

Session 2 Speakers



Erika Berry has been working to improve educational outcomes for students across the South for over a ten years. While teaching middle school math in Charlotte, NC, Erika visited her first charter school and saw first-hand what high expectations and transformational education look like in action – not just in theory. Four years later, she seized upon an opportunity to return to her home state of Mississippi, bringing those same transformational options and ultimately creating the Mississippi Charter Schools Association and later working in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to impact education policies beyond public charter schools. These experiences eventually led her back to North Carolina where she served in the state education agency advising the superintendent’s office on various issues ranging from early literacy to innovative assessments to school discipline. Erika holds a Master of Public Policy in Education Policy from Vanderbilt University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Mississippi.



Katie Cour serves as the President and CEO of the Nashville Public Education Foundation with 20 years of experience in the education, political, and nonprofit sectors. Previously, she was the executive director of Talent Strategy for MNPS, where she developed and implemented strategies for the recruitment, selection, evaluation and retention of great teachers and school leaders. Prior to joining MNPS, Katie was a senior consultant with Education First, a national education policy consulting firm, and also served as a senior analyst and assistant director at the Office of Education Accountability for the Tennessee Comptroller.



Cory Curl serves as Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. She has held positions in public and nonprofit organizations at the state and national levels, including the Tennessee Department of Education and the Governor’s Office of State Policy and Planning. Cory serves as a member of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and as a member of the

advisory board for Teach for America-Appalachia. She is a 1994 recipient of the Kentucky Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet Service Award for her work as a high school student to inform implementation of the Kentucky Education Reform Act. Cory holds a Ph.D. and an MPA from the Martin School, as well as an undergraduate degree from Guilford College.



Elizabeth Fiveash is the Chief Policy Officer for the Tennessee Charter School Center. Prior to joining TCSC, Elizabeth worked in state government relations for ACT and was the Assistant Commissioner for Policy & Legislation for the Tennessee Department of Education. Elizabeth is a native of Alabama and worked in government affairs for eight years in Washington, D.C. prior to moving to Nashville. She received a BA in political science from the University of Alabama and a master's in public policy from Georgetown University.



Lee Harrell is TQEE's Vice President of Advocacy. He works closely with our CEO, partners, and advisors to develop legislative policy proposals, and he oversees TQEE's legislative advocacy and government relations work. Lee's career has been rooted in state education and economic development policy, most recently serving as vice president of state policy for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce where his legislative work ranged from early education to transit policy. Prior to his work with the Chamber, Lee served as director of government relations and staff attorney for the Tennessee School Boards Association where he spearheaded lobbying efforts for numerous education policies and served on the Basic Education Program (BEP) Review Committee.



Drew Kim founded P3 Consulting LLC in 2010. After serving as Policy Chief for Governor Phil Bredesen for six years, Drew also had the privilege to serve as a policy consultant to the Haslam for Governor campaign in 2010. During and since that time, as a strategic advisor, Drew has partnered with mission-driven leaders and organizations involved in reforming education through projects such as Race to the Top/First to the Top, Complete College TN, the Memphis Teacher Effectiveness Initiative (TEI), the development and launching of LIFT Education, and college access programs such as KnoxAchieves, Educate & Grow, and the Tennessee Promise. Drew served as an advisor to Randy Boyd, Special Advisor to the Governor for Higher Education in 2013, and has continued to support the strategic development of Tennessee Promise and Drive to 55.



Reginald White is the External Relations Manager for the Education Trust in Tennessee. Reggie served as a Teach For America Memphis corps member as a kindergarten teacher, serving the promising young scholars of the Frayser community on the city's north side. While teaching in Memphis, he also served as a Policy & Advocacy Fellow at Stand For Children, as a Regional Strategy Team and Political Outreach Committee member for 9-0-ONE, the Organizing Network for Equity, as Shelby County Commissioner Tami Sawyer's Policy Advisor Fellow, a graduate of the New Memphis Embark young professionals program, and worked on several successful issue and political campaigns. Reginald later went on to serve as an Urban Leaders Fellow in Nashville, partnering in statewide teacher diversity efforts and other education research and policy projects with former Tennessee State Board of Education member Wendy Tucker and the Tennessee Educational Equity Coalition. Most recently, he was a policy staffer for House Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08) on Capitol Hill, where his portfolio focused on education, financial services, affordable housing, and tax policy issues.



Jamie Woodson is a longtime leader in education reform in Tennessee, and currently serves as the Principal and Founder, TriStar Strategies, LLC. As a policymaker in the Tennessee General Assembly, she was instrumental in Tennessee's elevation to national prominence in education reform. More recently as executive chairman and CEO of the State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) she has led collaboration on education policy and practice, work that has supported Tennessee's success as the fastest improving state in the nation in K-12 student achievement.

Before joining SCORE in 2011, Woodson served in both houses of the Tennessee General Assembly. During her 12 years in the legislature, where she was chairman of the Education Committee and Speaker Pro Tempore, she spearheaded efforts to identify and support effective teaching, raise academic expectations for Tennessee students, turn around low-performing schools, and support student-focused innovation.