

# TeachNY Advisory Council

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

- **Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher, Chair, Chancellor, State University of New York**

In June 2009 Nancy L. Zimpher became the 12th Chancellor of the State University of New York. With nearly 463,000 students and 64 colleges and universities, SUNY is the nation's largest comprehensive system of higher education.

Through her strategic plan for the university, *The Power of SUNY*, Chancellor Zimpher leads a diverse set of successful initiatives in several key areas, including research and innovation, energy, health care, global affairs, and the education pipeline. She has been a vocal advocate for groundbreaking legislative reforms that ensure SUNY can provide broad access to high-quality higher education in an environment of declining state support, while maximizing the system's impact as an engine of economic revitalization in every region of the state. Under Chancellor Zimpher, SUNY is undertaking many innovative, system-enhancing initiatives—including shared services, dramatic expansion of online learning opportunities and cooperative education, and new partnerships with K-12 professionals—always with the goal of serving New York's students and communities and preparing them to succeed in the 21st century.

Chancellor Zimpher is active in numerous state and national education organizations, and is a recognized leader in the areas of teacher preparation, urban education, and university-community engagement. She currently serves as chair of the Board of Governors of the New York Academy of Sciences and the National Association of System Heads. From 2012-2013 she was chair of CEOs for Cities, and from 2005 to 2011 she led the national Coalition of Urban Serving Universities. As co-founder of *StriveTogether*, Dr. Zimpher has been instrumental in creating a national network of innovative systemic partnerships that holistically address challenges across the education pipeline.

Prior to coming to SUNY, Dr. Zimpher served as president of the University of Cincinnati, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and executive dean of the Professional Colleges and dean of the College of Education at The Ohio State University. She has authored or co-authored numerous books, monographs, and academic journal articles on teacher education, urban education, academic leadership, and school/university partnerships. Chancellor Zimpher holds a bachelor's degree in English Education and Speech, a master's degree in English Literature, and a Ph.D. in Teacher Education and Higher Education Administration, all from The Ohio State University.

- **Dr. Elizabeth L. Bringsjord, TeachNY Principal Investigator, Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor, SUNY System Administration**

Dr. Elizabeth L. Bringsjord is Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor of the State University of New York. She most recently completed a year-long term as Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of the SUNY System. She previously served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs and Assessment and Vice Provost. In that capacity, she led the office responsible for system-wide academic planning and policy development, academic program review and assessment, campus liaison activities, and regional accreditation support to individual campuses.

Dr. Bringsjord plays an active role in transformational work now underway across SUNY's 64 campuses in the areas of Academic Excellence, Innovative Instruction, Strategic Enrollment Planning, Student Mobility and Success, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Teacher Education.

Having held a series of progressively senior roles in her 15 years at SUNY system, Dr. Bringsjord has participated in or led numerous initiatives to enhance academic quality, expand access and ensure accountability. Noteworthy among her contributions is a restructuring of the process by which SUNY approves new academic programs to ensure alignment with national exemplars, best practices for student completion and success, and the evolving needs of the state workforce; the drafting of a wide range of academic policy guidance for campus leaders to ensure understanding of and alignment with Board of Trustee priorities; and leadership in the preparation of the University's three most recent Master Plans and the New York State Commission on Higher Education's final report and recommendations. A strong proponent of shared governance, Dr. Bringsjord has served on the Executive Committee of the University Faculty Senate.

In recognition of her outstanding dedication and service, Dr. Bringsjord was the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service in 2008. Elizabeth Bringsjord holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Educational Psychology and Statistics from the University at Albany, a Master's in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, and a B.S. in Nursing from Boston University.

- **Dr. Anthony S. Bryk, President, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching**

Dr. Anthony S. Bryk is the ninth president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, where he is leading work on transforming educational research and development by more closely joining researchers and practitioners to improve teaching and learning. Formerly, he held the Spencer Chair in Organizational Studies in the School of Education and the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University from 2004 until assuming Carnegie's presidency in September 2008. He came to Stanford from the University of Chicago, where he was the Marshall Field IV Professor of Urban Education in the sociology department, and where he helped found the Center for Urban School Improvement, which supports reform efforts in the Chicago Public Schools. He also created the Consortium on Chicago School Research, a federation of research groups that have produced a range of studies to advance and assess urban school reform. He is a member of the National Academy of Education and was appointed by President Obama to the National Board for Education Sciences in 2010. In 2011, he was elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is one of America's most noted educational researchers. His 1993 book, *Catholic Schools and the Common Good*, is a classic in the sociology of education. His deep interest in bringing scholarship to bear on improving schooling is reflected in his later volume, *Trust in Schools*, and in the most recent book, *Organizing Schools for Improvement: Lessons from Chicago* (Chicago Press, 2009). Dr. Bryk holds a B.S. from Boston College and an Ed.D. from Harvard University.

