. She works closely with the President, Senior Staff, and Board of Trustees to ensure effective governance, routine operations, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement.

Prior to her current role, Rhema began her arts administration career fundraising in Storm King's External Affairs department. With a life-long love of music and arts advocacy, she earned a B.M. from Southern Methodist University in horn performance and arts management. During her studies, she was inspired to connect new and diverse audiences with the arts and cultural experiences of every kind. In addition to performing as a freelance musician, Rhema is committed to community involvement. She currently volunteers with the Orange County Arts Council to link artists with audiences and foster the growth of the county's creative resources. As a member of the West Point Spouses' Club, she works to develop a spirit of community service and fundraise for community grants and educational scholarships. Rhema is inquisitive, collaborative, and loyal.



Anne Mattson (she/her/hers), [Peer Health Exchange \(PHE\)](#)

Anne works at Peer Health Exchange (PHE), a national nonprofit that trains college volunteers to facilitate skills-based health workshops in ninth grade classrooms. At Peer Health Exchange, Anne manages the New York University and Brooklyn College chapters, as well as a portfolio of high school relationships.

Before working at Peer Health Exchange, Anne earned her Master of Public Health degree from New York University and her Bachelor of Arts in psychology at Arizona State University. At Arizona State University, Anne worked as a peer educator focusing on sexual health and sexual violence prevention work. This experience changed the course of Anne's career, leading her to focus on sexual health and sexual violence prevention and shift toward a career in public health. In her free time, Anne likes to sew and spend time at the beach. Anne hopes she'd be described by others as altruistic, compassionate, and motivated.



Anu Pattabiraman (she/her/hers | Ms.), [Success Academy Charter Schools](#)

Anu works at Success Academy Charter Schools, a public charter school network currently serving 18,000 students across 45 schools in New York City. She leads the development and engagement of high school math, engineering, and computer science curricula for the network.

Prior to joining Success Academies, Anu taught at Match High School in Boston and Summit Shasta High School in the Bay Area and brings her experience creating innovative math curricula as a teacher to her current work. Before teaching, she worked at Mass Insight Education & Research, where she partnered with public school districts and states to drive education equity by changing approaches to funding, operations, talent acquisition and development, and instructional management. She began her career as a Princeton Project 55 Fellow at the Regional Primary Care Coalition in Washington, DC. Anu received her bachelor's in chemical engineering from Princeton University and her master's in effective teaching from the Charles Sposato Graduate School of Education.

Outside of work, Anu has enjoyed volunteering as a Project 55 Area Committee Member, singing in local choirs, and supporting restaurants in her community throughout COVID-19. She is passionate, thoughtful, and collaborative in her approach to her work.



Tianna Porter (she/her/hers), [The Doe Fund](#)

Tianna works at The Doe Fund, an organization that works with formerly incarcerated and formerly homeless men to help them rebuild their lives and break the cycles of homelessness, addiction, and criminal recidivism by providing holistic services, housing, and work opportunities. As the Director of Career Development and Graduate Services, Tianna is responsible for overseeing and developing programming, classes, and career counseling to ensure that clients have the necessary resources and support to be successful in finding a job and, eventually, building a career.

Prior to coming to The Doe Fund, Tianna earned her B.A. from the University at Buffalo. She has ten years of Workforce Development experience and has worked at a variety of small nonprofits such as Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties and New York Indian Council. While working at these nonprofits, Tianna saw first-hand how easily barriers could impede her clients from achieving the self-sufficiency they needed and desired. These experiences opened her eyes to the need for professionals who can mentor and show individuals how to leverage their education, training, and career development skills for empowerment and self-sufficiency. She feels incredibly honored to be able to do the work that she does daily. Tianna would describe herself as thoughtful, proactive, and outgoing.



Danielle Rowe (she/her/hers), [DonorsChoose](#)

Danielle works at DonorsChoose, a crowdfunding site for classrooms that connects hardworking educators with generous supporters, providing \$150+ million annually in classroom resources for 85% of the nation's high poverty public schools. At DonorsChoose, she works to deepen relationships with school districts, states, and education associations around the country to support their educational priorities and make it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need.

