Brief Biography of Yaw Osei Adutwum, PhD

Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of New Designs Charter Schools. The two schools have a combined enrollment of about 1200 students in grades 6-12 in Los Angeles. Through his college preparatory focus New Designs Charter Schools' minimum graduation requirements exceed California's a-g requirements which set the criteria for acceptance into four year universities. One hundred percent of New Designs High school graduates meets the a-g requirement which boosts the school's four -year university college acceptance rate to not less than 95 percent.

Dr. Adutwum also participates in accreditation visits to high schools through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and has served as accreditation committee chair on several visits.

Prior to founding the first New Designs Charter School, he worked as Mathematics and Information Technology teacher at Manual Arts High School for ten years. At Manual Arts High School, he founded the International Studies Academy, which served as a small learning community where many students thrived socially and academically. In addition he served as a Lead Math Teacher in the USC/Manual Arts Neighborhood Academic Initiative (NAI).

His experience in the NAI program confirmed his belief that high standards in a well-structured learning environment could lead to higher levels of student achievement. Most of the students he taught in the NAI program proceeded to higher education in institutions like UCLA, USC, Yale, UC Berkeley, Stanford, and Cornell University among others.

At the national level he served for two years as a member of a task force established by National Research Center for Career and Technical to develop a national model for career and technical education at the high school and college levels. The project which was coordinated by the New Designs for Learning center based at the University of Oregon and was headed by George Copa, a professor of education and a career and technical education expert.

Dr. Adutwum grew up in Ghana and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Land Economy (Business Administration with a major in Real Estate) from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology prior to immigrating to the US. In addition he has a Masters degree in Education Management from University of La Verne and a PhD in Educational Policy, Planning and Administration from the University of Southern California (USC).
Charles J. Alexander, Ph.D.

A pioneer of pipeline programs designed to increase diversity in the health professions, Charles J. Alexander, Ph.D., currently serves as the Associate Vice Provost for Student Diversity and Director of the Academic Advancement Program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He provides full-time executive and intellectual leadership for a collection of programs designed for nearly 6,000 undergraduates from diverse populations, who have been historically underserved by higher education; these include students from low-income families, first-generation college students, and students from historically underrepresented groups. In addition to his role as Associate Vice Provost, he is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Dentistry’s Division of Public Health and Community Dentistry.

He has been a consultant and peer reviewer for federal agencies, foundations, and universities; published in the area of non-cognitive factors in the selection and admissions process and workforce diversity in the health professions. He has also been a faculty member and guest lecturer at a number of universities and colleges, and a presenter at many national and international conferences. He was the past Chair of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Dental Pipeline Project II Advisory Committee. He also was the past President of the National Association of Medical Minority Educators (NAMME).

In 2005, the University of California, San Francisco presented him with the Martin Luther King, Jr. award in recognition of his extraordinary leadership and inspiration in advancing the goals of social and economic justice. He is the recipient of the Dr. Joseph J. Krajewski Award for Merit given by the Northern California Section of the American College of Dentists. This award is presented to a non-dentist who has contributed to the advancement of the dental profession and enhanced the image of dentistry. He received a Presidential Citation by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) for his significant contributions to dental education. In 2010, he was given the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award by the College of Education at Marquette University. In 2011, The California Wellness Foundation presented him the Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award. This cash award of $25,000 was given as an
acknowledgment of his commitment to increasing California’s health care workforce and its diversity. In February of 2013, the Governor of the State of California appointed him to the Medical Board of California, Physician Assistants Board for a four year term.

Dr. Alexander received his Bachelors of Arts (B.A.) degree in Sociology from the State University of New York (SUNY), College at Cortland; a Masters of Arts (M.A.) degree in Sociology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and; a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in the Sociological Foundations of Education from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has also studied at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.
Dr. Ainsley Carry began his service as USC’s Vice Provost for Student Affairs on August 1, 2013. In this role, he leads a team responsible for programs and services that enrich students’ USC experience. His team focuses on providing support for students to pursue scholarly aspirations in and outside the classroom. Dr. Carry’s areas of oversight include the Residential Colleges, the Career Center, Student Health and Wellness, Student Advocacy and Support and Student Engagement. His top priorities are connecting with USC students and building innovative academic partnerships to advance student learning.

With over two decades of experience in college administration, Dr. Carry brings a broad perspective to higher education leadership, having held administrative positions and faculty appointments at public and private institutions including Southern Methodist University, the University of Arkansas, the University of Florida and Temple University. Prior to joining USC, he served as Vice President for Student Affairs at Auburn University. He is editor of *Executive Transitions in Student Affairs*, published by NASPA, and several articles.