- **Dr. Ann Edwards, Director of Advancing Quality Teaching for Community College Pathways, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching**

Ann R. Edwards is the director of Advancing Quality Teaching (AQT) in the [Community Colleges Pathways initiative](#).

The aim of AQT is to provide Pathways instructors with the knowledge, skills, and habits necessary to experience efficacy in initial use of the curricula and develop increasing expertise over time.

She comes to Carnegie from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she was an assistant professor of mathematics education focusing on mathematics teacher learning and professional development. She also brings a deep commitment to addressing issues of equity that shape mathematics teaching and learning at all levels.

Dr. Edwards has taught secondary and collegiate mathematics and worked with mathematics teachers K-16. She has a B.A. in applied mathematics from Harvard University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in education in mathematics, science and technology.

- **Dr. Ken Wagner, Senior Deputy Commissioner, New York State Education Department**

Ken Wagner has served in diverse roles within public education in New York State, including school psychologist, principal, central office administrator, and school board trustee. Ken joined the Department in 2009 and currently serves as Senior Deputy Commissioner. He is tasked with overseeing the Department's P-12 and higher education policy and operations. Ken holds a Ph.D. in school/clinical psychology from Hofstra University.

- **Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline, SUNY System Administration**

Johanna Duncan-Poitier is the Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline for the State University of New York (SUNY). She provides system oversight and coordination for SUNY's 30 community colleges that educate a quarter of a million students with an annual operating budget of \$1.8 billion. In her dual role, she also provides leadership to strengthen STEM education, teacher preparation and connections between SUNY's 64 campuses and New York State's (NYS) Pre K-12 schools and business leaders to improve college readiness, completion rates and prepare a highly-qualified workforce. At SUNY, she led the launch and development of a statewide collaborative of cradle-to-career partnerships, the Smart Scholars Early College High Schools, the SUNY Empire State STEM Learning Network, and the development of a multi-million dollar consortium of 30 community colleges dedicated to high-demand careers. Ms. Duncan-Poitier also serves as one of six New York State Commissioners for the Education Commission of the States (ECS).

Ms. Duncan-Poitier formerly served as the Senior Deputy Commissioner of Education P-16 for the New York State Education Department; responsible for regulatory oversight of the 700 school districts, all NYS public and private colleges and universities and the preparation and licensure of 750,000 licensed professionals in 47 health, business and design professions. In addition, she previously provided campus-based leadership for the City University of New York (CUNY) at Queens College, York College and Bronx Community College.

Johanna Duncan-Poitier earned a Baccalaureate degree from Queens College and a Master's degree from Bernard M. Baruch College, both from the City University of New York. She received two honorary degrees including a Doctor of Laws from Saint Joseph's College and a Doctor of Humane Letters from D'Youville College. She has been recognized with numerous honors and awards, including: the Governor's Outstanding Leadership Award; the President's National Award for Excellence in Administering Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Programs; and the New York State Association for Women in Administration – Pathfinder's Award.

- **Dr. Mark Lacelle-Peterson, Vice President for Policy and Programs, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)**

Mark LaCelle-Peterson joined AACTE as Vice President for Policy and Programs in 2014 with responsibility for government relations, research, and member engagement and support programs. He has served as a faculty member and administrator in educator preparation programs, and as a leader in programmatic accreditation. Prior to joining AACTE, LaCelle-Peterson served as Senior Vice President of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) where he worked closely with state

policy-makers and institutions of higher education to develop effective collaboration in accreditation processes. He served as President of the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), a national programmatic accreditor, and was a member of the Joint TEAC/NCATE team that designed the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

Dr. LaCelle-Peterson has held faculty and administrative posts at public and private institutions of higher education in New York State, beginning his faculty career at SUNY Geneseo. He has taught the history and philosophy of education, research methods, curriculum theory, and social, cultural, and linguistic foundations of education as well as courses in humanities and early medieval literature (Anglo Saxon and Old Norse). He co-founded and directed a center for partnerships with urban schools, and developed a transition-to-teaching (transitional B) program to provide highly qualified teachers for high-needs urban schools. He has written on equity in assessment for English Language Learners, democratic teacher education, faculty development in higher education, and curriculum history. He is a frequent speaker on topics of accreditation and data quality in higher education.

