**Jeanne Allen**

Jeanne Allen has earned national recognition as a fierce advocate for quality education through reforms that embrace the nation’s ideals of freedom, responsibility and accountability.

Jeanne is Founder and President of The Center for Education Reform (CER), a national policy and grassroots advocacy organization based in Washington, DC, that, since 1993, has been the pioneer and leading voice for structural and sustainable changes that can dramatically improve educational opportunities for decades to come.

As one of the nation’s leading experts on education, Jeanne appears frequently quoted in the media, representing the voices of the thousands of parents, community leaders, policy makers and influencers, with whom she has worked to improve education throughout the United States. She is also a prolific writer and is a contributor to both *Politico*’s Arena and *The National Journal*’s Education blogs, with strong commentary on making America’s education system strong once again. Jeanne makes frequent appearances on National Public Radio, CNN and MSNBC, and is often quoted in the pages of major print publications including *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*.

Jeanne serves as Trustee to former Secretary of State Colin Powell’s America's Promise Alliance, is on the executive team of the Digital Learning Council – a distinguished national group dedicated to closing the educational achievement gap by advancing world-class technological innovations in schools – and is an advisor to the Best Friends Foundation, among other child-related causes. A mother of four, she is active in her community as well as with her alma mater, Dickinson College.

**Alison Consoletti**

Alison Consoletti is the vice president of research at The Center for Education Reform (CER), the pioneer and leading advocate for structural and sustainable changes that can dramatically improve educational opportunities in the U.S. Alison ensures that education reform advocates, parents and policy makers have the most current data and research available on education practice and policies in order to enact change through legislation and advocacy. She is the chief analyst and writer of original CER publications, including *Charter School Laws Across the States: Rankings and Scorecard* and *Annual Survey on America's Charter Schools.*

Alison holds a Master in Public Administration, with an emphasis on nonprofit management from George Mason University in Virginia, and a bachelor's in international affairs from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

**Brian W. Jones**

Brian W. Jones is the Co-founder and President of Latimer Education, a venture-backed, early-stage company seeking to provide an exceptional online postsecondary education experience to African-Americans. A veteran of the education sector, Brian was previously Senior Counsel in the Postsecondary Education Practice Group at Dow Lohnes PLLC, a Washington, DC-based law firm, where he advised a diverse array of education clients on matters of law and regulatory policy.

Brian currently serves as Chairman of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board, which oversees the 52 charter schools (93 campuses) in the nation’s capital, serving nearly forty percent of the city's public school students.

Brian earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a focus in finance from Georgetown University, and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law.

**Mary Kay Shields**

As Interim Executive Director of The Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University (CMU), Mary Kay Shields leads the first university authorizer of charter public schools in the nation.

Driven by a passionate belief that all children deserve a quality education, Mary Kay began her career as a special education teacher.  From the classroom, she worked on school finance and policy reform through her service with the House Fiscal then Senate Fiscal Agencies in the Michigan Legislature. During that time, she was instrumental in the passage of the seminal School Improvement Act (P.A. 25 of 1990) as well as several school finance reform ballot proposals.

In 1999, Mary Kay joined CMU, where she worked with The Center for Charter Schools and also served as Special Advisor to the President for Capitol Relations. In 2001, she left CMU to serve as the founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Charter Schools Institute. In 2007, Mary Kay returned to CMU to lead The Center for Charter Schools' strategic partnerships, school operations and performance data efforts.  Under her leadership as Deputy Director, CMU has developed tools and practices for effectively chartering, supporting, overseeing and evaluating schools.

**Ursula Wright**

Ursula Wright is the interim president and CEO for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Before assuming her current position, Ursula served as the COO and, prior to that, the CFO for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools for three years. Her diverse professional experience includes corporate finance, operations and business development positions at some of the nation’s most recognized firms, including The Chase Manhattan Bank, PricewaterhouseCoopers and a General Electric subsidiary. Ursula has served on a number of governing boards, but the board service she is most proud of is that of founding trustee at Achievement Preparatory Academy, Washington, DC’s highest-performing charter school.   Ursula earned an Economics degree from Spelman College and a Master of Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.