Dr. Carry holds an EdD in higher education, an MS in counselor education and a BS in food and resource economics, all from the University of Florida. He also holds an MBA from Auburn University.
Michele Cooper is the Professional Services Industry Segment Marketing Managers for UPS, South California District. Her responsibilities include identifying market trends, studying consumer behaviors, analyzing the competitive landscape and developing innovative solutions that lead to a competitive advantage for UPS within the Southern California, Vegas and Hawaii markets. Throughout her fourteen year tenure at UPS, she has excelled in several roles including Sales Representative, Account Executive, Senior Account Executive, Community Activist, Sales Trainer and Facilitator in metro areas from Chicago to Los Angeles. During the course of these assignments, Michele has developed insights into both the small and middle consumer markets across various segments, become a champion of strong relationship building and achieved high success in strategy development. It is the combination of past and current experiences that she believes has afforded her the opportunity to positively influence our future economic and community leaders.

Michele is a native of Chicago, IL currently residing in Pasadena, CA. She earned an MBA from the University of Phoenix, with a concentration in Marketing and received her B.S. in Marketing from Southern Illinois University of Carbondale. Michele has a deep passion for marketing and works as a Marketing Consultant to entrepreneurs with limited business resources and small nonprofit organizations. In addition, she is the President of Events for the Los Angeles chapter of the National Sales Network which provides the opportunity to link both personal marketing and corporate sales experience in a professional manner. This organization focuses on providing African American sales professionals an outlet to enhance their career development through skills enrichment and networking forums.

Michele enjoys liturgical and classical dancing, hiking and local live entertainment events. She is a current member of the Rejoice dance ministry at West Angeles Church of God in Christ. Her life mission is to bring joy to others. She is a mentor for young adults transitioning into high school and higher learning institutes. Her philosophy in life, “Breaking down the barriers; uplifting your neighbors, friends and family”. Her inner strengths are derived from her love for God and his word which empowers her creativity and determination towards making visions and dreams a reality.
Joshua L. Gray—Ph.D. candidate and management consultant with a decade of industry experience.

Joshua Gray is currently a fourth year Doctorate of Philosophy Candidate in the University of Southern California’s Daniel J. Epstein Industrial & Systems Engineering Department; his research areas include Global Health Systems and Human Factors Engineering. Additionally, he is one of a dozen medical and engineering students selected for USC’s Health, Technology & Engineering certification program; he is one of the founding members of USC’s Health Systems Improvement Collaborative. His prior academic background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Florida State University and a Master of Science degree in Industrial & Management Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Joshua is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt and Project Management Professional. He has experience in various industries including: Biotechnology, Defense, Energy, Healthcare, Insurance, Materials to Real Estate & Transportation. His healthcare industry experience includes working as a process improvement consultant within General Electric and working as a project management consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton. In these roles Joshua led projects to improve the profit margin of GE Healthcare’s Orthopedics Division, the organizational effectiveness of the Department of Defense’s Wounded Warrior Programs and the operational efficiency of Veteran Affairs Benefits Programs.

Joshua is also an entrepreneur as the founder of JLG Consulting Inc., which focuses on people, process and technology improvement projects for healthcare and biotechnology systems. His main clients include Genentech and Roche, where he led initiatives to enhance operational performance in cycle time, cost efficiency and staff productivity. His projects have included the development of a program management infrastructure for quality improvement, and project implementation of a pharmaceutical quality system for operational excellence.
Constance Iloh

Constance Iloh is a highly sought after education scholar with research expertise in college access, college equity, for-profit higher education, and community colleges. In the fall of 2015, Constance will join the University of California, Irvine School of Education as an assistant professor of higher education. She is currently a research associate in the Pullias Center for Higher Education.

Iloh received a master’s degree in Business Management from Wake Forest University. Constance Iloh’s research agenda reflects her commitment to advancing understanding of the changing landscape of postsecondary education and its impact on underrepresented students. Constance has published several peer-reviewed empirical studies and articles that explore underrepresented students in understudied sectors of higher education. Most recently, she published a study on for-profit college and community college choice in the prestigious journal, Teachers College Record. Her dissertation explores the nature of Black student participation in for-profit higher education, as Black students are the highest enrolled racial group in that sector. Iloh has also been featured and quoted in numerous publications, including The Chronicle of Higher Education and Inside Higher Ed. Constance’s website is www.constanceiloh.com and you can follow her on twitter @constanceiloh.
Dr. Raymond Ivey, Jr.—Brotherhood Crusade, Interim Director, Youth Source Center

Dr. Raymond Ivey, Jr., received his Educational Doctorates from the University of Southern California with concentrations in Urban School Leadership, Public School Fiscal Efficiency and Student Motivation. Additionally Dr. Ivey holds a Masters in Mathematics Education and a Bachelors of Arts with a major in Mathematics Education and minor in English Language Arts Instruction from the University of Michigan.

