

2016 CNCS Research Summit

From Evidence to Action

Plenary Speaker Biographies

CHANEL BEA – *Community Engagement Assistant, Center on Society and Health, Virginia Commonwealth University*

Chanel Bea is the community engagement assistant for the Engaging Richmond community-university research team. She has a long history of volunteer service with Richmond Public Schools, particularly with Early Head Start, the Head Start Policy Council and the Truancy Advisory Committee. Currently a citizen member of the Maggie L. Walker Citizen's Advisory Board and an early childhood programming advocate, she is passionate about advocacy and is committed to Richmond Promise Neighborhood where she serves as a community advocate; a co-convener of the Early Childhood Through 3rd Grade Results Based Action Team; an advisory board member; and, social media administrator.

JENNIFER BELL-ELLWANGER – *Director of Policy and Program Studies Service, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, U.S. Department of Education*

Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger is director of the Policy and Program Studies Services at the U.S. Department of Education. She leads a team of researchers and policy analysts who provide analytic support and research expertise to enable Department staff to make evidence-based decisions, inform policy development by analyzing data, and conduct objective reviews of Department products, including reports and speeches. Bell-Ellwanger holds a bachelor's degree in education and psychology from the Catholic University of America and a master's degree in counseling and personnel services from Fordham University, and completed her doctoral coursework in educational psychology at Fordham University. In 2016, Bell-Ellwanger was awarded the Secretary's Executive Leadership Award which recognizes senior executives who have demonstrated effective leadership and a commitment to excellence in public service.

MELISSA L. BRADLEY – *Professor of Practice at the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University*

Melissa L. Bradley is a tri-sector leader with more than 20 years of entrepreneurship, investment and leadership experience. She is the inaugural director of the American University Center for Innovation in the Capital, and executive in residence at the Kogod School of Business at American University. In September 2016, Melissa was named co-chair of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE). She is a serial entrepreneur and founder of The Entrepreneurial Development Institute, an international, non-governmental entrepreneurship organization, serving youth, ages 7 to 21, and their families. Bradley served as a presidential appointee under President Obama from 2012-2015. From 2014-2015 she served as acting director of the Social Innovation Fund. Melissa holds a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from the School of Business at Georgetown University, and a master's degree in business administration and marketing from American University Kogod School of Business.

GWEN CORLEY CREIGHTON – *Director of Richmond Promise Neighborhood, Peter Paul Development Center*

Gwen Corley Creighton is the lead architect of Richmond Promise Neighborhood, a place-based, two-generation education initiative. Her 30-years+ professional career has included software training,

leadership development, board development, and community development. Gwen holds a Master of Arts degree in education with a focus on organization development and training.

MICHELLE GILLIARD, Ph.D. – *Partner, Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP)*

Michelle Gilliard is a partner with Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP), a high engagement philanthropic investment firm which provides significant multi-year growth capital and strategic management support to nonprofits serving children and youth of low-income families in the National Capital Region. She manages a multi-million dollar portfolio of nonprofit organizations and initiatives. For more than 20 years, Gilliard has worked on a broad range of social issues affecting low-income populations. Nonprofit capacity building and expanding educational and occupational opportunity characterize the twin focal points of her work. Gilliard received a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Michigan, a master's degree in sociology from Brown University, an executive master's degree in international service from American University, and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Dayton. She is on the inaugural board of the Excel Center Adult Public Charter School in Washington, DC.

NAOMI GOLDSTEIN, Ph.D. – *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

Naomi Goldstein joined ACF as director of the OPRE Division of Child and Family Development in 2000. She became director of OPRE in 2004 and deputy assistant secretary for Planning, Research and Evaluation in 2015. Prior to her work at OPRE, she directed the United States Postal Service Commission on a "Safe and Secure Workplace," served as project manager for the Urban Institute's "Assessing the New Federalism" project, and as executive officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at HHS. Earlier in her career, she worked in the Massachusetts state government and developed infant mortality prevention programs at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Goldstein received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Yale University, a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government, and a Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University. She earned the Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executive in 2012.

AMBER HALEY – *Ph.D. Candidate, University of North Carolina; Former Faculty/Research Epidemiologist, Center on Society and Health, Virginia Commonwealth University*

Amber Haley is a Ph.D. student at University at North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health. She has served as the associate director of the Community Engagement Core for the Center for Translational Science at Virginia Commonwealth University where she worked to develop university-wide infrastructure to support community-engaged research. Amber holds masters-level training in epidemiology and has managed projects funded by the National Institutes of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation. She has previous experience working in various communities, including subsidized housing residents in Richmond, overseas communities in Burma, China, and Thailand, and with a range of public service volunteer activities in Chicago and Richmond.

MARY HYDE, Ph.D. – *Director of Research and Evaluation, Corporation for National and Community Service*

Dr. Mary Hyde, a community psychologist and professional program evaluator, is the director of the CNCS Office of Research and Evaluation. Mary is responsible for advancing the evidence base for national service programs, supporting research on civic engagement, and fostering a culture of evaluation within the agency and the national service field. Prior to joining the agency, Mary developed her unique skill set by directing and managing both national and local program evaluations.

