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**Governor’s Commission on Digital Innovation and Lifelong Learning**

**Commissioner Bios**

**J.D. LaRock
Commission Chair
CEO and President, Commonwealth Corporation**

Dr. J.D. LaRock is President and CEO of Commonwealth Corporation. Previously, he was a member of Northeastern University’s senior leadership team, where he served as chief of staff to the university’s president, among other executive roles. A scholar of education policy, higher education, and the future of work, J.D. is Professor of the Practice of Law and Policy at Northeastern and a Fellow with the Aspen Institute’s Economic Opportunities program.

Prior to his academic and university management career, J.D. was an education policymaker at the federal, state, and international levels. As senior education advisor to the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, he helped lead the 2008 reauthorization of the federal Higher Education Act and the 2007 passage of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which provided $20 billion in financial aid to U.S. college students.

As education policy director for the Governor of Massachusetts, J.D. helped author the Achievement Gap Act of 2010, a landmark K-12 education reform law, as well as Massachusetts’ successful application to President Obama’s “Race to the Top” competition, which secured $250 million for the state. He is the co-editor of *Special Education for a New Century* (Harvard Education Press, 2005) and editor of the OECD publication *Education at a Glance* (2012).

J.D. is a member of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and Chair of the Board of Trustees at North Shore Community College. He holds three degrees from Harvard, including a doctorate in education administration, policy, and social planning, and a law degree from Georgetown.

**Chris Gabrieli
Commission Vice Chair
Chairman, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education**

Chris Gabrieli was appointed to the Board of Higher Education by Governor Baker in March 2015. He is the co-founder of three non-profit education innovation and reform initiatives and a lecturer at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education.

As the co-founder of [Massachusetts 2020 / National Center on Time & Learning](http://timeandlearning.org/), Gabrieli has been at the forefront of the movement to expand learning time for disadvantaged students. He is the Chairman of the [Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership](https://springfieldempowerment.org/), a groundbreaking partnership between the state and district aimed at accelerating success for middle school students. He is a Partner Emeritus at Bessemer Venture Partners where he helped entrepreneurs build biotechnology companies.

Gabrieli has served in several higher education board roles at Harvard, Boston University’s School of Public Health and Clark University.

**Linda Boff
Chief Learning Officer & Vice President, Learning & Culture, General Electric**

Boff is GE’s Chief Marketing Officer leading all global marketing, brand, content, digital, sponsorship, and customer experience for the company. Boff is also GE’s Vice President of Learning & Culture leading GE’s learning & development work, including GE Crotonville. As a

company’s brand reflects a company’s culture, Linda’s role brings together two instinctively tied elements. In her role, Boff drives the positioning of GE, one of the world’s most powerful brands, as the preeminent digital industrial company, and brings digital first thinking and strategy into GE’s learning & development efforts for 300,000 employees around the world.

Under Boff’s leadership, GE’s marketing campaigns and fresh approach to media and content, have driven immense results in brand value and recruitment efforts. GE has been recognized as AdWeek’s hottest digital marketer and won a coveted Cannes Grand Prix Award in 2016.

Passionate about all things digital and the future of media, Boff is recognized as one of today’s most influential CMOs. She was named 2017 AdWeek Grand Brand Genius. She is a 2016 Matrix Award winner, CDO Club’s 2016 US Chief Digital Officer of the Year and #5 on Business Insider’s 50 Most Innovative CMOs list, among other accolades. Boff is also Chairman of the Ad Council and a member of ANA’s Executive Committees and Marketing 50.

Boff is on the Board of Dunkin’ Brands Group, Inc., the parent company of Dunkin’ Donuts and Baskin-Robbins, and is Executive VP for Partnership with Children, a NYC-based organization which provides social support to hard-to-reach school children.

Previously, Boff was GE’s executive director of global brand marketing. She also served as CMO of iVillage Properties, part of the NBC Universal. Boff joined GE in early 2004 as leader of employee marketing after 18 years of experience in marketing, advertising and communications including senior roles at Citigroup, the American Museum of Natural History and Porter Novelli.

Boff earned a BA in Political Science and Psychology from Union College. She lives in Irvington, NY with her husband and two children.