Having taught in inner city classrooms in Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Flint and New York since 2001 Dr. Ivey is well versed in student engagement processes, teaching with technology and pedagogical practices. Dr. Ivey is an educator committed to improving teachers, coaches and mentors' effectiveness in engaging, teaching and assessing students, and adults reach their goals.

Currently, he works as the Interim Director for the Brotherhood Crusades' Youth Source Center, serving youth ages 17-21 in the process of re-enrolling into school, completing their GED's, and matriculating from post-secondary training programs into the world of employment. As if this wasn't enough, in his spare time, Dr. Ivey volunteers as the Director of Kappa League Male Leadership Program in the Long Beach, Inglewood, and South Bay Area. Through this program Dr. Ivey tirelessly provides mentorship and guidance for young men, as they attempt to navigate the pressures of drugs, peer pressure and gangs and ultimately enroll into college or post-secondary training programs. Additionally, he works preparing new teachers across the country through the University of Southern California's Masters of Arts in teaching program.

If all of this wasn't enough, Dr. Ivey is currently in the process of training to compete in his first Tri-Athlon next year. As he continuously explains to students, "you can't expect to inspire people to overcome challenges, if you are not willing to commit to the disciplined work of challenging yourself to overcome new goals every day."
David Johns is the executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. This initiative will work across federal agencies and with partners and communities nationwide to produce a more effective continuum of education programs for African American students. Prior to joining the Department, Johns was a senior education policy advisor to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) under the leadership of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. Before working for the Senate HELP committee under Chairman Harkin, Johns served under the leadership of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass. Johns also was a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fellow in the office of Congressman Charles Rangel, D-N.Y. Johns has worked on issues affecting low-income and minority students, neglected youth and early childhood education and with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). His research as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow served as a catalyst to identify, disrupt and supplant negative perceptions of black males within academia and society. Johns is committed to volunteer services and maintains an active commitment to improve literacy among adolescent minority males. Johns obtained a master’s degree in sociology and education policy at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he graduated summa cum laude while simultaneously teaching elementary school in New York City. He graduated with honors from Columbia University in 2004 with a triple major in English, creative writing and African American studies.
Mandla Kayise

Founder and CEO of new world education (nwe), an education and community planning consulting firm, Mandla Kayise has served thousands of students and residents across the Southern California area, in Northern California and other locations around the country. nwe’s education division specializes in college access, student retention and student leadership development. nwe facilitates academic development and student empowerment, offering direct services, staff training and program development to higher education institutions, schools and community-based organizations. nwe’s education clients have included students, staff and/or administrators at UCLA, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, Stanford University, Rio Hondo College, Santa Monica College, Cerritos College, Antelope Valley College and El Camino College, as well as students and parents in the Inglewood Unified, Los Angeles Unified, Compton Unified and Alhambra School Districts.

Mr. Kayise brings new energy and innovative ideas to the field of education, particularly in the area of student development and support services. During ten years holding various positions in UCLA’s Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs divisions, he played a leading role in the creation of several access, retention and community service/learning initiatives. As a by-product of his experience improving student achievement, personal effectiveness and leadership development outcomes at UCLA, Mandla developed the HOUSE or Holistic Unlimited Student Empowerment methodology. Over the past 10 years, this model has been used to train students on campuses to empower themselves educationally and to advise their peers. The HOUSE Method has been applied to university and community college retention and student development services, college outreach and access programs, as well as high school and middle school student achievement programs. The HOUSE Method is nwe’s signature product used to support academic achievement and student development with education institutions at all levels.

In recognition of his work, professionally and in the community, Mandla Kayise has received a number of awards and honors. Most recently, he received the LA NAACP Youth League “Man of Valor” Award, was named an Outstanding Alumnus by the UCLA Academic Advancement Program during its 35th anniversary celebration and was recognized as Alumnus of the Year at UCLA’s African American Studies Graduation celebration. A native of Chicago, Illinois, Mandla was raised and currently resides in Los Angeles. He attended Hamilton High School in Los Angeles and UCLA, where he earned a BA in Economics and studied Urban Planning at UCLA’s Graduate School of Public Policy. Mr. Kayise is a founding Co-Chair of the Alliance for Equal Opportunity in Education, University Relations Chair and Board member of the UCLA Black Alumni Association, former Vice-President of the Leimert Park Merchants’ Association, an organizer of Black Community, Clergy and Labor Alliance and a member of Bruins for Change and the UCLA Alumni Association. He has also been a member of several other community and civic organizations including the Hyde Park Organizational Partnership for Empowerment (HOPE), the LA County Service Planning Area 6 Collaborative and the National Community Builders’ Network.
Kirk Kirkwood, College Bound, Vice President of Educational Services

With over 18 years of educational experience, Dr. Kirkwood has a broad range of expertise in program design, development, and implementation. He has been instrumental in developing and sustaining key partnerships with various organizations to provide educational services that empower and nurture underserved students.

