



Employability

A National Imperative

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

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Speaker Biographies



Mohamad Ali

Mohamad Ali is president and CEO of Carbonite, where he leads a global team engaged in developing and delivering the next generation of data protection solutions. Previously, Ali served as chief strategy officer at Hewlett Packard, where he played a pivotal role in the company's turnaround. At IBM, he led the creation of the firm's \$8 billion business analytics software unit, and at Avaya, he oversaw the company's \$2 billion services group. He was also the CEO of the Workforce Optimization division of Aspect Software. He serves on the boards of iRobot, Oxfam America and the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council. He is also a member of NEBHE's Commission on Higher Education & Employability.

Ali holds a bachelor's degree in computer engineering as well as a bachelor's in history, and a master's in electrical engineering from Stanford University.



Tara Amaral

Tara Amaral is Senior Vice President of the Talent Acquisition Group at Fidelity Investments.

Since March 2014, Amaral is responsible for enterprise recruiting, social media development, strategic talent acquisition projects, and overseeing Fidelity's staffing group which attracts and attains talent across all business units of Fidelity Investments worldwide.

Before recently joining Fidelity Investments, Amaral worked at New York Life and launched initiatives there to strengthen its employer brand and contributed to building a shared services team. Prior to New York Life, she led the global strategy and North American staffing organization at ADP where she was responsible for filling almost 11,000 roles annually and was the company's chief diversity officer. Her experience also includes leading a team of more than 500 professionals at Hewett Associates providing human resources outsourcing recruiting services to more than a dozen clients.

Amaral received a bachelor's degree in organizational behavior from Brown University.



Joseph E. Aoun

Joseph E. Aoun is the seventh president of Northeastern University and a respected voice on global and experiential education. An internationally renowned scholar in linguistics, Aoun joined Northeastern from the University of Southern California's College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, where he was the inaugural holder of the Anna H. Bing Dean's Chair.

He holds a doctorate in linguistics and philosophy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and advanced degrees from the University of Paris VIII and Saint Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Aoun was named a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques by the French government. He is a member

of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a past chair of the American Council on Education. He is a recipient of the Academic Leadership Award granted by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.



Robert D. Atkinson

Robert D. Atkinson is founder and president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), where he leads a team of policy analysts and fellows that is shaping the debate and setting the agenda on critical issues at the intersection of technological innovation and public policy.

Atkinson's books include *Big is Beautiful: Debunking the Mythology of Small Business* (MIT Press, 2018); *Innovation Economics: The Race for Global Advantage* (Yale, 2012), and *The Past and Future of America's Economy: Long Waves of Innovation That Power Cycles of Growth* (Edward Elgar, 2005).

President Clinton appointed Atkinson to the Commission on Workers, Communities, and Economic Change in the New Economy; the Bush administration appointed him chair of the congressionally created National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission; and the Obama administration appointed him to the National Innovation and Competitiveness Strategy Advisory Board. He also has served as co-chair of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's China-U.S. Innovation Policy Experts Group Policy; as a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship; and on the U.S. State Department's Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information.

Atkinson was previously vice president of the Progressive Policy Institute, where he directed the Technology & New Economy Project. He also served as the first executive director of the Rhode Island Economic Policy Council (RIEPC), a public-private partnership whose members included the state's governor, legislative leaders, and both corporate and labor leaders. Before that, he was a project director at the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, where, among other projects, he spearheaded a seminal report examining the impact of the information technology revolution on America's urban areas.

Atkinson holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Oregon, which named him a distinguished alumnus in 2014, and a doctorate in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, where he was awarded the prestigious Joseph E. Pogue Fellowship.



Estela Mara Bensimon

Estela Mara Bensimon is a professor of higher education at the University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education and director of the Center for Urban Education (CUE), which she founded in 1999. With a singular focus on increasing racial equity in higher education outcomes for students of color, she developed the Equity Scorecard—a process for using inquiry to drive changes in institutional practice and culture.

Bensimon has published extensively about equity, organizational learning, practitioner inquiry and change. Her most recent books include *Critical Approaches to the Study of Higher Education* (co-edited with Ana Martinez-Aleman and Brian Pusser) which was selected as the 2016 Outstanding Publication by the American Education Research Association, Division of Postsecondary Education; *Engaging the Race Question: Accountability and Equity in U.S. Higher Education* (with Alicia C. Dowd), and *Confronting Equity Issues on Campus: Implementing the Equity Scorecard in Theory and Practice* (coedited with Lindsey Malcom).