Before joining DonorsChoose, Danielle earned her B.A. from Fordham University where she studied history and African American Studies, led the Black Student Union, and captained the Division 1 Track & Field Program. Upon graduating, Danielle joined AmeriCorps where she taught junior high humanities and world religion. As a former educator, Danielle understands how limited resources can negatively affect educational outcomes among our nation's most vulnerable students. She is committed to promoting educational equity and eliminating the achievement gap.

Outside of work, Danielle is either watching a cerebral documentary, searching for new music, or playing with her chihuahua, Elio. Danielle would describe herself as tenacious, thoughtful, and strategic.



Ryan Sasse (he/him/his), [UNICEF USA](#)

Ryan Sasse is the Assistant Director, Advocacy & Engagement at UNICEF USA, the domestic nonprofit that supports UNICEF's global work through fundraising, advocacy, and education in the United States. Based in Brooklyn, he works to sustain and deepen the organization's advocacy initiatives with supporters and partners across the country, including UNICEF USA's annual Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill and the launch of UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities Initiative here in the U.S. this year.

Before joining UNICEF USA in January 2017, Ryan worked at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), where he managed the organization's relationships with select government agencies and multilateral organizations, including UNICEF. He has a background in LGBTQ and women's rights advocacy, having started his career in public service under the Obama Administration with positions at USAID and the White House Office of Public Engagement. A native South Floridian, he can often be found at the beach or scoping the streets of New York for the city's best Cuban food. He is dedicated, empathetic, and vivacious.



Aliza Sena (she/her/hers), [Whitney Museum of American Art](#)

Aliza works at the Whitney Museum of American Art, an institution that collects, exhibits, preserves, researches, and interprets 20th and 21st-century art of the United States. At the Whitney, she produces digital content that supports the museum's programming. Her projects are wide-ranging and include content strategy, video production, web features, user experience design, and more.

Before coming to the Whitney, Aliza worked at other arts organizations including MoMA PS1, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Aperture Foundation. Always working on the digital side of things, it has been Aliza's mission to bring forth the stories behind exhibitions, art, and artists online. She believes that art can communicate radical and important ideas, and is excited to think about how technology can be used by museums to reach a wide audience and make art more accessible. Aliza is creative, supportive, and open-minded.

Mid-Atlantic/Chicago (MAC) Emerging Leaders

Mid-Atlantic/Chicago (MAC)'s Emerging Leaders cohort consists of 16 mid-career professionals who work for nonprofit organizations located in the Mid-Atlantic/Chicago (MAC) area. The 2020-21 cohort will be the tenth group to participate in AlumniCorps' Emerging Leaders program in Mid-Atlantic/Chicago (MAC). This cohort is facilitated by Hilary Joel (WJ Consulting).



Carla Camargo (she/her/hers), [The Dance Institute of Washington \(DIW\)](#)

Carla Camargo is the Marketing & Communications Manager at the Dance Institute of Washington (DIW), a nonprofit organization that increases inclusive and diverse representation at every level of the professional ballet and dance industries locally in DC, and through that exemplary effort, impacts racial and economic equity in dance nationally and globally. In her position, Carla leads the marketing department and ensures the organization's story is accurately told in order to gain the correct perception and support from different audiences.

Outside of DIW, Carla is also a passionate dance instructor in the Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia area. She enjoys teaching dance to all ages, but especially younger dancers. Carla strongly believes in the positive impact dance arts can have on the lives of children. She currently voluntarily leads the SWS Kids Dance Team in which she trains and mentors dancers during the difficult COVID-19 era. In general, Carla is also an activist for equity in dance, equality, underrepresented youth, and immigrant rights. As a Latina immigrant woman, she is extremely passionate about her work and all efforts leading to positive progress of the BIPOC community. Across all aspects of her life, Carla is an enthusiastic, open-minded, and determined individual that is always seeking learning opportunities and fulfilling life experiences.