His ability to engage students, parents, teachers, and administrators has facilitated the implementation of innovative STEM curricula, projects-based learning, and innovative opportunities of access and equity in P-12 and higher education. These programs and services, held on the campuses of Pomona College, University of Southern California CSU Long Beach, nurture the intellectual ability of students, engage parents in the educational process, and inspire stakeholders to critically assess how to bolster academic achievement.

Dr. Kirkwood is aware of the limitations of current educational policy and is dedicated to overcoming the obstacles that inhibit students from actualizing their educational potential. He is a graduate of UC Riverside and received his Master of Arts in Education from Claremont Graduate School of Education. Dr. Kirkwood also earned a Master of Arts in Theology from Fuller Seminary and completed his Doctoral studies in education from California State University, Fullerton.
Dr. Sharoni Denise Little is an Associate Professor of Clinical Management Communication in the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California. She is an expert in management and leadership communication, professional development, organizational performance and effectiveness, institutional diversity and equity, and educational outcomes. A skilled organizational consultant and Executive coach, Dr. Little has worked with numerous executives and organizations over the past twenty years.

Professor Little earned her Ph.D. from Indiana University in Rhetoric and Cultural Studies where her dissertation, “Death at the Hands of Persons Known: Victimage Rhetoric and the 1922 Dyer Anti-lynching Bill,” examined how the Black Male as Rapist myth was used in Congressional discourse to hinder federal anti-lynching legislation and to promote a paternalistic rhetoric of control. Dr. Little also pursued an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California, Rossier School of Education, where her dissertation, “The Ph.D. as a Contested Intellectual Site: A Critical Race Analysis of the Factors that Influence the Persistence and Retention of Academically Successful Black Doctoral Students,” examined personal and institutional factors impacting student engagement and academic success. She received her Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Organizational Communication from California State University, Los Angeles.

Dr. Little’s research centers on educational and organizational leadership, cross-cultural, interpersonal, and team communication, educational outcomes and student success. A critical race scholar, she examines how rhetorical constructions, especially race, gender, and class function to maintain hegemony and shape public discourse. She is also an education scholar who examines the persistence and retention of African-American and other students of color, by challenging historical deficiency models and promoting culturally relevant student engagement and success strategies. Dr. Little is also engaged in research on the experiences of middle and high school students of color in public and private educational institutions, and the identification of strategies and policies that lead to their personal, academic, and professional success.

Dr. Little speaks domestically and internationally to families, educators, community organizations, institutions, and various media outlets including NBC news and KLCS (PBS) on educational, organizational, and equity issues. She has developed strategic student mentoring programs at the K-12 and collegiate levels designed to garner evidence based outcomes to ensure overall student success. As an advocate for educational access and equity, Dr. Little provides practical, culturally relevant advice and strategies for today’s youth!

Dr. Little is a Commissioner and Vice-Chair for the Los Angeles County’s, Policy Roundtable for Childcare and Development Commission, and she sits on several boards of trustees, including St. Anne’s, one of the most highly regarded social service agencies in Los Angeles committed to pregnant and parenting young women and children. She also partners with the Children’s Defense Fund in policy and program efforts.

The proud mother of twin sons, Jared and Jaren, she is steadfastly committed to her personal mission, so poignantly expressed by noted civil rights and child advocate, Marian Wright Edelman: “Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”
Noel Massie
President
UPS, South California District

Noel Massie began his UPS career in 1977 in Oakland, Ca. Currently, he serves as president of UPS’s South California District and is responsible for all operations, customer relationship management, and revenue management of over $3.7 billion annually. The district employs over 20,000 employees and serves over 150,000 customers daily.

Over the years, Massie has served in many capacities within the organization and in locations all around the country. His experience includes work in daily operations, engineering, learning and development, and in UPS’s corporate office in Atlanta.

