

## ENOUGH IS KNOWN FOR ACTION!

### Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University



**Susan P. Curran** is the Director of the Center for Youth and Communities and Professor of Social Policy and Management. During her nearly 30-year tenure at Brandeis, she co-created, and currently chairs, the Heller School MBA and MPP Programs, taught hundreds of graduate students, and served as Principal Investigator for many evaluation and capacity building projects with government, nonprofits, schools, colleges, businesses, and philanthropic organizations. Susan directs the National Program Office for the Walmart Youth Employability initiative, is Co-PI on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Success initiative, and directed the 2009-2012 USDOL summer youth employability study, "Innovating Under Pressure," under ARRA. She is a Faculty Scholar at the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and Strategic Advisor to the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program, an endowed national internship program launched by President Clinton in 2007 and managed by the Center.

A self-described "academic activist" with one foot in the academy and the other in the community, Susan has worked in all three sectors across the US and overseas on workforce development, management, and policy issues, with a focus on the triple bottom line (economic, social, and environmental impacts) and on employing, educating, and supporting youth. She has been an advisor and evaluator for virtually all major youth development initiatives sponsored by the White House and US Department of Labor over three decades.

Before joining Brandeis, Susan was a Program Director and Trustee of the Taconic Foundation in NYC and CEO of a large landholding nonprofit in Vermont, where she created a national exemplary youth work and learning program – the first in the nation to award science and math credit for work experience. In the private sector, Susan served as COO for a 10,000-acre destination resort, and, in government, as Regional Director of the Youth Conservation Corps, Department of Environmental Protection. Susan is a Yale University graduate with advanced policy and management degrees.



**Cathy Burack** is an Associate Director and Senior Fellow for Higher Education at the Center for Youth and Communities. Before coming to Brandeis, Cathy was the Associate Director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE).

Cathy works with colleges, universities, and community organizations to use evaluation to both "prove" and "improve" programs. Her research and capacity-building efforts attend to both outcomes and systemic change, including conducting a national evaluation of institutional support for civic engagement; developing student success indicators; helping to set up the Corporation for National and Community Service Learn and Serve America LASSIE national data collection system; and conducting multi-site evaluations on campus-wide change initiatives. She is currently co-Principal Investigator of the evaluation of the Campus Compact Connect to Complete initiative, a pilot peer-support program funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the GreenLight Fund's (GLF) Social Innovation Fund initiative evaluation, assisting GLF and its subgrantee organizations in working with external evaluators to develop and implement rigorous evaluation plans to measure program impact. Past evaluations include the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Community College Transfer Initiative, designed to enable low- and moderate-income, academically able, community college students to transfer to selective colleges and universities, and the Nellie Mae Education Foundation's Project Compass, focused on the retention of underserved students. Cathy holds a BS from the University of Rochester and an EdD from Harvard University.



**Della M. Hughes**, Senior Fellow at the Center for Youth and Communities, has 35 years of experience working with nonprofits, foundations, government, business, and community collaboratives to employ, educate, and support youth. She uses evaluation as a management and learning tool, and draws on her extensive experience with systems change and management using results-oriented strategic planning and action, measuring and monitoring progress, and learning for continuous improvement. Della was previously Executive Director of the National Network for Youth in Washington DC, and Oasis Center, a community-based organization in Nashville TN.

Currently, she facilitates the development of student- and systems-level logic models on student-centered learning with the Nellie Mae Education Foundation District Level Systems Change grantees. She is also a senior team member of the Brandeis-Walmart Summer Youth Employability Initiative. She is Principal Investigator for The Hyams Foundation's Teen Futures Initiative to re-engage older teens who are not in school and not working, and prepare them for postsecondary education or training, work, and life; and for Oasis Center's statewide Teen Outreach Project training of staff working in congregate care facilities. Recently, she was Co-PI for The Skillman Foundation Good Neighborhoods, Good Schools Initiative, a ten-year comprehensive community change effort in six Detroit neighborhoods designed to ensure young people graduate from high school ready for college and work. She holds advanced degrees from Vanderbilt University Divinity School and the University of Tennessee School of Social Work.



**Chris Kingsley**, Senior Program Associate and Senior Trainer at the Center for Youth and Communities, provides strategic planning facilitation, logic model development, content and process training, technical assistance, evaluation for improvement, and coaching/consulting services. Much of his focus is on communities, individual organizations, groups of organizations, boards, and councils that seek to collaboratively address and integrate complex youth employment, education, youth development, and human service approaches.

Chris operates as a “content-knowledgeable” facilitator and evaluator with leaders and practitioners across an array of community-based organizations, funders, government agencies, school districts, and program recipients -- helping partnering groups to identify their visions, missions, assumptions, strategies, goals, objectives, and resources; and to organize and evaluate their initiatives so that they can effectively implement their ideas over time.

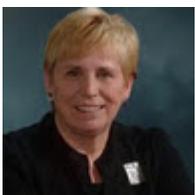
Chris possesses in-depth content expertise in the areas of summer youth employment programs, positive youth development, program and system design, inter-institutional partnerships, systems of care, complex change management, youth workforce development, work-based and project-based learning, case management, education reform, integrating work and learning, and 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies. He has a BS from Clarkson University (formerly Clarkson College of Technology).



**Susan Lanspery** is a Scientist and Lecturer at the Center for Youth and Communities. She has conducted evaluations, managed research and demonstration programs, and provided technical assistance to a variety of clients for more than 25 years. Her work for the last 15 years has focused on initiatives serving low-income and/or underrepresented young people in the areas of improving college access and success and enhancing employability. Currently, she co-manages the Walmart Foundation's Youth Employability Initiative as well as the evaluations of three college access and success initiatives: YouthBuild USA's Pathways to Postsecondary Success Initiative, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation's Project Compass initiative, and Campus Compact's Connect to Complete program.

