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College • Leadership • Service

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ***ANKUR DALAL, Attorney, Davis Polk and Wardwell***

Ankur Dalal joined the St. HOPE Board in 2012. Mr. Dalal has been involved with public schools for nearly ten years, developing literacy software for students in East Palo Alto, teaching high school math in the Bay Area and New York City for four years, researching state education law and policy with the New Teacher Project and developing human resources software for the New York City Department of Education. Mr. Dalal is currently a tax attorney in the New York office of Davis Polk and Wardwell. Mr. Dalal has a bachelor's in computer science from Stanford University (2004), a master's in education from Stanford University (2005) and a law degree from Columbia University (2011).

### ***ERIC FREEMAN, Director of Acquisitions, Greenfield Partners, LLC***

Eric Freeman joined the Board in 2009 as a trustee. He has served as Treasurer and is now the Chairman of the Board. As a longtime resident in Harlem and a son of a retired teacher, he is excited about being a part of the school and having the chance to serve his community. Mr. Freeman was born in Memphis, TN and has lived in New York City for the past 12 years. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, he began his career as an Investment Banking Analyst at Citigroup, Inc. in both the Mergers and Acquisitions and Real Estate and Lodging groups. In 2004, he joined Greenfield Partners, LLC, a real estate opportunity fund, and presently serves as a Director in the Acquisitions group. Mr. Freeman's responsibilities include underwriting and analysis of potential real estate investments as well as management of new and existing operating partner relationships.

### ***VINAY GANTI, Attorney & President of 2U***

Vinay Ganti joined St. HOPE's Board in the spring of 2012 and recently became Treasurer. Mr. Ganti's interest in St. HOPE stemmed from a greater interest in learning about the charter school ecosystem and its impact on education at large. He brings his expertise in how technology and education can intersect to improve student outcomes to the Board and school. Mr. Ganti was born in Summit, New Jersey and grew up near Tampa, Florida. For the past six years he has resided in New York City. He is a non-practicing lawyer and works for an education startup called 2U (part of 2tor). Prior to 2tor, Mr. Ganti earned a JD/MBA from New York University.

***MAUREEN HIGGINS, Talent and Recruitment Associate, Ascend Learning Charter Schools***

Maureen Higgins joined the St HOPE Board in 2013. Ms. Higgins' involvement with charter schools began in college, when she served as a summer intern at North Star Academy in Newark, NJ. After graduating from Wellesley College, Ms. Higgins taught middle school ESL in the Bronx as a 2006 Teach for America corps member. She continued her career in education as a Manager of Instruction at Revolution Prep, the largest national on-campus provider of college test preparation, where she trained and managed over 100 instructors in the New York area. She currently works as a Talent and Recruitment Associate for Ascend Learning Charter Schools in Brooklyn.

***JONATHAN HOWARD, Director of Talent, Democracy Prep Public Schools***

Jonathan Howard is a founding Board member at St. HOPE Leadership Academy and is chair of the Nominating Committee. While he was in high school, Mr. Howard was involved with the St. HOPE after school program in Phoenix, Arizona and later interned at the organization in Sacramento, California. Mr. Howard offers seven years of experience both as a teacher and leader in the charter sector and is solely focused on student achievement and academic growth as SHLA moves forward. Mr. Howard was born in raised in Phoenix, Arizona and has lived and worked in Harlem for the past seven years. He currently serves as the Director of Talent at Democracy Prep Public Schools, where he has worked since 2007. Mr. Howard earned his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and has a Master's in Teaching from Pace University. He is currently pursuing an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

***RUTH MEYLER, Retired Deputy General Counsel of Levi Strauss & Co.***

Ruth Meyler joined the St HOPE Board in 2008. She served as Secretary for four years and is now Vice-President. She is also a member of the Accountability Committee. Ms. Meyler has been involved with charter schools for almost 15 years. She was a trustee of Gateway High School in San Francisco for several years and worked in the school for a year during a leadership transition. She was also a founding trustee of Leadership Prep Bedford Stuyvesant Charter School and is currently the Board President of the Neighborhood Charter School of Harlem, a new elementary school that opened in August 2012, and for which she was the Lead Applicant. Ms Meyler was born and educated in London, England but has lived in the United States for more than 35 years. She has lived in New York City for the last seven years. She is a lawyer who has practiced law in London and in San Francisco. She retired as Chief Intellectual Property Counsel and Deputy General Counsel of Levi Strauss & Co. in San Francisco.

***JOSHUA MORALES, Co-founder and Organizational Leader, New Beginnings Charter School***

Joshua Morales has been a Board member since 2010. He is Co-founder and Organizational Leader of New Beginnings Charter School, located in Brooklyn NY. Mr. Morales also serves as an Independent Education Consultant, and provides policy advisory/consultation services to districts, support organizations and charter school authorizers. His previous non-education experiences include holding senior level positions in the investment management industry. He leveraged his capacity and skills in 2003 by joining the NYC Department of Education. During his tenure with the department he served as Regional Business Manager, Regional Network Specialist, Charter School Authorizer and Director of Citywide Charter School Operations and Support Services in the Office of Portfolio Development. In his latter roles supporting and providing direct/indirect services for over 100 charter schools, providing oversight to over 40 NYCDOE

authorized charter schools, as well as serving a policy maker and new school development evaluator. Mr. Morales grew up in NYC and attended the NYC Public School system.

**SUSAYE SMITH, Teacher, Head Start**

Susaye Smith has been a Board member since 2011 and is a parent of a current St HOPE scholar. Ms. Smith is the current Secretary, and serves on the Executive Committee and Accountability Committee. Ms. Smith was born and raised in Harlem, NYC. She is a teacher at a Head Start program in Harlem, as well. Ms. Smith has served on the West Harlem Head Start Delegate Agency Policy Committee and the Delegate Agency Site Policy Committee.

**KEITH VIGRAHAM, Managing Director of Programs, Explore Schools, Inc.**

Keith Vigraham joined the Board in 2011 and serves on the Executive Committee. Mr. Vigraham is the Managing Director of Programs at Explore Schools, Inc., a Charter Management Organization operating schools in Brooklyn, NY. Mr. Vigraham leads data assessment and staff development efforts for Explore Schools and its network schools. Prior to Explore, he worked at the Success Charter Network in Harlem in recruitment, focusing on teacher and school leadership selection. Mr. Vigraham also worked as a Program Director at Teach for America where he professionally developed first and second year Special Education teachers. He is an alumnus of Arizona State University (2003) and the New York Teach for America Corps (2006).

**BRYAN WINTHER, Vice President of Technology and Logistics, Delaware Express Co.**

Bryan Winther joined the board in 2013 as a trustee. Mr. Winther is the Vice President of Technology and Logistics at the Delaware Express Co., a family owned and operated trucking company in Elkton, MD. Prior to joining Delaware Express, he worked for four years at the Success Academies charter school network in Harlem as the founding Director of Information and Communications Technology. During his time there, he implemented new classroom technologies and focused on innovative educational technology infrastructures. Mr. Winther also taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade math in the Bronx as a member of Teach for America. He is an alumnus of Cornell University (2003), Pace University (2006), and the New York Teach for America Corps (2006).