Past and Current Professional Affiliations
- Chairman of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce – current
- Board Chairman for the National Urban League, Los Angeles - current
- Chairman for the World Trade Week Committee in Los Angeles – current
- Board Member for Mobility 21 Southern California – current
- Member of the Advisory Board for UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs – current
- Board Member of Central City Association of Los Angeles - current
- Board Member for United Way of America, Los Angeles - current
- Campaign Chair for United Way of America, Los Angeles - 2011-2013
- Board Member for the Southern California District Export Council (White House Appointment) - current

Awards and Citations
- 2013 Healthy Babies, Healthy Futures Award (March of Dimes)
- 2013 Man of the Year Award (NAWBO - National Association of Women Business Owners)
- 2012 Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Award (L.A. Business Journal)
- 2012 Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Community Leadership Award (FAMU – Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University)
- 2011 Information Technology Award (California State University, Los Angeles)
- 2010 Arrowhead Distinguished Officer Award (Inland Empire Economic Partnership)
- 2010 Inland Empire Global Leader of the Year (San Bernardino County’s Office of Economic Development)
- 2010 Ethical Business Leadership Award (Beta Gamma Sigma)

Education
- Attended San Jose State University’s School of Engineering
- Degree in Business Management from LaSalle University

Massie and his wife Amanda have been married 23 years and have two sons – Pierce, who attends Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, and Brayden, attending the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.
George McKenna was born and reared in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he distinguished himself as a scholar and athlete and where the seeds of his civil and human rights activism were nurtured. Upon receiving a Bachelor’s Degree in mathematics from Xavier University, at the age of 20, he was awarded a teaching fellowship to Loyola University, Chicago, where he earned an M.A. in mathematics. He holds a Doctor of Education Degree from Xavier University.

Dr. McKenna took a position in the Los Angeles Unified School District as a mathematics teacher. He also worked as an engineer for North American Aviation on the Apollo Moon Shot Project. While continuing his education at Loyola University Law School, UCLA, and California State University, Los Angeles, he taught at the secondary school and college levels; and, within a short time, moved through the ranks of secondary school administrative positions.

As the Principal of George Washington Preparatory High School located in South Central Los Angeles, Dr. McKenna developed and implemented the Preparatory School Model, which in four years, changed an inner-city high school that had been torn by violence, low achievement and lack of community confidence into a school with an attendance waiting list, and nearly 80% of the graduates enrolled in college.

He served as Superintendent of the Inglewood Unified School District in California, Deputy Superintendent in Compton, California, Local District Superintendent in the Los Angeles Unified School District, and Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools in Pasadena, California. In September 2009, Dr. McKenna returned to the Los Angeles School District as Local District 7 Superintendent, serving nearly 60,000 students in Central Los Angeles, and was elected in 2014 to the Board of Education.

Dr. McKenna has received international recognition for his work, receiving over 400 citations and awards from a host of civic, legislative and professional organizations, including recognition by President Reagan.

His accomplishments have been featured in a wide variety of media, including Time, People, and Ebony magazines, the Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Christian Science Monitor, and The Detroit News. He has appeared on “The CBS Evening News with Dan Rather,” “Nightline” with Ted Koppel,” “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” and “Nightwatch.” Dr. McKenna is the subject of the award-winning CBS television movie entitled, “The George McKenna Story” starring Denzel Washington, which was broadcast in 1986 and again in 1989. Dr. McKenna was the 1989 recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus’ Chairman’s Award and was inducted into the National Alliance of Black School Educators’ Hall of Fame in 1997. He is the author of California legislation, which permits parent release time from work to visit schools.

A strong advocate of building stable communities from within, Dr. George McKenna believes that an educational system, which emphasizes justice, equal opportunity and non-violence, is the primary vehicle for positive change in a pluralistic and technological society.
Kiesha Nix, Assistant Vice President in Global Marketing & Corporate Affairs for Bank of America – Merrill Lynch

Kiesha is responsible for numerous facets of brand integrity and presence, including key components such as the management of both corporate and non-profit sponsorships, as well as event planning & execution. Within this function, Kiesha manages one of the firm’s strongest relationships in Greater Los Angeles with the Los Angeles Dodgers. In addition to her relationship management and event execution, Kiesha is an active liaison for the larger organization with its respective lines of business, by ensuring products and services at Bank of America are always connected with the local community. Kiesha prides herself on being a “Connector and a Power Networker,” skills that have clearly opened many doors for her career and our community.

Prior to working within Global Marketing & Corporate Affairs, Kiesha served in the Private Banking & Investment Group Division of Merrill Lynch where she focused on assisting high net worth clients with restricted and concentrated stock positions, negotiating with their corporate counsels/legal teams, and implementing diversification strategies.

Throughout her tenure with Bank of America – Merrill Lynch, Kiesha has received numerous recognitions for both her quality of work and commitment to diversity, inclusion, and community. Two of Kiesha’s most heavily regarded recognitions are her Lifetime Community Service Award and the Global Diversity & Inclusion Award from Bank of America – Merrill Lynch. Additionally, she was awarded the Woman of Distinction Award by Los Angeles Teenshop in 2012. Most recently she was recognized as an Extraordinary Leader and named one of Los Angeles’ 100 Most Prominent & Influential African Americans by the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Action Network.