**Susan Cicco
Chief Human Resources and Communications Officer, MassMutual**

Susan Cicco is Chief Human Resources & Communications Officer of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (“MassMutual”). In this role, Ms. Cicco provides leadership across all matters relating to the company’s 7,000+ employees, including HR consulting, compensation and benefits, diversity and inclusion, as well as talent recruiting, development and learning. She is also responsible for corporate communications, including media relations, public relations, executive thought leadership and internal communications. Ms. Cicco is a member of MassMutual’s Executive Leadership Team.

A 25-year veteran of MassMutual, Ms. Cicco has held a variety of roles with a focus on leading enterprise-wide, transformational projects bringing together diverse, cross-functional teams to drive the company’s strategic direction. Since joining the company in 1993, she has taken on increasing responsibilities within Strategy, Competitive Intelligence and Corporate Development functions, as chief of staff to the head of MassMutual’s insurance business, as well as directly leading the Company’s internal communications and thought leadership functions. Prior to her current role, she was Chief of Staff to MassMutual’s Chairman, President and CEO.

Ms. Cicco received a B.S. from Bryant College with a concentration in Business Administration and Actuarial Mathematics.

**Jennifer Davis Carey
Executive Director, Worcester Education Collaborative**

Jennifer Davis Carey currently serves as the Executive Director of the *Worcester Education Collaborative* an independent, non partisan education advocacy and action organization. She holds Master’s and Doctoral degrees from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Bachelor’s degree from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges. In 1998 Carey served as Special Assistant to Governor Paul Cellucci of Massachusetts, and a year later became Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulations under Governor Jane Swift. She also served in Governor Mitt Romney’s administration for four years and briefly in Governor Deval Patrick’s administration as Secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. From 2007 until 2009, Carey oversaw the development of education and training solutions at Commonwealth Medicine, a division of University of Massachusetts Medical School. Before joining Massachusetts state government, she enjoyed a long career in education and worked at Ohio University, Harvard University and at Bancroft School, an independent K-12 school in Worcester. An active member of her community, she serves on several non-profit boards including ArtsWorcester, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Quinsigamond Community College, and Notre Dame Health Care.

**Joanna Dowling
President, Custom Group/Center for Manufacturing Technology**

Joanna Dowling is the president of the Center for Manufacturing Technology (CMT) at the Custom Group, Inc., a full-service hands-on training facility located in Woburn, Massachusetts. Prior to her current role as president of the CMT, Ms. Dowling  spent 8 years in sales, marketing, and accounting at Custom Machine. Since 2015, she has served as Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Technology Department and Technology Business management Department at the Ben Franklin Institute of Technology. Ms. Dowling is a member of Boston Tooling and Machining Education. Formerly, she was a Board Member of the Massachusetts Association of Private Career Schools, President of the Paul J. Pasciuto Foundation and a Board Member of Skills USA. Ms. Dowling was appointed and served on the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Workforce Board Association and currently involved in statewide initiatives designed to promote the advanced manufacturing industry to help ensure a strong workforce pipeline. Ms. Dowling holds a B.A. in English from Merrimack College.

**Jean Eddy
Chief Executive Officer, American Student Assistance**

Jean was named President and CEO of American Student Assistance in July 2017, after serving in an interim capacity since November 2016. Working with the ASA Board and senior management team, she is responsible for developing and driving the overall strategic direction of the organization in fulfillment of ASA’s mission. Jean provides leadership and oversight for ASA as it evaluates and implements new initiatives to help kids discover their education and career opportunities.

Jean is an accomplished senior executive with over 25 years of experience creating and leading organizations that promote successful operational efficiencies. She is a builder of significant student focused infrastructures at leading institutions of higher education and an outstanding communicator with internal and external constituencies.

Most recently Eddy served as the Chief Operating Officer at the Rhode Island School of Design. During her tenure there she provided leadership, vision, and focus for the operations areas of the College as well as all student and enrollment areas. Administrative footprint was reduced as effectiveness of systems was increased resulting in significant budget savings. Under Jean’s leadership a Campus Master Plan was completed resulting in major building and condo purchases, relocation of academic departments, and effective management of deferred maintenance.

Prior to RISD Jean’s career encompassed roles in academic affairs, finance and administration, and student affairs and enrollment. As Brandeis University’s first Senior Vice President for Students and Enrollment, she had oversight of all departments outside of the classroom, working with groups across campus to increase student applications and quality measures while creating support systems that improved retention rates. As a senior leader, Jean partnered with the CFO and Provost to implement a Campus Master Plan, oversee an accreditation process, and create and execute a strategic plan.