Recent projects include managing or co-managing the evaluations of three other college access and success initiatives: the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Community College Transfer Initiative, the GE Foundation's College Bound program, and the Rhode Island College Crusade. She was also a senior team member in studies of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Success Initiative, the Skillman Foundation's Good Neighborhoods, Good Schools project, and EmployIndy's Youth Employment Services program.

Before 1999, Susan worked with the Heller School's Policy Center on Aging, conducting research and providing technical assistance for national, state, and local organizations on linking services with housing for older people and people with disabilities. She has a BA from the University of Oregon and a PhD from Brandeis University.



**Margaret McKenna** was recently named Professor of the Practice as well as interim director of the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy at the Heller School. She is also currently the chair of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Margaret is an author, speaker, and expert on the issues of educational access, women's economic empowerment, hunger, and social change leadership. She has spent her career advocating for social justice. Most recently, she was the President of the Walmart Foundation, helping to create and implement its signature “Fighting Hunger Together” program.

Margaret began her work life as a civil rights attorney for the Department of Justice and later served as the deputy counsel in the White House and undersecretary of the Department of Education. In addition, she led the education transition team for President Clinton. McKenna previously served as vice president of Radcliffe College and spent 22 years as president of Lesley University.



**Alan Melchior** is the Associate Director and a Senior Fellow at the Center for Youth and Communities. For over twenty-five years he has managed a wide variety of policy, evaluation, and technical assistance and training initiatives in youth, workforce, and community development.

Alan's career began in the field of workforce development at the Massachusetts Office of Training and Employment Policy. There and at Brandeis he managed professional development programs for youth practitioners and developed practitioner-oriented guides, including publications on programs for out-of-school youth, assessment, and performance management.

Alan is also a nationally-recognized researcher in the field of service-learning and community engagement. Major projects have included the national evaluations of the Serve-America and Learn and Serve America programs for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS); studies of the institutionalization of service-learning for CNCS and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and evaluations of national and regional service-learning programs.

Current projects include evaluations of two national multi-site efforts to build partnerships between community-based organizations and community colleges to improve access to and success in postsecondary education for opportunity youth: the Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Success Initiative and YouthBuild's Pathways to Postsecondary Education Initiative. Over the past decade he has also served as the evaluation partner for FIRST, a national after-school robotics program, and is currently leading a 5-year longitudinal study of the impact of FIRST's programs on student interest in STEM and STEM-related careers. Alan has a BA and MA from Brandeis University.



**Sharon Singleton** is a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Youth and Communities. She has more than twenty years of experience as a researcher and evaluator in the areas of access to higher education for youth from underserved populations and faculty community-based scholarly work.

Sharon began her work in higher education in a teacher-developed, MIT-based K-12 drop-out prevention program aimed at creating classroom environments that foster the success of underserved students in urban areas through collaborations among public school teachers, parents, and researchers. Prior to joining the Center, Sharon was a Senior Program and Research Associate at the New England Resource Center for Higher Education.

Currently, Sharon is a member of the evaluation team for YouthBuild's Pathways to Postsecondary Success Initiative and the Campus Compact Connect to Complete initiative, both aimed at supporting the success of low-income students in postsecondary settings. She is also coordinating the transition of the Think Tanks for regional college and university administrators from UMass Boston to Brandeis.

Sharon's recent work includes serving as the Principal Investigator of a multi-site evaluation study of the American Association for State Colleges and Universities' initiative to prepare pre-service teachers to use service-learning pedagogy in urban settings: the Civic Minor in Urban Education, funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Sharon holds a BA from Denison University and an EdM from Harvard University.



**Marji Erickson Warfield** is the Director of the Nathan and Toby Starr Center on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and a Senior Scientist in the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy. Early in her career, Marji worked for the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) in New York on randomized demonstrations evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of work and training programs. However, she has spent the majority of her career evaluating services, programs, and systems designed to support the development of children, youth, and young adults with disabilities and the adaptation of their families.

Marji was a co-investigator on the nationally-recognized Early Intervention Collaborative Study, which was the most extensive longitudinal investigation ever conducted in the U.S. of the development of a cohort of children with disabilities from infancy to early adulthood. The project generated two monographs published by the Society for Research in Child Development.

Recent and current work has focused on the transition to adulthood for youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other disabilities. Marji has written a book chapter on vocational rehabilitation and training for adults with ASD and co-authored a literature review published in *Neuropsychiatry* on transition to adulthood covering the domains of vocational training and employment, education, health care, and housing and independent living. She is currently evaluating a community-based transition program for youth with disabilities and is co-editing a special edition of *Pediatrics* on autism. Marji has a PhD from Brandeis and a BA from Brown University.

## EVENT PLANNING AND OPERATIONS TEAM



**Tam Emerson** is the Program Director for the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program at the Center for Youth and Communities. Tam is a 2008 Eli J. Segal City Year Fellow and joined the Segal Program Team as a Management Fellow in 2012.

Prior to her Segal Program work, Tam served for two years at City Year Boston and was on the start-up team for the City Year London site. She earned a BS from Wheelock College and completed an American Cancer Society research fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in the Pediatric Oncology Department.



**Lanni Isenberg** is executive assistant to Susan P. Curnan and office manager/senior program administrator for the Center for Youth and Communities. She is the point of contact for the communications and logistics for today's event and for the Summer Youth Employability Initiative National Program Office. Prior to joining the Center in 2005, Lanni was office manager at the University YMCA in Minneapolis and a Senior Account

Representative at Tunheim Group, a Minneapolis public relations agency. She earned a BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.