Philanthropically, Kiesha serves on the USC Black Alumni Advisory Board, Dodgers RBI Advisory Board (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities), St. Mary’s Academy (Inglewood) Board of Directors, and is a current Fellow in Southern California’s Leadership Network (LA Chamber of Commerce).

In addition to her direct community involvement, within Bank of America – Merrill Lynch, Kiesha has served as Chair and Co-Chair of the firm’s Black Professional Group (BPG) for more than 5 years. Kiesha founded the Southern California Chapter within the Merrill Lynch branch of the firm as well. Currently, Kiesha is an active member of Bank of America – Merrill Lynch’s African American Leadership Team (AALT) as well as BPG.

Kiesha has worked with countless non-profit organizations within Los Angeles County and mentors both youth and parents in the areas of college planning and financial literacy throughout her community. In addition, she has been given a divine gift of motivating and inspiring others through her spoken words and writing ability, which she offers at various forums and events throughout Los Angeles.

Kiesha has been with Bank of America – Merrill Lynch for over 20 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Nevada. Of all her accomplishments, Kiesha is proudest of her 19 year old son, Kyler—a youth minister and junior at Fisk University in Nashville, TN where he is pursuing his degree in business.
Executive Profile

NOLAN ROLLINS

President and Chief Executive Officer

Nolan Rollins is a highly respected Urban League executive and leader, and the seventh President and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League in its over 90 years of existence. He is a successful product and student of the Urban League Movement who “lives and breathes the League 7 days a week.” Over ten years ago he began his professional tenure with the Urban League as the Executive Vice President and COO of the Greater Baltimore Urban League where he oversaw all programmatic and operational functions of the agency while managing 25 staff members. In this capacity he developed, directed and implemented all economic and community development strategies which allowed/positioned the agency to monitor over $3 billion in community development projects in Baltimore to ensure local, minority and small business participation. He also designed and implemented employment and housing strategies to help stabilize local communities. Nolan simultaneously served as the President of the National Urban League Young Professionals (NULYP), with 67 chapters’ nationwide and over 8,000 members and was the NULYP representative on the National Urban Leagues’ Board of Trustees, serving on the Affiliate Services, Programs and Strategic Planning committees.

Mr. Rollins is viewed as a strong transformational visionary leader and builder. As the President/CEO of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans (ULGNO), he turned around the affiliate during a time when the city was recovering from the devastating turmoil of Katrina. He has established a track record of stabilizing institutions through creating innovative and impactful direct service programs while streamlining operations to focus and align with the National Urban League’s core mission. Through the efforts of Nolan and his team, the New Orleans affiliate has become financially sustainable and strategically leveraged to secure diverse streams of funding and partnerships as the go-to social services organization in the city. While following in the footsteps of one of the Urban League’s true giants, Clarence Barney (who ran (ULGNO for over 30 years) was a challenge, he also inherited the devastation and disillusionment of Katrina. On top of all of this, Nolan was an outsider, with no roots in New Orleans. Five years later, he was recognized as one of the top leaders within the New Orleans community.

He was a key advisor to the Mayor and in 2010 the mayor selected Nolan to serve as Co-Chair of the search committee for a new Police Chief in New Orleans. The Mayor also appointed him to the Airport Board, where he served as the nation’s youngest Chairman. During his tenure as Chairman he was responsible for turning around the airport’s internal operations, the over $300
million Super Bowl renovations and conducting the due diligence necessary for the Mayor’s decision to build a new airport, through his chairmanship of the board’s construction committee. No longer viewed as an outsider, Nolan is considered as a jewel of the city for his work with the Urban League.

Nolan is an extremely smart and professional leader. He is a creative, strategist, progressive thinker and relationship builder. His humble demeanor, relationship skills, business acumen and political savvy have enabled Nolan to establish himself as a trusted leader who has been successful with raising money, launching new programs, enhancing board participation and stewardship as well as heightening the level of political influence and economic impact ULGNO has within the city of New Orleans and throughout the state of Louisiana.

He has repositioned ULGNO as an “agency of choice,” a vehicle for private, public and government sectors to provide small business programs (Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Initiative, monitoring over $2.5 billion in public sector development projects), job training/workforce development (staffed the redeveloped Hyatt Hotel), crime prevention (operated the City of New Orleans’ Cease Fire program), and education resources and services (developed the State of Louisiana’s first Parent Information Center, to help parents navigate the reforms in public education). Nolan has lead growth efforts for the affiliate, diversified and increased funding from $1 million to over $7 million annually. Additionally, Nolan has applied social entrepreneurial efforts to gain support for programs, utilized New Market Tax Credit for construction projects, and marketed job and workforce development programs under various fee for performance contracts and partnerships.