Eddy has served in multiple roles at Northeastern University in the Financial Services and Enrollment areas. During her twelve year tenure at Northeastern, Jean introduced a data driven approach to increasing the quality, diversity, and selectivity measures for admission, establishing Northeastern’s national reach as a leader in practicum based education. She is credited as being one of the senior leaders who changed the profile of the University from a regional commuter school to a top 100 national university.

Nationally Jean is a recognized speaker and expert on creating and optimizing solutions that impact net tuition revenue focusing on recruitment and retention issues. She has held memberships on the College Board, NASFAA, EASFAA, NACAC, and AICAD and has served as a trustee for the Providence Foundation and The Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council. During her years in Financial Services Jean served as president for both the Rhode Island Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Public Administration and a Master’s in Computer Science.

**Joseph Fuller
Professor of Management Practice in General Management, Harvard Business School**

Joseph B. Fuller is a Professor of Management Practice in General Management at the Harvard Business School and the co-director of the school’s Managing the Future of Work project. He was a founder and former CEO of Monitor Group, now Monitor-Deloitte, the global management consultancy. He studies issues related to employment and competitiveness. His work encompasses workforce skills, the gig economy and the impact of caregiving responsibilities on employability. He has written extensively on the ‘skills gap’—the phenomenon that employers find it hard to fill open positions at the same time the nation suffers from high levels of underemployment and falling workforce participation—and its implications for employers and U.S. competitiveness. He is a Visiting Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

**Michael Horn
Co-Founder and Distinguished Fellow, Christensen Institute**

Michael Horn speaks and writes about the future of education and works with a portfolio of education organizations to improve the life of each and every student. He serves as the Chief Strategy Officer for [Entangled Ventures](https://www.entangled.group/), an education technology studio, and as a principal consultant for [Entangled Solutions](https://www.entangled.solutions/), which offers innovation services to higher education institutions. He is also the co-founder of and a distinguished fellow at the [Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation](https://www.christenseninstitute.org/), a non-profit think tank.

Michael is the author and coauthor of multiple books, white papers, and articles on education, including the award-winning book [Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns](https://www.amazon.com/Disrupting-Class-Expanded-Edition-Disruptive/dp/0071749101) and the Amazon-bestseller [Blended: Using Disruptive Innovation to Improve Schools](https://www.amazon.com/Blended-Disruptive-Innovation-Improve-Schools/dp/1118955153). An expert on disruptive innovation, online learning, blended learning, competency-based learning, and how to transform the education system into a student-centered one, he serves on the board and advisory boards of a range of education organizations, including the Clayton Christensen Institute, the Robin Hood Learning+Tech Fund, and the [LearnLaunch Institute](http://learnlaunch.org/). He also serves as an executive editor at [Education Next](http://educationnext.org/) and is a venture partner at [NextGen Venture Partners](https://nextgenvp.com/).

Michael was selected as a 2014 [Eisenhower Fellow](https://www.efworld.org/) to study innovation in education in Vietnam and Korea, and [Tech&Learning](https://www.techlearning.com/news/the-techlearning-10030-present) magazine named him to its list of the 100 most important people in the creation and advancement of the use of technology in education. Michael holds a BA in history from Yale University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

**Don Kilburn
Chief Executive Officer, University of Massachusetts Online**

Don Kilburn joined the university in January of this year.  Don has over 20 years of executive experience at a variety of educational companies including Xerox, Simon and Schuster, Viacom and Pearson.  Most recently Don was President of Pearson North America, the world's largest education company.  Don spent much of his time assisting academic institutions build their online programs.

Don passionately believes in making a difference in people's lives through learning and making education more effective, accessible, and affordable for a diverse community of learners.

**Laurie Leshin
President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute**

Laurie Leshin is the President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. A renowned space scientist, she is leading the transformation of WPI, an institution with an innovative and unique approach to undergraduate STEM education, a commitment to transformative research, and a passion for elevating WPI’s impact around the world. Dr. Leshin brings over 20 years of experience as leader in academia and government service, holding leadership positions at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, at NASA, and at Arizona State University. She has been well-recognized for her work, including key appointments by President Obama and President Bush, and by the International Astronomical Union through the naming of Asteroid 4922 Leshin.