Bensimon served as president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education in 2005-06 and vice president of the American Education Research Association, Division on Postsecondary Education from 1992 to 1994. She was associate dean of the USC Rossier School of Education from 1996-2000 and a Fulbright Scholar to Mexico in 2002.

She holds a doctorate in higher education from Teachers College, Columbia University.



Joanne Berger-Sweeney

Joanne Berger-Sweeney, the 22nd president of Trinity College, is a distinguished neuroscientist and champion for innovation and entrepreneurship. Before beginning at Trinity in 2014, she was dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University, and prior to that, a faculty member and associate dean at Wellesley College.

Berger-Sweeney serves on several Hartford-area boards, including MetroHartford Alliance, Hartford HealthCare, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, and the Capital Region Development Authority. She recently co-chaired a working group of presidents from 38 Connecticut colleges and universities, the Higher Education Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative, which developed a master plan to foster innovation and entrepreneurship at in-state public and independent institutions of higher education. Additionally, Trinity College is a key partner in the Hartford/East Hartford Innovation Places Planning Team that has been selected to receive a share of \$30 million in state funding to spark economic development and investment in innovation.

Berger-Sweeney holds an undergraduate degree in psychobiology from Wellesley College and a master's in environmental health sciences from the University of California, Berkeley. She completed postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Health (INSERM) in Paris, France. While working on her doctorate in neurotoxicology from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, she did the proof of concept work on Razadyne, which went on to be the second-most-used Alzheimer's drug in the world.



Roger Berry

Roger Berry is CEO of Fullbridge. He brings 20-plus years of experience in private equity and managing growth-stage companies. Berry has a global vision for business, having worked extensively in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Berry serves on several boards, including the Managing Board of Aptima Ventures, the commercial arm of Aptima Inc., which has done over \$300 million of research and development for the design, measurement and assessment of skills and team training for the U.S. military, NASA and Department of Health and Human Services. Berry is a graduate of Harvard University and co-teaches a course on Global Private Equity at the Tufts Fletcher School Program on International Business.



Susan Brennan

Susan Brennan is associate vice president of University Career Services at Bentley University, where she leads a strengths-based team of 20 staff and 16 students dedicated to serving all Bentley undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, employers, and families.

Over the past decade, Brennan has put Bentley on the map for delivering impactful career education and outcomes, with 99% of first-year students participating in her team's ground breaking career development course and 99% of 2016 graduates employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduation (92% Knowledge Rate). Bentley was ranked the #1 Career Services and #1 Internship Program in the country by the *Princeton Review* in 2017.

A recognized leader on career-preparedness topics, Brennan is a regular contributor to Bloomberg Radio and *Business Insider*. She serves on the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Board of Directors and chairs the Labor Market and Career Services committee for NEBHE's Commission on Higher Education & Employability.

Brennan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's in education from Harvard University, and an MBA from Babson College.



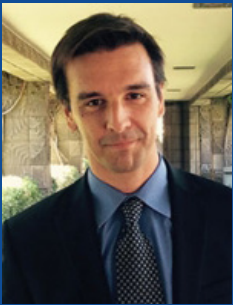
Albert Bunshaft

Albert Bunshaft is senior vice president of global affairs, Americas, at Dassault Systèmes. He is responsible for new business development, academic sales and relationships, and coordination of the company's involvement in institutes and consortia.

Bunshaft's expertise in 3D visualization, computer graphics and engineering-related software tools has been a special focus of his career. He is Dassault Systèmes' leading voice for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in the U.S.

Bunshaft is co-chair of the STEM Innovation Task Force of STEMconnector, a consortium of organizations concerned with STEM education and the future of human capital in the U.S. He is a member of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, which advances a pro-growth policy agenda to US government representatives, and of a National Academy of Engineering committee on the integration of STEM, humanities and arts. In addition, he serves on the Massachusetts Governor's STEM Advisory Council and is a board member of the Massachusetts High Technology Council and the New York Hall of Science. He is a member of the President's Council of the Olin College of Engineering and the Advisory Board of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY).