During his tenure as the head of the New Orleans affiliate, Nolan has been a strong and vocal advocate for underserved communities and disadvantaged individuals. He has aggressively fought for a seat at the table and to be a voice for the voiceless in New Orleans. Nolan is strategic and diplomatic in his approach to community development and sees his role as a key collaborator who is willing and able to work with various groups and organizations to improve the lives and opportunities of his constituents. He is characterized as the embodiment of the work that the Urban League does. He is a thoughtful partner, and always at the forefront of influencing and making policy. He has had such an impact that “some issues don’t even move forward until the Urban League has been invited to the table.”

Education:

Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville, Florida
Juris Doctor 2000

University of Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland
M.A. Legal Ethical and Historical Studies 1996

Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia
B.S. Public Administration (economics focus) 1994
ROBERT K. ROSS, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Robert K. Ross, M.D., is president and chief executive officer for The California Endowment, a health foundation established in 1996 to address the health needs of Californians. Prior to his appointment in July 2000, Dr. Ross served as director of the Health and Human Services Agency for the County of San Diego from 1993 to 2000, and Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Philadelphia from 1990 to 1993.

Dr. Ross has an extensive background in health philanthropy, as a public health executive, and as a clinician. His service includes: medical director for LINK School-Based Clinic Program, Camden, New Jersey; instructor of clinical medicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; and faculty member at San Diego State University’s School of Public Health. He is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Pediatrics, served on the President’s Summit for America’s Future and as chairman of the national Boost for Kids Initiative. Dr. Ross received his undergraduate, Masters in Public Administration and medical degrees from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Dr. Ross was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar from 1988 to 1990, focusing on urban child health issues.

Dr. Ross has been actively involved in community and professional activities at both the regional and national level. He serves as a Member, President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans, a Board member of the California Health Benefit Exchange Board, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors; Co-Chair, Diversity in Philanthropy Coalition; Board member, USC Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy; and has served as a Board member of Grantmakers in Health, National Vaccine Advisory Committee, the National Marrow Donor Program, San Diego United Way and Jackie Robinson YMCA.

He has received numerous awards and honors including the 2011 Public Health Champion award from the UCLA School of Public Health, 2011 Latino Health Alliance Champion Award, 2011 California Association of Human Relations Organization Civil Rights Award, 2009 Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles Access to Justice Award, and the Council on Foundations’ 2008 Distinguished Grantmaker of the Year Award. He has also been named by Capitol Weekly as one of California’s most influential civic leaders in health policy, and he was recently named by the NonProfit Times as one of the 50 Most Influential Non-Profit Leaders in America. In 1999 he was named by Governing Magazine as a national Public Official of the Year for his leadership in innovative health and social services delivery.

During his tenure at The California Endowment, the foundation has focused on the health needs of underserved Californians by championing the cause of health coverage for all children, reducing childhood obesity, strengthening the capacity of community health centers, improving health services for farm worker and ex-offender populations, and strengthening the pipeline for bringing racial and ethnic diversity to the health professions. In the Los Angeles region, he has provided leadership to support the re-opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center and the revitalization of Charles Drew University. In 2010, The California Endowment launched a 10-year statewide commitment investing $1 billion to advance policies and forge partnerships to build healthy communities and a healthy California. Recently, he has helped bring greater philanthropic attention to the health and well-being of young men of color across California and the nation. Dr. Ross and his wife Robin have four children, and he serves on the Vestry Board at the St. Mark’s Episcopal Church.
Jay Tucker
Chief Marketing Officer/Head of Programs
Institute for Communication Technology Management, USC Marshall School of Business
& Founder, Silicon Beach @ USC

Jay Tucker is a marketer, educator, and technology leader with over 20 years of experience in the technology, academic and entertainment sectors. In his current role, Jay represents the Institute for Communication Technology Management (CTM) – one of the Centers of Excellence at USC’s Marshall School of Business – where he is responsible for communicating the Institute’s thought leadership and major initiatives to CTM’s consortium members and the larger community. Jay also heads CTM’s executive education programs and forums.

In fall 2012, Jay launched Silicon Beach @ USC, a conference focused on entrepreneurship in southern California and the future of digital entertainment. The event featured a $50,000 venture competition recognizing innovation in technology and digital content. Now in its third year, Silicon Beach @USC attracts over 500 business executives, entrepreneurs, investors and students. Jay also redesigned the Advanced Management Program, CTM’s flagship five-day educational experience for rising leaders and helped to co-author the current strategic plan for USC’s Marshall School of Business.