**Michael London
CEO and President, Examity**

Michael Londonis a recognized thought leader in online learning with more than 20 years of professional accomplishments and EdTech innovations. As the founder of Examity, the world leader in ID Verification and Online Proctoring, he drives the strategic direction of the organization and serves as its president and chief executive officer.

Prior to Examity, Mr., London was the founding CEO for Bloomberg Institute, an education start-up funded by Mayor Bloomberg and Bloomberg Ventures. Under Michael’s leadership, The BAT, an online standardized test and associated recruiting platform, grew to more than 500 universities in 45 countries, making it a leading financial designation worldwide.

In 2009, Michael was named vice president, corporate strategy and growth for Kaplan. Prior, he was co-founder and CEO of College Coach and EdAssist, formerly Tuition Advisory Services, both acquired by Bright Horizons Family Solutions (NYSE “BFAM”) in 2006.

Mr. London received a BS with Honors from Babson College, where he is a current board member, and an MBA from Boston University’s Questrom School of Business.  He is the co-author of Simon & Schuster published, “The New Rules of College Admissions.”

**Patricia Meservey
President Emerita, Salem State University**

Patricia “Pat” Maguire Meservey is President Emerita of Salem State University. She is recognized for her work in the advancement of teaching excellence, the promotion of faculty scholarship, and academic and administrative strategic planning. Her administration advanced the high-quality, student-centered education model that is at the core of the university’s mission and she is known for her commitment in advancing the North Shore region's cultural, social and economic development.

During her tenure, student success was the primary driver for the university’s plans and initiatives. From 2007 to 2016, the graduation rate for baccalaureate students increased 15 percentage points – the largest change in the Massachusetts state university system. In early 2018, Salem State was named one of the top 10 universities in the country for Latino student success.

President Emerita Meservey joined Salem State in 2007 after serving as Suffolk University’s first Provost and Academic Vice President. Prior to that, she held several administrative leadership roles at Northeastern University and served as a faculty member at Northeastern University, Suffolk University, and Boston University. In those roles, she provided leadership in the transformation of nursing and medical education. Through work with the neighborhood health centers of Boston, President Emerita Meservey provided learning opportunities for students and improved health care options for patients and community members.

President Emerita Meservey holds a PhD in higher education administration from Boston College, an MS in parent-child health nursing and a BS in nursing, both from Boston University, and a diploma in nursing from Faulkner Hospital. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

**Oswald “Oz” Mondejar
Senior Vice President for Mission and Advocacy, Partners Continuing Care, Inc.**

Oz Mondejar is the Vice President of Talent Management at Partners HealthCare. He also serves as the Senior Vice President of Mission and Advocacy for Partners Continuing Care, Inc. (“PCC”), the non-acute care services division of Partners HealthCare. Oz works at the intersection of policy, advocacy and media, defining PCC’s core values and leveraging the organization’s resources in order to maximize positive social impact - locally, nationally and internationally.

Prior to joining Partners HealthCare in 2001, Oz led the New England Region recruitment program for the Social Security Administration and worked as a human resources executive in a number of different industries including manufacturing, hospitality and finance.  Internationally recognized for his expertise on accessibility, disability rights and workplace accommodation, Oz serves on several non-profit boards and is an advisor to others.

Oz has received numerous awards, including the Partners for Youth with Disabilities Christopher Dunne Award, Hispanics Executives Making an Impact in Boston 20 on the Move, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Employment Leadership Award, the Disability Law Center Leadership Award, and the White House Champion of Change Award. In January of 2015, Oz was one of only seventeen experts nationally selected for a two-year term by U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez to serve on a new Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment.

**Reinier Moquete
Founder, Advoqt Technology Group/Latino STEM Alliance**

Reinier Moquete was born in New York City and spent his youth moving around the Northeast USA and Dominican Republic, attending over a dozen schools K-12 before settling back into NYC in the mid 90s. Reinier was a misguided teenager and often created trouble for himself until a near death experience forced him to consider a different lifestyle. In 1999, realizing he needed to escape the destructive path he was heading down, he moved to Boston at 20yrs old with no family, no education, and no money. It took him 6yrs of full-time classes on nights and weekends while maintaining a 60+ hour work week to earn an A.A. and A.S. (Business & Finance, respectively) from Bunker Hill Community College as well as a B.S. in Telecommunications via Pace University’s online program, NACTEL. Today, Reinier is CEO for Advoqt Technology Group, pronounced “advocate”, the firm works with mid-sized enterprises to deliver Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Robotic Process Automation solutions to reduce costs and improve business outcomes.