He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics from SUNY Albany and a master's in computer engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Scott Carlson

Scott Carlson, who joined *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in 1999, writes about a range of issues: college management and finance, the cost and value of higher education, buildings, campus planning, energy, architecture and sustainability. He also contributes to ideas coverage in *The Chronicle Review*. A former technology reporter at the *Chronicle*, he hosted the Tech Therapy podcast from 2007 to 2010, and he also ran the "Buildings & Grounds" blog with Lawrence Biemiller.

In 2006, Carlson was awarded first prize for beat reporting from the Education Writers Association for his work covering academic libraries.

Before joining the *Chronicle*, Carlson worked at the *Star Tribune* and *City Pages*, both in Minneapolis, and at *City Paper* in Baltimore, where he wrote about arts and culture. He has also written for national magazines like *The Utne Reader* and *Dwell*, and has been a contributor to *Grist*, a popular site for environmental news.

He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, where he studied English literature, with a concentration on contemporary and utopian/dystopian literature.



Andrea Comer

Andrea Comer is executive director of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA)'s Education & Workforce Partnership and director of CBIA's workforce development and training. She manages initiatives designed to help the state's businesses become more competitive by developing a skilled workforce. A former elected Hartford Board of Education and Connecticut State Board of Education member, Comer has spent the past two decades working to improve the lives of children and strengthen communities. Prior to joining CBIA, she served as chief development officer for an education management organization, where she oversaw communications, outreach and fundraising.

Comer has served as project manager and communications director for the cities of Hartford and New Haven, as a senior program officer for The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, and as a consultant on youth initiatives for the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. As the first female president of the Greater Hartford African American Alliance, Comer developed The Connect, a mentoring project that paired male

Hartford middle school students with young professional males of color.

Comer serves on the boards of the Capital Community College Foundation and Teach for America Connecticut. She is a member of NEBHE's Commission on Higher Education & Employability.



David Daniels

David Daniels currently serves as President of Academic Partnerships where he leads the Business Development efforts for the organization. Daniels joined the company after a long tenure with Pearson, where he most recently served as President and Managing Director.

During his time at Pearson he initiated and led its service business, launched a number of functions including academic research, learning design, data analytics and multimedia course production and oversaw Pearson Embanet and its comprehensive services to universities throughout the United States.

Daniels holds a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University Bloomington.



Freddy Cruz

Freddy Cruz is a senior at Eastern Connecticut State University. He will be graduating with a double major in Business Administration and Business Information Systems in the spring of 2018. Upon graduation he intends to work as a systems analyst before pursuing a Master's degree.

Cruz' future goal as a systems analyst is to help companies execute their business and technology plans as it pertains to technology and business processes. He will be interning at XL Group Insurance Company in Hartford during the summer of 2017. He is also involved on campus as a resident assistant and president of the Organization of Latin American Students.

Cruz also serves as a peer mentor and is involved as an active member in several other organizations on campus.



Brenda Dann-Messier

Brenda Dann-Messier is the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education for Rhode Island.

Throughout her career, Dann-Messier has focused on promoting student success and developing the workforce at every level. Under President Obama, she served as assistant secretary of education of career, technical, and adult education, where she led the U.S. Department of Education's efforts in adult education and career and technical education and helped shape the administration's policies on community colleges and correctional education.

In 2013, Dann-Messier was named acting assistant secretary for postsecondary education. She has also worked as an education consultant, most recently with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), where she helped states develop integrated pathways for college- and career-readiness.

Dann-Messier began her career in higher education at the Community College of Rhode Island, before taking a position in the Education Department of the Clinton administration and later serving as president of Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center in Providence. She served on the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education from 2006 to 2009 and on the Board of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority from 2007 to 2009.

Dann-Messier holds a bachelor's degree in history and secondary education and a master's in instructional technology from Rhode Island College. She holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Johnson & Wales University.



Robert A. DiMuccio

Robert A. DiMuccio is chair, president and CEO of Amica Mutual Insurance Company.

DiMuccio joined Amica in 1991 as a vice president in the accounting department. He was promoted to senior vice president in 1994, named treasurer in 1996 and elected chief financial officer in 2001. During these years, he remained a member of Amica's accounting department. He was named executive vice president in 2003, and president and CEO in 2005. In 2008, he was elected the company's chair.