He earned a BA in Scandinavian Studies and English, and an MA in International Development Education from the University of Minnesota, and EdM and EdD degrees from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

- **Dr. Susan Deer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Rockland County Community College & President, SUNY System Chief Academic Officers Association**

Susan Deer, PhD, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Services, joined the administration of Rockland Community College in 2008 as Dean of Instruction. She was appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs in 2010, and has held her current position since 2013.

Dr. Deer is responsible for providing overall leadership to the Academic Affairs and Student Services divisions, implementation and management of educational policy, curriculum development, academic scheduling and programming, academic program review, and accreditation matters.

From 1983-2008, she worked for SUNY Orange County Community College as a full Professor in the Department in Human Movement, an Associate Vice President for the Health Professions, Athletic Director and Union President of the Staff and Chair Association.

Deer holds a PhD in Education from Capella University, Minneapolis, MN; a Master of Science degree in Biophysical Focus of Human Movement, with a concentration in Exercise Physiology and Kinesiology, from East Stroudsburg University, PA; a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts from SUNY Brockport and an Associate in Art from SUNY Orange.

- **Melanie V. Anastasio, Master Teacher, Horseheads School District**

Melanie V. Anastasio earned her BS in Biochemistry from Cornell University and her MEd from Elmira College. Mrs. Anastasio has been teaching for seven years, and she teaches chemistry in the Horseheads School District. Before teaching, she worked for Procter & Gamble as a research associate in drug design/development for osteoarthritis and congestive heart failure. In addition, she was a faculty associate at Elmira College where she taught chemistry labs and introductory chemistry. Her goal as a teacher is to inspire students to continue studying science and become innovators. She believes her students' learning is enriched by her skill at designing and executing appropriate, guided inquiries and by her ability to effectively collaborate with others (teachers and community members) on projects integrating various student interests. Her professional interests include particle physics and environmental science. Mrs. Anastasio has received a grant from the Community Foundation of

Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes for the past three years to help fund a field study that she designed in collaboration with the Corning Museum of Glass. Mrs. Anastasio served on the board for the Fund For Women of the Southern Tier (2011-2013) and continues to be an active member.

- **Deborah Wilkinson, Master Teacher, Lyme Central School District**

Deborah Wilkinson earned her dual BS in Education in Earth and Space Science Education and General Science Education from Kutztown University and MEd in Curriculum and Instruction from SUNY Potsdam. Ms. Wilkinson is also a graduate of the Honeywell Space Academy for Educators. She teaches Integrated Middle School Science, Regents Earth Science, and Regents Physics at Lyme Central School. In the classroom, Ms. Wilkinson uses natural disasters as an avenue for teaching real world concepts such as safety and preparedness. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Ms. Wilkinson is a member of the Annual Professional Performance Review Committee, the Extracurricular Comptroller for Class and Club Activities, an Odyssey of the Mind Coach, and Class Advisor. In her role as Mentor Coordinator and New Teacher Orientation (Induction) Co-Coordinator for the Lyme Central School District, she builds programs to support early service teachers that ultimately improve teacher retention. She is an active member of National Earth Science Teachers' Association, National Science Teachers' Association, and Science Teacher Association of NYS. With the NYS Master Teacher Program, Ms. Wilkinson has facilitated the field exploration of the Herkimer Diamond Mines, co-facilitated the Science Extracurricular Activities Professional Learning Team, and participated in the Technology Day workshops.

- **Catherine Hantz, Master Teacher, Mount Sinai School District**

Catherine Hantz earned her BS in Geography from Cortland State University, MS in Geosciences from Stony Brook University, and is currently a doctoral candidate in Science Education at Stony Brook University. In the classroom 16 years, Ms. Hantz teaches Earth Science at Mt. Sinai High School. She began teaching after a 10 year career as an environmental specialist in private industry. Her teaching philosophy stresses cross-disciplinary and inquiry-based learning opportunities where students can engage in technology-infused, problem-solving activities that cultivate scientific literacy. Ms. Hantz's professional interests focus on developing science literacy to better prepare students for a STEM college or career path. To achieve this, she developed a freshman transition team to address the requisite skills and abilities needed by incoming freshman to ensure a successful and meaningful high school experience. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Ms. Hantz was selected to participate in a National Science Foundation grant designed to provide students opportunities for independent science research, and to create a series of earth and environmental science lab exercises. These lab exercises use geospatial technologies and experiential multimedia to introduce students to Antarctica within the context of existing curricula.