Reinier’s journey from an at-risk inner-city youth to a successful technology executive drives him to pay-it forward. As such, he leverages “Technology as a Force for Good” via workforce development programs and investments into social enterprises:

* UnityB2B – Supplier portal that measures and drives economic impact for small businesses
* CyberWarrior Academy – Cybersecurity training institute focused on people of color, women, and veterans
* Diversity IT Network – Leadership development program for multicultural IT professionals

A serial entrepreneur and community advocate, Reinier is active in many philanthropic initiatives including being the Co- Founder & Board Chairman for Latino STEM Alliance (https://youtu.be/Wu5km\_YTplE), a non-profit that teaches over 700 kids a week to build robots across nearly 20 locations in Boston and Lawrence; the Latino Legacy Fund at The Boston Foundation, the first permanent endowment fund focused on advancing the Latino community in Boston; and Tech Hire Boston at the Boston Private Industry Council, an initiative to increase the tech talent pipeline coming out of Boston Public Schools. In the past, Reinier has served within the Massachusetts Governor’s STEM Advisory Council, as a Board Fellow for KIPP Massachusetts, as a member of the My Brother’s Keeper advisory committee at the City of Boston, as an Occupational Advisor for Roxbury Community College, as a Youth Council Member for the Metro North Regional Employment Board, and as Boston- Chapter President for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), among other volunteer activities, mentorship, and speaking engagements.

Recognitions include: Emerging Leader by the Boston Business Journal; GK100: Boston’s 100 Most Influential People of Color; GK10: 10 Most Game Changing Equity Ideas; PowerMeter 100: Massachusetts’ Most Influential People for Latinos.

Reinier lives in the Greater Boston area with his wife Ylira Pimentel-Moquete, a Psychotherapist and Wellness Coach at www.Ylira.com, and their three children.

**Marjorie Ringrose
Senior Program Officer, Smith Family Foundation**

Marjorie is Senior Program Officer at the Smith Family Foundation. She oversees the Foundation's education strategy and philanthropic investments, focusing on new pathways to high value post-secondary credentials for students historically under-represented in higher education. Before joining the Smith Family Foundation, Marjorie was Executive Director of Social Venture Partners Boston (SVP). Under her leadership, SVP brought funding and high quality skilled pro bono counsel to Boston’s most promising nonprofits, helping them build strong organizations that reach the scale needed to help Boston’s children and families thrive in school and beyond. She has held positions as founder and President of an executive training company focused on strategic planning and executive communications for senior executives in Fortune 500 companies, as a strategy consultant with a leading communications and media consultancy, and as a teacher at several colleges. She is on the Board of Directors of the Boston Children’s Chorus and TSNE/MissionWorks. She holds a BS from Trinity University and a MSc and PhD from the London School of Economics.

**Christina Royal
President, Holyoke Community College**

Dr. Christina Royal has been involved in education for over 16 years, in both academic (community college and private four-year institutions) and corporate environments. She currently serves as the President of Holyoke Community College (HCC), one of the fifteen community colleges in the Massachusetts system of higher education.

Prior to her presidency at HCC, she served as the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Inver Hills Community College. Dr. Royal has been intentional in her career in serving the community college mission. Growing up as a first generation, low-income, bi-racial college student, she understands some of the challenges our student’s face and the importance of having an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive. She believes that our students must see aspects of themselves represented in the college in order to form a connection to the institution. It is this diversity that creates a culturally rich ecosystem of learning.

Her success as a leader throughout her career has stemmed from a future-oriented mindset coupled with an approach based on collaboration and teamwork. Working with educational and state-wide leaders has afforded her a broader perspective of the complexities of higher education administration in the public non-profit and state system sectors. She has worked with Chancellors of Higher Education, Vice Chancellors, and other state leaders to impact policy, improve student success, enhance quality curriculum standards, and improve articulation and transfer. She is engaged in local, state, and national communities of interest, including participating on state-wide, regional and local boards. Dr. Royal is also the recipient of the 2012 United States Distance Learning Association International Award for Outstanding Leadership by an Individual.

Dr. Royal earned a Doctorate in Education from Capella University, and a Master of Arts degree in Educational Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics, both from Marist College.