DiMuccio serves on the Board of Governors of the Property Casualty Insurers (PCI) Association of America. He is also president of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council. In addition, he serves on the boards of the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, the Property & Liability Resource Bureau, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, the Washington Trust Company and Crossroads Rhode Island. He has also received the Paul Harris Fellow Award, given by Rotary International for outstanding community service.



Maura M. Dunn

Maura M. Dunn was named vice president of human resources and administration for General Dynamics Electric Boat in May 2014. She is responsible for safety and industrial hygiene; security and administration; labor relations; staffing and site administration; salary administration and employee relations; health, wellness and disability benefits and facility master plan and training.

Most recently, she spent nine years at General Dynamics' Advanced Information Systems (AIS) where she was vice president of human resources and administration responsible for intelligence, surveillance and cyber services to a variety of U.S. government agencies.

Prior to joining General Dynamics, she served in a variety of leadership roles at KBR, including chief operating officer of the Infrastructure Americas business unit and vice president of global strategy and marketing for operations and maintenance and vice president of administration. She is a member of NEBHE's Commission on Higher Education & Employability.

Dunn holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond and an MBA from Averett University.



Susan Fallon Brown

Susan Fallon Brown is vice president of global strategy and business development for Monster Government Solutions, which provides cloud-based software and services to federal and state government agencies to find, hire and develop high-performing workforces.

Fallon Brown has two decades of product, marketing and policy experience in the areas of workforce, diversity, and strategic human capital management. She also plays a leadership role for programs advancing veteran employment for Monster and its subsidiary, Military.com.

Fallon Brown is a board member of the National Job Corps Association for Youth Opportunities, serves on the executive committee of the Northern Virginia Technology Council's Veteran Employment Initiative, and serves as co-chair of the Mass. High Tech Council's Talent Development Committee and NewEnglandTechVets.org. She is a member of KKR's Veteran Advisory Council, and serves as an advisor to the USC Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families as well as to ThreeWire Systems, LLC.

Prior to joining Monster, Fallon Brown's experience included an executive role at a venture-backed company that built the first global online talent and funding exchange for the R&D community; investor education and marketing positions with the Nasdaq Stock Market and National Association of Securities Dealers (now FINRA); strategic account management with a Washington, DC-based public affairs firm, and on the

headquarters staff of Navy League of the U.S., a defense industry advocacy and veteran support organization.

Fallon Brown is a graduate of the University of Virginia.



Julie D. Grzeda

Julie D. Grzeda is director of global leadership programs and university relations at GE Corporate Human Resources.

With more than 20 years experience as a human resources leader building culture and capabilities for GE, she currently leads a team and strategy focused on the early career talent pipelines for GE. From university recruiting, internships and rotational development programs, her teams are inspiring, guiding and challenging the next generation of leaders and innovators for GE in every business across the globe.

Grzeda has progressed through human resources roles of increasing responsibility and a wide range of GE businesses and markets. In each role, she has contributed to improving leadership team effectiveness, engaging employees and developing people.

Grzeda holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Indiana University and is a graduate of GE's prestigious Human Resources Leadership Program.



Eric Hall

Eric Hall is dean of internship and careers at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass., where he provides leadership and coordination of the college's hallmark internship program and career center, along with their inter-related services for both the undergraduate and graduate colleges.

Prior to this position, he worked in the field of career services at a variety of institutions including Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland College Park and the University of Florida.

His research interests include the career development of diverse populations, notably first-generation college students and career progression of entry and mid-level employees. Recently, his work with a research team focusing on first-generation college students' career development beliefs and experiences resulted in a publication with *The Journal of Career Development*.

Hall holds an undergraduate degree in kinesiology: sports studies from the University of New Hampshire and a graduate degree in higher education: student affairs from the University of Connecticut.



Kurt Heissenbittel

Kurt Heissenbittel joined Fidelity Investments as vice president and head of university relations in Fidelity's Talent & Leadership group in March of 2016.

Heissenbittel leads the University Relations team, determining and executing the nationwide college recruiting strategy for the firm. With a focus on developing strategies for attracting the next generation of talent, Heissenbittel directs the team in the areas of marketing and communications, university selection and relationship management, early engagement and internship programs, conversion planning and executive engagement.