Melissa Goodwin (she/her/hers), [American Geophysical Union \(AGU\)](#)

Melissa Goodwin works at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) as the Thriving Earth Exchange Program Manager for Operations and Volunteer Engagement. In this role, Melissa manages the Thriving Earth Exchange's Community Science Fellowship program and facilitates meaningful engagement with Fellows and Community Scientists in our network. Melissa also maintains Thriving Earth Exchange's operational systems and project tracking infrastructure.

Since joining AGU in 2016, Melissa has supported dozens of community science projects across the United States and contributed to the launch of the Resilience Dialogues and Thriving Earth Exchange's Community Science Fellowship program. Her past work includes positions with the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation and ENVIRON International Corp. (now Ramboll ENVIRON). Melissa earned a Master of Science in environmental sciences and policy with a focus in energy and climate change from Johns Hopkins University and a B.S. in chemistry and environmental science from The College of William and Mary. She is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). Melissa's favorite things include her family (Jason, Jude, and Dory the dog), acquiring more books than she has time to read, and well-designed spreadsheets. In three words, Melissa is genuine, reflective, and stalwart.



Carrie Hildebrandt (she/her/hers), [FRESHFARM](#)

Carrie works at FRESHFARM, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and improving food access and equity in the Mid-Atlantic region. At FRESHFARM, she leads grant management for FRESHFARM FoodPrints, a program that provides high-quality food and gardening education to DC Public School students. Carrie was drawn to FoodPrints because of her love of cooking and good food and her desire to pass that love onto others. This program has been valuable to Carrie because it broadens the opportunity for students across the city to access fresh, nutritious food.

Prior to joining the FoodPrints Team, Carrie worked with the Markets Team at FRESHFARM. Her experience working closely with local farmers and food producers deepened Carrie's love of fresh, local food, and her passion for sharing that food with others. Whether she's leading students through the garden or tracking grant budgets, Carrie is enthusiastic, kind, and detail-oriented.



Shannon Hilsey Choy (she/her/hers), [World Resources Institute \(WRI\)](#)

Shannon is an Associate with the Buildings Initiative in the WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities at World Resources Institute (WRI). WRI is an environmental research organization dedicated to addressing seven global challenges to reduce poverty, grow economies, and protect natural systems: climate, energy, food, forests, water, sustainable cities, and the ocean. Within the Buildings Initiative, Shannon works to develop and manage programs and research products to support city leadership on sustainable buildings and energy system decarbonization, working closely with partners around the world.

Before joining WRI, Shannon was the Project Coordinator for International Economic Relations at American University, where she also completed an M.A. in international affairs with a focus on energy. After graduating from Cornell University with a Bachelor's Degree in government, her work as an intern for the Council of the Americas and as a Program Assistant for a small resource-focused nonprofit convinced her that solving energy system challenges and mitigating climate change is vital to protecting the well-being of humans. Whether in the professional sphere or in her personal life, she pursues interests in running, camping, and good journalism and brings forth her core qualities of curiosity, drivenness, and adaptability.



Mackenzie Jones (she/her/hers), [The Grassroot Project](#)

Mackenzie works as a Program Manager at The Grassroot Project, a community-based nonprofit in Washington, DC that promotes health equity by connecting college student-athletes with local youth and fosters the power of sports to build relationships and health literacy. At The Grassroot Project, Mackenzie spearheads the leadership development of college student-athletes and high school interns, while also working in partnership with schools, teachers, and community stakeholders to support and run core health education programming for youth.

Before rejoining The Grassroot Project, Mackenzie was a college athlete volunteer herself. While earning her B.A. in international affairs from George Washington University, Mackenzie volunteered and interned with The Grassroot Project in its early years. Following her internship, she joined Teach for America where she worked as a middle school teacher in the rural district of Pointe Coupee, Louisiana. Two years later, she moved to teach in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she also earned her Master's of Public Administration (MPA) from Louisiana State University. Throughout her experience in education and community organizing in Louisiana, Mackenzie deepened her passion for working toward equity in education and health as well as her passion for developing young leaders, from first graders to college students! As she continues her work in the health education sphere with The Grassroot Project, Mackenzie strives to lead with passion, an emphasis on relationship building, and a critical eye for equity, inclusiveness, and justice. Mackenzie would describe herself as ambitious, open-minded, and passionate.