MOLLY IRWIN, Ph.D. – *Chief Evaluation Officer, U.S. Department of Labor*

Molly Irwin is the chief evaluation officer for the U.S. Department of Labor. She is responsible for coordinating the Department's evaluation agenda and working with DOL agencies to design and

implement evaluations. Dr. Irwin has more than 20 years of experience planning, leading, and conducting large-scale research and evaluation projects and working with policy makers, researchers, and practitioners to build and use evidence with the goal of improving public programs. She has more than seven years of Federal experience in DOL's Chief Evaluation Office and the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation in HHS's Administration for Children and Families. Prior to coming to the federal government, Dr. Irwin led research projects and initiatives in local and state government, the private sector, and academia. She holds a Ph.D. in social welfare from the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University and a master's degree in public health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

CHRISTOPHER M. JONES, Pharm.D., M.P.H. – *Science Policy Division Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

Christopher M. Jones currently serves as the director of the Division of Science Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Division serves as the ASPE lead on public health and biomedical science issues and initiatives and is responsible for policy coordination; long-range planning; legislative development; economic, program, and regulatory analysis; and evaluation focused on the HHS science agencies CDC, FDA, NIH, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). Dr. Jones previously served as senior advisor in the Office of Public Health Strategy and Analysis in the Office of the Commissioner at the FDA, led CDC's drug abuse and overdose activities, and served as senior public health advisor to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

LORI KAPLAN – *President and CEO, Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)*

Lori Kaplan is the president and CEO of the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC). She has led LAYC to its national prominence as an award-winning network of youth programs in Washington DC since 1987. Under Kaplan's direction, LAYC has helped guide thousands of low-income youth to better opportunity, while creating pioneering organizations and public charter schools. Kaplan serves on the board of DC Alliance for Youth Advocates, and Youth Radio and Youth Media International, and serves as an advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative America on the Reconnecting Youth work group. Kaplan has received numerous awards including Washingtonian of the Year in 1997, the Lewis Hine Award for her work on child labor issues, the Children's Champion award by DC Action for Children, Community Champion Award from the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, and was named one of Washington's 50 influencers by the Washington Informer Charities.

SEUNG KIM – *Director of Financial Stability, Local Initiatives Support (LISC)*

As the senior program director of LISC's Family Income and Wealth Building unit, Seung Kim helps LISC offices throughout the country design and establish Financial Opportunity Centers. She also leads her team to implement and test innovative initiatives such as Bridges to Career Opportunities, with a strong focus on outcomes measurement. Prior to joining the LISC national staff in 2012, she worked as a consultant and financial coach with LISC Chicago with its Centers for Working Families and with the national office on Financial Opportunity Centers. Earlier, Kim was a vice president in fixed income analytics for ANB Financial Group in Chicago and an associate in trading and analytics for Performance Trust Companies. She has a bachelor's degree in economics from Northwestern University and a master's degree in business administration from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.

YANNA LAMBRINIDOU, Ph.D. – *Adjunct Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech; President, Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives*

Yanna Lambrinidou is the founder of the nonprofit organization, Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives. Since 2007, she has conducted research on the 2001-2004 Washington, D.C. lead-in-water crisis and its aftermath. Dr. Lambrinidou co-founded Virginia Tech's graduate class "Engineering Ethics and the

Public.” From 2014 to 2015, Dr. Lambrinidou served on the EPA National Drinking Water Advisory Council, Lead and Copper Rule Workgroup, and was the group’s sole dissenting member. In 2016, Dr. Lambrinidou testified at the U.S. House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee hearing on “The Flint Water Crisis: Lessons for Protecting America’s Children.” She serves on Michigan Governor Rick Snyder’s Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee, which aims to develop long-term solutions to Flint’s drinking water crisis.

ANURAG MANTHA – *Ph.D. Student, Virginia Tech*

Anurag Mantha is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech. He has a Bachelor of Technology degree in civil engineering from GITAM University, India, and a Master of Science degree in environmental engineering from Virginia Tech. His research interests lie in the field of drinking water and his master's research was related to treating hexavalent chromium in drinking water. As part of his doctoral studies, he is examining water infrastructure in the built environment with a focus on hot water systems and premises plumbing with the aim of optimizing systems for energy performance in tandem with protecting public health.

JENNIFER McARDLE – *Civic Engagement Manager, United Way of Genessee County, and Chief Service Officer, City of Flint*

Jennifer McArdle is the civic engagement manager at United Way of Genessee County and the chief service officer for the City of Flint, MI. She oversees the Flint National Service Accelerator, an initiative to scale up the number and effectiveness of national service members and programs serving the greater Flint community. Jennifer previously directed a state-wide AmeriCorps VISTA program at the Michigan Nonprofit Association and is a two-time VISTA alumna. She holds a Master of Arts degree in international affairs from Ohio University.