Prior to joining Fidelity, Heissenbittel spent his career in academia most recently at Northeastern University ultimately as director of admissions. With an eye toward creating highly personalized experiences for students and families, he led a team of admissions professionals that recruited, selected and enrolled Northeastern's undergraduate class. He is a member of NEBHE's Commission on Higher Education & Employability.

Heissenbuttel holds a bachelor's degree in sports and event management from Johnson & Wales University, a master's in higher education from Suffolk University and a doctorate in law and policy from Northeastern.



John B. King Jr.

John B. King Jr. is president and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to identify and close educational opportunity and achievement gaps.

King served as U.S. Secretary of Education in the Obama administration.

Prior to his role as secretary, King carried out the duties of deputy secretary, overseeing policies and programs related to P-12 education, English learners, special education, innovation and agency operations. King joined the department following his post as New York State Education Commissioner. He began his career as a high school social studies teacher and middle school principal.

He holds a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University, a law degree from Yale Law School, as well as a master's in teaching and a doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University.



Gretchen Koch

Gretchen Koch is executive director of workforce development strategies at Creating IT Futures, the foundation arm of the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA). She joined the foundation in 2014 after 11 years of developing national workforce initiatives for CompTIA, where she parlayed her knowledge of industry and educational systems to become a nationally known change agent for IT workforce development.

Koch works closely with the U.S. Department of Education on its Data Sharing Project and currently leads efforts with the State of Illinois and the Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance to develop and promote IT career pipelines in the state. She also is the National IT Career Cluster Leader for the States' Career Clusters Initiative and the Lead Entity for the IT Learning Exchange for Illinois' Race to the Top Pathways Initiative.

Before joining CompTIA and its foundation, Koch had more than 20 years of experience in IT management at Digital Equipment, Compaq and Hewlett-Packard corporations. Her most recent position in the IT Industry was national education manager, Global Services Division at Compaq and Hewlett-Packard Corporation.

Koch holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, a master's from Harvard Graduate School of Education and an MBA from Simmons Graduate School of Business.



David Kozhuk

David Kozhuk is the founder and CEO of Boston-based uConnect. After graduating from UMass Amherst in 2008, Kozhuk began his career in finance, working as an analyst for Brook Venture Partners. After a year, he joined the founding team at Arctaris Capital, where he worked for five years as part of a small team that raised \$80 million-plus in capital and closed 15-plus transactions.

As part of a failed experience trying to recruit students at his alma mater, Kozhuk realized that the underconsumption of career services was having a profound impact on student success and institutional effectiveness. This experience inspired him to launch uConnect in 2013.

uConnect is a graduate of the LearnLaunchX accelerator and has received numerous awards for technology and innovation. Today, uConnect is an emerging player in the education technology ecosystem, working with top institutions across the country to make career education a bigger part of the campus culture.



Laurie G. Lachance

Laurie G. Lachance is Thomas College's fifth President and the first female and alumna to lead the college in its 124-year history.

From 2004 to 2012, Lachance served as president and CEO of the Maine Development Foundation. Prior to that, she served three governors as the Maine state economist. Prior to that, she was the corporate economist at Central Maine Power Company.

A frequent author and speaker on leadership, education and the economy of Maine, Lachance was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame in 2014. She has been the recipient of several awards, most recently recognized by *Maine* magazine as one of the 50 Mainers Charting the State's Future and making the Mainebiz NEXT list as a trailblazer in her industry. She chairs the Board of Educare Central Maine, is a trustee of Foxcroft Academy, a board member of Educate Maine, and a member of NEBHE's Commission on Higher Education & Employability.

Lachance holds an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and an MBA from Thomas College.



Gloria Cordes Larson

Gloria Cordes Larson was named president of Bentley University in July 2007.

Before joining Bentley, Larson served as co-chair of the Government Strategies Group at Foley Hoag LLP from 1996 to 2007.

Under Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, she was secretary of economic affairs from 1993 to 1996 and secretary of consumer affairs and business regulation from 1991 to 1993.

Prior to her state service, she managed business and regulatory issues as a senior official with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), including as an attorney advisor to the FTC commissioner from 1981 to 1988, and as deputy director of consumer protection at the FTC from 1990 to 1991.

In January 2005, she was appointed to the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Board. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino tapped her to serve on the city's Host Committee for the 2004 Democratic National Convention. She is a director of Unum Group and lead director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. She is a board member on the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, for which she is the newly elected chair; Boston Center for the Arts; Roger Williams University School of Law; Massachusetts Women's Forum; Rosie's Place; and The Dimock Center.