Natalie Kalish (she/her/hers), [New Foundations Charter School](#)

Natalie serves as the Human Resources Manager at New Foundations Charter School. Founded in 2000, New Foundations provides free education to 1,500 students in kindergarten through twelfth grade in Northeast Philadelphia. At New Foundations, Natalie established and led the school's first Human Resources department. She built and oversaw centralized systems and policies to attract, develop, and retain the best talent for the school.

Natalie graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with her bachelor's in psychology and master's in Social Work. She began her career at Uncommon Schools as an operations team member in a National Blue Ribbon Award-winning elementary school in Brownsville, Brooklyn. In this position, she gained experience across all non-instructional aspects of operating a school. Natalie became passionate about ensuring that teachers have the support that they need to be successful in the classroom, and developed a particular interest in how human resources can provide this support. To gain more expertise in this area, she transitioned into a human resources role at an investment company, Bridgewater Associates. Natalie is now a certified HR professional through the Society of Human Resources Management.

Natalie believes in equal access to high-quality education for all students and has committed her career towards empowering teachers and school professionals. Whether you are a new acquaintance or longtime friend, you will see that Natalie is driven, caring, and bright.



Rachel Lachenauer (she/her/hers), [National Abortion Federation \(NAF\) Hotline Fund](#)

Rachel is the Director, Patient Experience for the National Abortion Federation (NAF) Hotline Fund, the largest national hotline for patients to access information about abortion procedures, find a provider, connect with case management services, and gain access to financial assistance to subsidize procedure and logistical expenses. At NAF, Rachel manages a team of five supervisors and 40 direct service providers. Rachel has been with the NAF Hotline Fund since 2011, where she started as a part-time Hotline Intake Counselor providing direct support to patients before becoming a Case Manager and moving into successive managerial positions.

In 2019, Rachel earned her Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from American University in Washington, DC. Rachel is committed to using her experience to continue to improve services for patients since the NAF Hotline Fund is one of only a few comprehensive and empathetic resources with which a patient can find and connect with abortion care information. Rachel is innovative, engaging, and compassionate.



Demarius Love (he/him/his), [African American Mayors Association \(AAMA\)](#)

Demarius K. Love serves as the Director of Operations and External Affairs for the African American Mayors Association (AAMA), the only national organization dedicated to representing African-American mayors in the United States. At AAMA, he leads member services for current member mayors and recruitment for newly elected Black mayors. Along with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Association, he also serves as the liaison for the corporate business council, recruiting and managing relationships and sharing best practices from Fortune 500 companies. Prior to joining AAMA, Demarius served as the Executive Assistant to the Honorable Judge Rachel L. Bell (Davidson County, Nashville, TN), and as a Deputy Clerk to the office of the Davidson County Clerk, Brenda P. Wynn.

Both a public and civic servant, Love is an alumnus of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's (CBCF) Congressional Internship Program, serving in the office of Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II (MO, District 5), and a former intern staffer to Congressman Jim Cooper (TN, District 5). A graduate of the New Leaders Council (NLC-Nashville Chapter), Demarius served on the Executive Board of the New Leaders Council for the Washington, DC Chapter from 2017-2019 and currently serves on the National Caucus Liaison Subcommittee for the National Diversity Committee. Love is an alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University where he earned a B. S. in criminal justice administration. Whether he is running through the streets of DC as a member of DC Run Crew, enjoying brunch with friends, or traveling, Demarius is adventurous, bold, and ambitious.



Tyrhee Moore (he/him/his), [Soul Trak Outdoors](#)

Tyrhee Moore is a mountaineer and outdoor education advocate born and raised in South East Washington, DC. Moore is a highly regarded outdoorsman whose climbs include Grand Teton, Mount Kilimanjaro, Aconcagua, and the first all African-American climb of Denali. Following his second ascent of Denali in May 2017, Moore has garnered national attention for his unnerving bravery and bold leadership as a champion for increasing interest and advocacy amongst black youth in outdoor spaces.