ASIM MISHRA – *Chief of Staff, Corporation for National and Community Service*

As Chief of Staff at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), Asim Mishra serves as a senior advisor to the CEO, provides a leadership role to senior staff and guidance on broad policy issues and key Administration and agency relationships. Asim came to Washington D.C. to serve in the Obama Administration as Deputy Chief of Staff at CNCS in April, 2010. Prior to CNCS, Asim served as Director of the Urban Health Initiative (UHI) at the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC), where he directed a key institutional initiative to improve health outcomes through strategic partnerships and led several medical center departments and community partners to implement community-based models of practice. As a part of the UHI, Asim also directed the operations for South Side Healthcare Collaborative, a partnership of 19 community health centers and the UCMC emergency department. While there, he also spearheaded the development of external volunteer programs to connect UCMC staff, faculty and medical students to the neighboring Southside community. Previously, Asim was a Community Education Manager at the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago and, perhaps mostly importantly, an AmeriCorps member at Public Allies in Chicago.

RUTH CURRAN NEILD, Ph.D. – *Director of Policy and Research, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education*

Ruth Curran Neild is the deputy director for policy and research at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). She has been with IES since 2011 and was delegated the duties of the IES director in July, 2015. Previously she served as the commissioner of the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE) and as associate commissioner for NCEE’s knowledge utilization division. In her time at IES, Dr. Neild has focused on expanding partnerships between researchers and practitioners, improving communication and dissemination efforts, and ensuring IES is supporting a culture of research

use by educators, policy leaders, and decision makers. Prior to joining IES, Dr. Neild was a research scientist at The Johns Hopkins University Center for Social Organization of Schools. Dr. Neild earned her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania and her undergraduate degree in history and sociology from Bryn Mawr College.

KATHRYN NEWCOMER, Ph.D. – *Director of the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University, and President Elect for the American Evaluation Association*

Kathryn Newcomer is the director of the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University where she teaches public and nonprofit program evaluation and research design. She routinely conducts research and training for federal and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations on performance measurement and program evaluation, and has designed and conducted evaluations for many U.S. federal agencies and dozens of nonprofit organizations. Dr. Newcomer has published five books, including the most recent edition of, “The Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation,” and authored numerous articles in journals including the Public Administration Review. Dr. Newcomer is incoming president of the American Evaluation Association, an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and currently serves on the Comptroller General’s Educators’ Advisory Panel. She has received two Fulbright awards and the Elmer Staats Award for Achievements in Government Accountability. She has lectured on performance measurement and public program evaluation in countries around the world.

SUSAN PETERS – *Director of Special Projects, Community Foundation of Greater Flint*

Sue Peters is the director of special projects at the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and provides support for the Flint Child Health & Development Fund and related activities. She brings a deep background in capacity building, project management, and community development, having been a senior program officer with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) in its Flint, Michigan office for eight years. As a past member of the C.S. Mott Foundation's, Flint and Pathways Out of Poverty team she was responsible for place-based grant making and managing a national microenterprise grant portfolio. Peters served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia, South America. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Carroll College and a Master of Arts degree in policy studies from Johns Hopkins University.

ANDREA ROBLES, Ph.D. – *Research and Evaluation Manager, Corporation for National and Community Service*

Andrea Robles manages projects related to capacity building and civic engagement as well as the newly established National Service and Civic Research Competition for institutions of higher education. She specializes in participatory research and is developing several new initiatives to incorporate this approach into CNCS work. Andrea has 20 years of experience conducting research on an array of local, regional, and global economic and community development issues. She has also taught research and evaluation methods and design to undergraduate and graduate students. Andrea has a Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University; a Master of Arts degree in international development from the American University; and, a Master of Science degree and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

DEBORAH DE SANTIS – *President and CEO, Corporation for Supportive House (CSH)*

Deborah De Santis has been president and CEO of the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) since 2007. CSH helps communities throughout the country create permanent affordable housing with services that prevent and end homelessness. Her efforts have led to the creation of an internal CSH Innovations Team, a mobile group of experts who travel the country assisting communities with supportive housing development. Previously, as CSH’s New Jersey Director, Ms. De Santis tripled the state program’s lending

portfolio, successfully advocated for the creation of New Jersey's \$200 million Special Needs Housing Trust Fund, and helped launch a statewide grassroots organization to advance the development of 100,000 units of affordable housing. Ms. De Santis has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Babson College. She resides in New Jersey with her partner and two children.

WENDY SPENCER - *CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service*

Wendy Spencer began serving as Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) on April 9, 2012, shortly after being nominated by President Obama and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Under Spencer's leadership, CNCS has launched new partnerships; expanded services for veterans and military families; responded to many severe disasters; engaged bipartisan elected officials; and increased the use of evaluation and evidence-based approaches. Spencer's management career spans 32 years and includes leadership roles in the government, nonprofit, and private sectors. Prior to joining CNCS, Spencer served as CEO of the Florida Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and as Director of the Florida Park Service. To learn more about CNCS, visit NationalService.gov and follow @WendyCNCS on Twitter.

EMILY ZIMMERMAN Ph.D. – *Director of Community Engagement, Center on Society and Health, Virginia Commonwealth University*

Emily Zimmerman is a sociologist and director of community-engaged research at the Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Society and Health where she works closely with the Engaging Richmond community-university research team. Her research focuses on social determinants of health and stakeholder engagement in research. Dr. Zimmerman has expertise in quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, mixed methods research, and community-based participatory research.