Larson holds a bachelor's degree from Vassar College and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.



Todd Leach

Todd J. Leach is the seventh chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire (USNH), New Hampshire's four-year public higher education system comprising the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, Keene State College and Granite State College. The system touts one of the best public returns on investment with the lowest per-capita state support and one of the highest degree attainment rates of any public system, as well as the lowest student loan default rates of any public system in the country.

Prior to serving as chancellor, Leach was president of Granite State College, the primary public provider of online education in the state of New Hampshire. During his tenure as president, the college became the fastest growing public college in New England, achieving record enrollment levels. It also transformed from undergraduate programs only to offering its first master's programs. Granite State achieved a top 30 national

ranking from US News for online colleges and was ranked in the top five institutions nationally on the metric of social mobility by Washington Monthly. Prior to his presidency at Granite State, Leach served as the senior associate dean of the College of Professional Studies (CPS), where he oversaw all CPS academic programs and faculty and led the development of over 20 master's and doctoral degree programs. He also provided oversight for Northeastern Online and served as the executive director of the School of Education.

Leach holds an associate degree from Mass Bay Community College, a bachelor's from Worcester State College, an MBA from Bentley University and a doctorate from Northeastern University. Both institutions honored Leach in 2012 and 2011, respectively, with Distinguished Alumni Awards. In addition, Leach completed higher education programs at Harvard University.



Laurie Leshin

Laurie Leshin is in her third year as president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

She is committed to elevating WPI's impact in communities worldwide, a theme developed in WPI's strategic plan through efforts to strengthen WPI's already-distinctive undergraduate programs, while advancing graduate education and research. In recognition of this focus, *The Wall Street Journal* recently named WPI the #1 University in the nation for integrating excellent teaching with outstanding research.

Leshin brings to WPI more than 20 years of experience as a leader in academia and government service, and an accomplished record as a space scientist.

Prior to joining WPI, she served as dean of the School of Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. While at Rensselaer, Leshin continued her work as a scientist for the Mars Curiosity Rover mission and was appointed by President Obama to the advisory board for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. Prior to joining Rensselaer, Leshin spent six years at NASA in several senior executive roles, including as deputy director of NASA's future human spaceflight program.

Before joining NASA, Leshin was the Dee and John Whiteman Dean's Distinguished Professor of Geological Sciences at Arizona State University (ASU). While at ASU, she was appointed to serve on the Commission for the Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy.

Leshin serves on a number of boards and commissions, including the Governor's STEM Advisory Council Executive Committee, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts High Technology Council and the Massachusetts Digital Health Council.

She holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from ASU and a doctorate in geochemistry from the California Institute of Technology.



Jim Lowe

Jim Lowe was appointed assistant vice provost and executive director of the Center for Career Development at the University of Connecticut in 2013.

Prior to his appointment, Lowe served as assistant dean, executive director, external relations and outreach at UConn's School of Business, overseeing the undergraduate and MBA populations' career development programs and initiatives, Veteran Affairs, Diversity Initiatives, Marketing/Communications and External Relations departments.

Before joining UConn, Lowe spent 10 years with Lee Hecht Harrison, a human capital firm, primarily in its Manhattan offices. During that time he was a senior vice president and general manager, overseeing all operational, financial, human resources and marketing/sales functions at the firm's international headquarters practice office, where he developed and executed strategic sales initiatives for the firm's professional services,

focusing on Fortune 1000 and mid-tier companies.

Lowe has also held senior-level executive positions at a number of international companies such as Leslie's Poolmart, Warner Bros., and Linens 'N Things.

Lowe holds a bachelor's degree from Fairfield University. He is also a Certified Career Management Professional, and is certified in multiple individual and 360 organizational assessment tools.



Mariela Lucaj

Mariela Lucaj is a nursing student at the Community College of Rhode Island. She immigrated to the United States at five years old with her family in the hopes of achieving the American Dream. She has been Student Government president of her campus for the past year and is running again for the 2017-18 term. It has been her mission to aid other students to achieve their potential and to serve as an advocate. Her long-term goals include serving in a nursing leadership role and advocating for women and children.