**Sanjay Sarma
Vice President for Open Learning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Sanjay Sarma is the Fred Fort Flowers (1941) and Daniel Fort Flowers (1941) Professor of Mechanical Engineering at MIT. He is the Vice President for Open Learning at MIT. He co-founded the Auto-ID Center at MIT and developed many of the key technologies behind the EPC suite of RFID standards now used worldwide. He was also the founder and CTO of OATSystems, which was acquired by Checkpoint Systems (NYSE: CKP) in 2008. He serves on the boards of GS1US and Hochschild Mining and several startup companies including Top Flight Technologies. Dr. Sarma received his Bachelors from the Indian Institute of Technology, his Masters from Carnegie Mellon University and his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. Sarma also worked at Schlumberger Oilfield Services in Aberdeen, UK, and at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories in Berkeley, California.  He has authored over 100 academic papers in computational geometry, sensing, RFID, automation and CAD, and is the recipient of numerous awards for teaching and research including the MacVicar Fellowship, the Business Week eBiz Award and Informationweek's Innovators and Influencers Award. He advises several national governments and global companies.

**Mary Sarris
Executive Director, North Shore Workforce Investment Board**

Mary Sarris is the Executive Director for the North Shore Workforce Investment Board. The WIB, one of 16 across the state of Massachusetts, is charged with developing and supporting our workforce development system so that individuals and employers needing labor market services, (i.e., education, training, job placement, etc.) can access them quickly and successfully.

Previous to this, Mary has spent over 20 years in the workforce development and education reform arenas, managing various public and private initiatives including school to career, job training, professional and curriculum development projects, and public information campaigns. Before coming to the WIB, she was the executive director of the Lynn Business/Education Foundation, a private, non-profit local education fund designed to be a vehicle for business involvement in the Lynn schools.

Currently Mary is on the Board of the North Shore Community College Foundation and active in the North Shore Technology Council.

**Michelle R. Weise**
**Senior Vice President for Workforce Strategies and Chief Innovation Officer, Strada Education Network**

Michelle R. Weise is a higher education expert who specializes in disruptive innovation and the future of learning and work. She leads Strada Education Network’s workforce strategies as well as its innovation and thought leadership priorities. Her research focuses on the future of the workforce and how to connect students more directly to meaningful employment pathways throughout their working lives. Weise is also a regular columnist for EdSurge and a senior advisor to Entangled Solutions. She serves on the Commission on the Future of Undergraduate Education for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and on the education advisory board for Village Capital.

Before joining Strada Education in September 2017, she designed and led the Sandbox ColLABorative, the R&D lab of strategy and innovation at Southern New Hampshire University. Before SNHU, Michelle 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. Michelle is a former Fulbright Scholar and graduate of Harvard and Stanford.

Her book, [*Hire Education: Mastery, Modularization, and the Workforce Revolution*](https://www.amazon.com/Hire-Education-Modularization-Workforce-Revolution-ebook/dp/B00UUJYC46/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1497979684&sr=8-1&keywords=hire+education), co-authored with Clayton Christensen, describes the disruptive potential of online competency-based education aligned to workforce needs. Michelle’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,* and*PBS Newshour*.

**Rosalin Acosta
Secretary, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
*Ex officio***

As Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development in Massachusetts, Secretary Acosta leverages her passion to make the world a better place for the next generation to ensure that workers, employers, and the unemployed have the tools and training needed to succeed in the Massachusetts economy.

Prior to joining the Baker-Polito Administration, Secretary Acosta spent over 30 years in the banking industry and is known for her ability to drive positive performance outcomes aligned with a company’s mission. A career that has resulted in numerous accolades, including Boston’s Most Influential Women from the Women of the Harvard Club, El Planeta’s Top 100 Most Influential Hispanics in Massachusetts, and most recently being named as one of Get Konnected’s Boston Most Influential People of Color, to name a few.

Involved in many civic and community endeavors, Secretary Acosta is a recognized leader, public speaker, and cultural ambassador on matters of diversity, motivating youth and Latino Leadership. She is passionate about promoting diversity in the workplace and dedicates her free time to organizations with missions that focus on diversity and creating a better world for future generations.