As a seasoned technology leader, Jay is passionate about helping executives and entrepreneurs embrace disruption, drive innovation, and build powerful solutions. Jay advises a number of start-ups on business strategy, business development, marketing and operations. He speaks at academic and industry events, covering digital technologies and media, technology start-ups and other topics. He has also taught courses on technology management, digital media, and media literacy to professionals at corporations and non-profit organizations.

Jay holds an MBA in Marketing & Media Management from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, an MA in Instructional and Learning Technologies from Columbia University, and a dual Bachelors degree from Stanford University in Political Science and African & Afro-American Studies. He resides in Santa Monica, CA.
Dr. Michèle G. Turner

As Executive Director of the USC Black Alumni Association (USC BAA) since late 2007, Dr. Turner is responsible for maintaining the cultural identity of the Trojan Black community. She strategically creates, plans and executes all programs and services in support of the mission of the organization, which is to strengthen the legacy of educational attainment and excellence of USC Black students. The USC BAA provides scholarship assistance, career mentoring and cultural advocacy through alumni volunteer involvement, philanthropy, and social enterprise. In this capacity she has increased the endowed scholarship fund by over 500% and has awarded nearly $2 Million in new USC scholarships to Black students, representing nearly one third of the $6 Million in scholarships awarded by the organization in total over the last 38 years. She has optimized the reach and impact of the USC BAA throughout local, national and global communities regarding the academic strengths and value of Black alumni engagement and cultural perspectives in volunteerism, philanthropy and policy making. Her leadership has shaped the USC BAA Scholarship Program as a “best practice” in higher education for retention and completion for Black students in elite institutions. Dr. Turner has received numerous civic awards for her innovative community involvement, including recognition from California Assembly Districts, the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, and the California Black Chamber of Commerce.

An entrepreneur for over 20 years, Dr. Turner is also CEO and General Manager of Metropolitan Radiology, Inc., a privately held corporation which provides radiologist consulting services for diagnostic outpatient imaging centers and hospitals throughout Southern California. Prior to a successful multi-million dollar sale of assets, Metropolitan Radiology, Inc. formerly constituted a network of 6 outpatient diagnostic imaging centers in Los Angeles which provided X-ray services, through state-of-the-art Open MRI. Three of those sites specifically targeted underserved populations to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare services. Dr. Turner was also Founder and President of HealthReach, Inc., a non-profit corporation which provided mobile diagnostic imaging services to underserved and indigent Southern California populations, and in its duration was one of the largest of such healthcare providers in the state. HealthReach, Inc. was awarded for distinguished service by Congresswoman Juanita Millender McDonald, and also the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Turner is a corporate veteran, having been formerly employed at IBM Corporation for 14 years, working with Fortune 100 accounts in such positions as Senior Management Consultant, IBM Consulting Group. Her practice expertise was in Mass Customization and Business Process Re-engineering projects within the Retail and Distribution Industry sectors (clients included American Express, PepsiCo/Burger King, BP/Arco, Walmart, Disney, Kroger and internal IBM Store Systems Division). Beginning her career as a Systems Engineer and later a top 2% Marketing Representative, she was promoted to the position of Marketing Manager at the age of 26, becoming one of the youngest leaders in the corporation at the time. Additional early leadership positions included Retail/Distribution Industry Field Advisor (Western Area) and also headquarters division Marketing Training Instructor as an expert instructor in Communications Systems, and Supply Chain Management topics. Dr. Turner earned numerous awards for premier marketing solutions innovation and excellence, and for customized systems development achievement.

Dr. Turner completed her doctorate in the Global Executive Ed.D. Program in the USC Rossier School of Education, which included international studies (US, China, Qatar, UAE). Her dissertation is titled, “Institutional Diversity Policy Improvement through the Lens of Black Alumni Stakeholder Leadership,” which investigates the role of cultural perspectives in shaping relevant diversity policy throughout emerging global societies. Dr. Turner earned an Executive M.B.A. from UCLA Andersen Graduate School of Management and also holds a B.S. degree from the USC Marshall School of Business. She has completed professional management and leadership development courses at Harvard Business School and the University of Virginia, Darden School.

Active in the Los Angeles community both as a philanthropist and community leader, Dr. Turner has served in executive capacities on several non-profit Boards including the American Cancer Society and the Los Angeles Service Planning Area 6 Community Council. She and her husband, Dr. Alan Todd Turner are the proud parents of two sons. She is an avid walker, gardener, world traveler and free thinker.