Stephen Lynch

Stephen Lynch is director of workforce & economic development services for Burning Glass International.

Lynch's career spans law, workforce development, finance, education and public service. Prior to joining Burning Glass, Lynch was a program director at Jobs for the Future, where he coordinated technical assistance across multiple projects nationally. He also helped to lead a number of initiatives focused on promoting career pathways and skills training for America's low- and mid-skilled workers—and preparing these workers to succeed in traditional and emerging sectors of the U.S. economy.

Lynch has served as a workforce programs specialist for the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, an educator and union president in secondary education, and as contracts/grants manager, for a local workforce investment area in Washington state.

Lynch holds bachelor's degree in political science from College of the Holy Cross and a law degree from Lewis & Clark College Law School in Oregon.



Robert Lytle

Robert Lytle is a managing director of Parthenon-EY in Boston and is co-head of Parthenon's Education group. Lytle was with Parthenon for 15 years before its combination with EY in August 2014. He has led client engagements on general strategy, performance improvement and investment due diligence across a broad spectrum of educational organizations. His clients include high-growth companies, publicly listed global 100 companies, nonprofit institutions, financial investors and international governments.

In addition, Lytle has participated in numerous high-profile corporate turnarounds, mergers, divestitures and privatizations in Europe, North America, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia.

Prior to joining Parthenon, he was with Bain & Company and served as a U.S. Army aviator.

Lytle holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Wharton School of Business and an MBA with high distinction from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.



Keith McNulty

Keith McNulty is the Global Director of People Analytics and Measurement at McKinsey and Company, the management consulting firm.

McNulty oversees all aspects of people measurement, intelligence, analytics and insight at all stages of the employee lifecycle from job application to alumnus. This includes performance assessment and measurement, workforce planning, advanced and predictive analytics, automation, data systems and technology.

Prior to his current role, McNulty designed and led McKinsey's approach to employee selection worldwide, implementing a globally consistent framework and process for assessing talent informed by academic research on I-O psychology and psychometrics. He has worked on topics related to People and People Measurement all over the world, including Europe, the U.S. and Latin America, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East.

He holds a doctorate in pure mathematics from Imperial College London. He is also a Certified Career Management Professional, and is certified in multiple individual and 360 organizational assessment tools.



Ben Mones

Ben Mones is the founder and CEO of Fama, a hiring analytics startup based in Los Angeles.

Fama is software that automates social media analysis to help businesses make smarter hiring decisions. The goal is to reduce the incidence of mishire/rehire—both at the executive and entry level.

Mones has held executive roles at software companies focused in the digital media, logistics, and wearables verticals. He is a guest lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management, the University of California Los Angeles, the University of Southern California's Marshall Business School, and has been featured by CNBC, *Fast Company*, TechCrunch and *The Los Angeles Times*.

His undergraduate education was at Vanderbilt University.



Elsa M. Núñez

Elsa M. Núñez has firmly established Eastern's role as Connecticut's only public liberal arts university. Her commitment to access is evidenced by data that shows Eastern has the highest percentage of minority faculty among all colleges and universities in Connecticut. This and other factors have enhanced the retention rates of underrepresented student populations, and have also resulted in Eastern achieving the largest gain in the six-year graduation rate of Latino students from 2004 to 2010, with that measure tripling from 20% to 58%, according to a 2012 report by The Education Trust.

Under Núñez's leadership, Eastern has received several major national recognitions, including being ranked three years in a row by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top 35 public regional universities in the North as a Tier One institution; being recognized for the fifth year in a row by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as a "Great College to Work For"; being named to President Obama's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll; and being included in *The Princeton Review's* list of Best Colleges in the Northeast.

Prior to joining Eastern, Núñez served as vice chancellor for academic and student affairs in the University of Maine System from 2003 to 2006. Before her appointment in Maine, she was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Lesley University. From 1993 to 1997, she was university dean for academic affairs and vice chancellor for student affairs at the City University of New York. She served as associate dean of faculty at the College of Staten Island of The City University of New York from 1986 to 1992. She also has held positions as a tenured faculty member at Ramapo State College, the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York, and Lehman College of the City University of New York. She is the author of *Pursuing Diversity* (Wiley, 1992) and has published numerous articles in the areas of language acquisition, diversity, academic attainment

in higher education, and cultural differences in education and retention.