His advocacy includes appearances on The Weather Channel, Food Network, The North Face campaigns, and as a cast member of the award-winning documentary *An American Ascent*. Moore's experiences in the outdoors started when he was only eleven years old. As a graduate from West Virginia University with a degree in sport management, Moore now encourages diversity in the outdoors and speaks around the country on topics regarding the adventure gap and conservation leadership. Tyrhee is passionate about sharing his experience and aspires to use his experience outside to inspire the next generation to rediscover the power of the world's wildest and most uninhabited places.

In November 2018, Tyrhee founded Soul Trak Outdoors, a nonprofit organization that is connecting urban communities of color to our planet's green spaces. Soul Trak serves a wide age range of under-engaged groups from urban youth, collegiate members, and professional level urban residents in many outdoor activities like hiking, climbing, paddling, biking, and many others. Soul Trak's programming develops leadership and enhances community while promoting outdoor advocacy and exposure. Tyrhee would describe himself as respectable, passionate, and adventurous.



Marielena Octavio (she/her/hers), [Meridian Institute](#)

Marielena is a Mediator and Program Associate at Meridian Institute, a nonprofit that builds understanding, guides collaboration, and drives action to address our world's complex challenges. She has led and supported projects focusing on sustainable fisheries, ocean policy, deforestation, climate action, water resources, and agriculture. She primarily facilitates a diverse group of thought leaders from various sectors working towards an integrated vision for Mexico's oceans and coasts that balances social, environmental, and economic needs.

Originally from Venezuela, Marielena earned a B.S. from Georgetown University, and prior to joining Meridian, she supported the World Bank in launching an initiative for transboundary water collaboration in the Middle East. She volunteers as Co-Chair of the Diversity & Equity Committee of the Association of Conflict Resolution's Environment and Public Policy Section, where she supports various efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the field of collaborative problem-solving. Marielena has shaped her academic and professional career on the intersection of environmental and social issues, focusing on collaborative and creative solutions that further equity and justice. She is ambitious, passionate, and cooperative.



Amanda Silva (she/her/hers), **Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA)**

Amanda specializes in digital fundraising and integrated marketing for Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), a trusted health care provider that delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide. At PPFA, Amanda manages and oversees the implementation of integrated marketing campaigns to improve supporter retention, engagement, and fundraising by working with colleagues across online and offline direct response teams. Together, they create a unified supporter experience across direct marketing channels. Her duties include, but are not limited to, strategizing across teams and movement issues to engage supporters through PPFA's robust mobile broadcast program.

As a passionate advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, she believes in fighting for equitable workplaces by dismantling systemic barriers and challenging the institutions where they exist. After the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Amanda worked with local groups to plan protests and marches in Washington, DC, and made a direct shift to domestic issues. Prior to PPFA, Amanda worked primarily in nonprofits in the international development sector. Amanda has lived in Sri Lanka, Australia, and served as a part of the first 20 placements in West Java in Peace Corps Indonesia. Born and raised in New York, she is honored to call Washington, DC home. She graduated with a bachelor's in studio art: multimedia and a minor in international development from American University. Whether in the professional or personal realm, Amanda is brave, humorous, and resolute.



Hannah Silverfine (she/her/hers), **Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)**

Hannah works for the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), a nonprofit organization that puts rigorous, independent science to work to build a healthier planet and a safer world. Hannah coordinates an initiative that trains scientists to organize teams in their communities, advocating for science in public policy and building local leadership. Hannah is passionate about supporting individuals in finding their unique role in their community's ecosystem, as well as creating paths for collective action.

Prior to joining UCS, Hannah was a field organizer for the Massachusetts Nurses Association on a campaign to pass safe patient limits, as part of the JOIN for Justice Jewish Organizing Fellowship. She earned an M.S. in environmental science & policy and a B.A. in geography and Spanish from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. While in school, she grew her understanding of the intersections between health, the environment, policy, and power through conducting research, working for a local food hub, and organizing around issues of food justice.