The common strands that run through her life and career are leadership, mentorship, passion, and success. Her work in her previous roles as Board member of The Boston Foundation, Board Overseer at Boston Children’s Hospital where she was a founding member of Milagros Para Niño’s, and Corporate Advisory Board member for the Boston Chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) has touched the lives of many.

In addition, Secretary Acosta was a Director and Planning Member of the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board and was appointed a Northern Essex Community College Trustee by Governor Baker.

Born in Cuba, she earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University in Connecticut where she was a member of the Women’s Varsity Ice Hockey Team. She is the proud mother of five children and hopes to pass on her passion for a better world.

**Jay Ash
Secretary, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
*Ex officio***

Jay Ash serves as the Secretary of Housing and Economic Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Secretary Ash is responsible for directing and executing Governor Charlie Baker’s agenda on housing and community development, job creation, business development, consumer affairs, and business regulation. Since joining the Baker-Polito Administration, Secretary Ash has prioritized efforts to grow jobs, help communities realize their economic development priorities, connect citizens to new economic opportunities, and build prosperity across Massachusetts.

Under Secretary Ash’s leadership, the Commonwealth has substantially increased its commitment to public infrastructure that unlocks economic development, to the revitalization of Brownfields, to workforce training equipment, and to the development and commercialization of emerging technologies. He has led efforts to increase affordable housing production, to redevelop and modernize public housing communities, and to substantially reduce the number of homeless families sheltered in motel rooms. Secretary Ash has played a leadership role in the recruitment and expansion of major employers, including Amazon, General Electric, IBM Watson Health, Kronos, and Siemens.

Secretary Ash previously served as the city manager in his native Chelsea, a position he held from 2000 to 2014. In Chelsea, Secretary Ash’s leadership produced both economic expansion and fiscal stability. He grew the city’s housing stock, expanded its commercial base, developed 10 new parks, secured five credit rating increases, and won two All-America City designations for Chelsea. He previously served as the staff director to the Massachusetts House Majority Leader, as co-founder and vice-chair of the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, as past president of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, as a board member of the public policy think tank MassINC, and as an elected trustee of his alma mater, Clark University.

**Jim Peyser
Secretary, Executive Office of Education
*Ex officio***

As Secretary of Education, Jim Peyser directs the Executive Office of Education which is responsible for early education, K-12, and higher education in Massachusetts. Secretary Peyser sits on each of the boards governing the Commonwealth’s education agencies – Department of Early Education and Care, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Department of Higher Education as well as the University of Massachusetts system. He is Governor Baker’s top advisor on education and helps shape the Commonwealth’s education reform agenda.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary, he served as the Managing Director at NewSchools Venture Fund, a non-profit grant-making firm that seeks to transform public education in high-need urban communities by supporting innovative education entrepreneurs. From 1999 through 2006, Jim served as Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Education. Prior to joining NewSchools, Secretary Peyser was Education Advisor to Governors Bill Weld, Jane Swift and Mitt Romney, where he helped shape state policy regarding standards and assessments, school accountability, and charter schools. In 1995, he served as Under Secretary of Education and Special Assistant to the Governor Weld for Charter Schools.

He previously spent seven years as Executive Director of the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research, where he helped to launch the Massachusetts Charter School Resource Center, which supported the development of the state’s first charter schools. Before joining Pioneer Secretary Peyser held various positions at Teradyne, Inc. in Boston, an electronic test equipment manufacturer.

Secretary Peyser holds a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School (Tufts University) and a Bachelor of Arts from Colgate University.

**Carlos Santiago
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
*Ex officio***

Carlos E. Santiago is Commissioner of Higher Education for Massachusetts, appointed to this position by the Board of Higher Education (BHE) in July 2015. Working with the BHE, he is responsible for providing overall direction to public higher education in Massachusetts and helping shape state-level policies that maximize the benefits of higher education to the Commonwealth and its citizens.

Santiago joined the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education in April 2013 as the Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs.

His past academic appointments include that of Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (Wisconsin’s second largest research university). He brings over 30 years of experience in public higher education. Santiago also served as provost and chief operating officer at the University at Albany, (SUNY). He was a professor of economics at UWM and SUNY-Albany and holds a Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University.

Santiago is also the author or co-author of six books and has published dozens of articles and book reviews, of which many focus on economic development and the changing socioeconomic status of Latinos in the United States. On two separate occasions, in 1996 and 2011, Santiago has been named one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the United States by *Hispanic Business* magazine.