Núñez holds a bachelor's degree from Montclair State College, a master's from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a doctorate in language education from Rutgers University. She is also a member of NEBHE's Commission on Higher Education & Employability.



Erin Rowland

Erin Rowland is an analytics program manager on the Workplace Data Programs Team at Microsoft.

Rowland is a member of the HR Business Insights organization, which has the charter of enabling data-driven human resources decisions to be made across Microsoft. In her current role, she manages various human resources initiatives regarding all aspects of the employee life cycle.

Prior to this, she was an HR Senior Data Analyst, providing analysis and insights to the Sales, Marketing and Services Group. She began her career with Microsoft in 2006 as a university staffing consultant and then was the first program manager of Microsoft's Finance Rotation Program for high-potential college hires. Rowland holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Boston University.



Alexandria Steinmann

Alexandria Steinmann is a senior at Bentley University, majoring in finance with a minor in entrepreneurial studies. She already knows that after graduation, she will be working as a high-yield bond analyst at Credit Suisse in New York City.

On campus, Steinmann is student director for the Bentley University Career Services Office, president of the Wall Street Club and program manager and committee member for Bentley Service-Learning Center.

Prior to obtaining her full-time position at Credit Suisse, Steinmann completed several other finance-related internships. She was a summer analyst in global capital markets at Credit Suisse during the summer after her junior year and completed an internship as a sales and trading analyst at Weeden and Co. during the summer after her sophomore year. During her sophomore year at Bentley, she participated in internships at UBS and Ameriprise Financial while maintaining a full-time academic schedule. She was also chosen to participate in the Morgan Stanley Sales and Trading Enrichment Program and Credit Suisse Top Talent Program. During the summer after her freshman year, she interned and studied abroad in London, U.K., while traveling to multiple other countries.

She is also a member of NEBHE's Commission on Higher Education & Employability.



Michael K. Thomas

Michael K. Thomas is president and chief executive officer of the New England Board of Higher Education.

Thomas joined NEBHE in 2002 and served as both senior director and senior vice president, directing NEBHE's policy, research and programmatic activities. Thomas has worked in corporate training and human resources and held varied administrative positions at higher education institutions, both public and independent, including as executive assistant to the president at Lesley University.

He has been a faculty member, adjunct professor and lecturer at several universities and served as trustee and vice chair of the board of Worcester State University.

Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Brigham Young University and master's degrees in higher education from Teachers College, Columbia University and Harvard University. He holds a master's of

business administration from Boston University and a doctorate in education and social policy from Harvard University.



Van Ton-Quinlivan

Van Ton-Quinlivan is a nationally recognized leader in workforce development with a proven track record for driving large-scale organizational change. Appointed by California's governor in 2011 as vice chancellor of workforce and economic development for the California Community Colleges, she oversees federal and state funding to advance the workforce mission of the state's 114 community colleges, one of the largest and most complex higher education systems in the nation.

As vice chancellor, Ton-Quinlivan spearheaded the creation of Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy (doingwhatMATTERS.cccco.edu), a unifying framework to improve workforce outcomes for California's 2.1 million community college students and fuel strong regional economies. Named a White House Champion of Change in 2013, she is a board member of National Skills Coalition and the California Council on Science & Technology and serves on the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship.

Prior to her current role, Ton-Quinlivan oversaw workforce development for Pacific Gas & Electric.

She holds degrees from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford Graduate School of Education and Georgetown University.



Michelle R. Weise

Michelle R. Weise is chief innovation officer and senior vice president for workforce strategies at Strada Education Network.

She researches the future of the workforce and how to connect students more directly to pathways to meaningful careers.

Weise previously designed and led the Sandbox CollABorative, the R&D lab of strategy and innovation at Southern New Hampshire University. Before SNHU, Weise was the senior research fellow in higher education at the Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation, vice president of academic affairs at Fidelis Education, and taught at Skidmore College and Stanford University.

A former Fulbright Scholar and graduate of Harvard and Stanford, Weise is the co-author with Clayton Christensen of *Hire Education: Mastery, Modularization, and the Workforce Revolution*, which describes the disruptive potential of online competency-based education aligned to workforce needs. Weise's commentaries and research have been featured in *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *The Boston Globe*, *Inside HigherEd*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The New England Journal of Higher Education*, and *PBS NewsHour*.