Outside of the office, Hannah loves to run to new locations as well as share her homemade bread. She approaches life with empathy, persistence, and inquisitiveness.



Whitney Simon (she/her/hers), **UNICEF USA**

Whitney Simon works at UNICEF USA as a Manager on the Global Cause Partnerships team. In this role, she develops partnerships with civil society organizations to drive collective impact for children globally. Prior to joining the Global Cause Partnerships team, Whitney acted as a grassroots spokesperson for UNICEF USA and managed all things community engagement across 13 states. In this role, she engaged over 21,000 constituents, bringing together networks of faith-based communities, schools, universities, volunteers, advocates, elected leaders, and others on behalf of children's rights. Prior to joining UNICEF USA, Whitney worked as a consultant for one of the nation's largest women's fraternities. She is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago, where she earned dual degrees in political science and international relations. She is currently working towards her Masters of Public Affairs from the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. Whitney is analytical, driven, and curious.



Sianna Simmons (she/her/hers), **KABOOM!**

Sianna works at KABOOM!, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to creating play space equity. As Associate Director of Community Engagement, Sianna leads the team that identifies and coaches communities through a playspace project via asset-based community development. Prior to working at KABOOM!, Sianna was a Division I scholarship tennis athlete at Arizona State University. After graduating, she chased her dream on the professional circuit for two years. When she's not teaching tennis or enjoying her new hobby (bike riding), she's blogging about minority entrepreneurship, VC funding, and black-owned brands. Her special skills include creating a bomb charcuterie board! Sianna would describe herself as dynamic, ardent, and emotive.



Simone Webster (she/her/hers), **Education Forward DC**

Simone is a Senior Analyst at Education Forward DC, a local grantmaking organization approaching the education opportunity gap in Washington, DC by increasing the number of high-quality seats. At Education Forward DC, she leads due diligence on prospective grants and supports school leaders through in-depth consulting support. Furthermore, she is developing the school team's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategy to foster a more equitable education ecosystem in the District.

Prior to joining Education Forward DC, Simone worked on DC Public Schools' enrollment team. There, she analyzed demographic data and future enrollment projections to determine enrollment needs within the District. Simone started her career as a Teach for America corps member in Boston teaching high school mathematics. Simone earned a B.A. in sociology from New York University and a master's in public affairs from Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs. As a product of one of the largest public school systems and a daughter of an educator, Simone believes deeply in the power of public education. In addition to talking policy, going roller-skating, and performing improv, Simone is witty, honest, and compassionate.



Nina Williams (she/her/hers), **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**

Nina is a Major Gifts Officer at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), based in the Chicago office. NRDC is dedicated to safeguarding the earth, including its people, plants, animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. In her role, Nina manages a robust portfolio of members and donors to NRDC in the Midwest and Colorado.

Prior to joining NRDC in November 2019, Nina lived and worked in New York City, building her career at Columbia University Irving Medical Center with a focus on special events, board management, and front-line fundraising. She achieved her Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs and previously earned her B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh. Nina is dedicated to the nonprofit sector and committed to building resources to fill gaps where other structures fall through to promote an equitable and fulfilling quality of life for all. Nina's approach to her work and relationships is grounded in empathy, humor, and positivity.

Partner Organizations

2020-21 Partner Organizations

While the Emerging Leaders program is a personal development program, it is also designed to have an immediate impact on the organizations who support their staff's participation.

African American Mayors Association (AAMA)	Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA)
American Geophysical Union (AGU)	Soul Trak Outdoors
DonorsChoose	Storm King Art Center
Education Forward DC	Student Success Network (SSN)
FRESHFARM	Success Academy Charter Schools
KABOOM!	The Dance Institute of Washington (DIW)
Let's Get Ready (LGR)	The Doe Fund
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) NYC	The Grassroot Project
Meridian Institute	The Opportunity Network (OppNet)
National Abortion Federation (NAF) Hotline Fund	UNICEF USA
New Alternatives for Children	Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)
New Foundations Charter School	Whitney Museum of American Art
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)	World Resources Institute (WRI)
Peer Health Exchange (PHE)	



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