



Jumpstart Staff Members

Jumpstart's staff is a dedicated group of individuals who strive and work together towards the day where every child in America enters school prepared to succeed. They come from diverse backgrounds and each offers a specific talent that helps the organization thrive.

James Cleveland, President, has been a dedicated member of Jumpstart's staff since 2002, first joining the organization as the Executive Director of Jumpstart's Northeast Region. During his 18 months of oversight in the Northeast, James established a performance focused regional team that achieved and exceeded revenue and program goals. James's accomplishments earned him a national role as Vice President and General Manager in 2004. In this role, James worked to strengthen Jumpstart's operations infrastructure to support the organization's aggressive growth with quality strategy. In 2007, James was named President. His extensive expertise in operations and performance management combined with his knowledge of the Jumpstart network make him an ideal leader for the organization, ensuring the expansion of Jumpstart's impact for years to come. As a graduate of Stanford University (1993), James has made a palpable impact in the education field for more than a decade. From 1994-2000, he worked at SCORE! Educational Centers. SCORE! provides communities throughout the nation with centers that offer parents and schools a positive, effective supplemental education resource for children K-8th grades. James's aptitude for leadership and business management allowed him to move quickly into one of SCORE!'s first Region Manager roles. James managed a region in San Francisco, CA and was responsible for up to fifty-five direct reports and over \$4 million in revenue. He also opened four additional centers, implemented new tutoring service offering, established new community partnerships with schools and youth oriented organizations, and ultimately improved year-over-year revenue generation by 300%. The success in his efforts allowed him to hold other significant roles at SCORE!, which included the Director of Customer Service at eSCORE.com and the National Director of Professional Development and Recruiting. Late in 2000, James connected with the original founders of SCORE! to build a new education company – InsideTrack – this time targeting college students. InsideTrack was created to help college students make excellent decisions about their academic and career goals, and then provide the support and resources needed to achieve their goals. James was a co-founder and also the COO for InsideTrack; his primary focus was to establish the company infrastructure and operational processes needed to operate remote business units on college campuses. As InsideTrack gained traction with a sustainable plan for growth and success, James transitioned to Jumpstart, and has since utilized his operational expertise and best practice management capabilities as an exemplary leader in the field of early education.

Kim Davenport, Senior Vice President, Education and Program, oversees the development of Jumpstart programming including research, curriculum, training, monitoring, and assessment, as well as program model and pilot development. Kim joined Jumpstart as the Director of the Pearson Teacher Fellowship, a national program that recruits select Jumpstart Corps member alumni to become preschool teachers in Head Start and other early learning centers. Prior to joining Jumpstart's staff, Kim served as Director of the Child Care Network at Beansprout Networks, a venture company connecting parents, pediatricians, and child care providers, where she built the first generation of Web-based tools for centers to construct Web sites. Kim has been a teacher, director, and adjunct faculty in child study. Kim holds an M.A. in Child Development from Tufts University and is a graduate of Villanova University

Katey Comerford, Senior Director, National Field Support, began her work with Jumpstart in 2004 as Program Director in Jumpstart's Central Region office. In 2006, Katey transitioned to City Director for Jumpstart in Washington, DC and propelled the organization's presence in the region. In the fall of 2009, Katey joined the national team under a branch of the Education & Program department called National Field Support. In her current role, Katey oversees the programmatic and operational support activities geared directly to work on site, and offers executive oversight to our 24 campus-based and emerging market sites around the country. For over 10 years, Katey has been working with non-profit organizations focusing on education, youth development, and civic engagement. Katey has a BA in Sociology from Kent State University and received her Masters in Social Work at Temple University.

Kasi Cruz, Senior Director, Human Resources, has been at Jumpstart for nine years and is one of the organization's most tenured staff members. Kasi is responsible for setting direction and managing the organization's HR programs and initiatives, in addition to overseeing Jumpstart's recruitment team. By developing, implementing, supporting and evaluating a wide-variety of HR programs, Kasi is integral in creating and maintaining a positive, success oriented culture focused on attracting, retaining and motivating Jumpstart employees. Prior to joining Jumpstart, Kasi worked for Boston Concessions Group as the HR and Payroll Manager for 5 years and Melrose Enterprises as an Administrator for 8 years. Kasi is a graduate of Harvard University with a bachelor of arts in pre-law and a founding member of the Boston WAC (Women's Action Coalition) Chapter.

Dean Elson, Senior Director, Evaluation, is responsible for leading the organization's child assessment and program evaluation efforts since 2004. In addition to designing and leading the evaluation of several pilot projects, Dean led the Jumpstart Assessment Advisory Committee from 2004-2007 to develop evaluation plans that support Jumpstart's strategic plan and the needs of external stakeholders. Currently, his work focuses on managing the Performance Management department to ensure success with the organization's data collection, storage, management, analysis and reporting needs. Prior to joining Jumpstart's staff, Dean worked for 5 years at the Massachusetts Department of Education (now the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education), the last 3 years leading a statewide early care and education data collection and analysis project. While there, Dean developed the first-ever statewide Early Childhood Education Indicators for every town and city in the Commonwealth. In addition to his Jumpstart work, Dean is an advisor on the Boston Thrive in Five Data and Research Team to assist with a 5-year early education plan, and Associated Early Care and Education's EQUIP Data Advisory Board. His background is in child and family development, research, program evaluation, and public policy. Dean holds a joint master's degree from Tufts University in Child Development and Urban & Environmental Policy, as well as a bachelor's degree in political science from Duke University.

Meredith Hamilton, Senior Director of Organizational Planning and Analysis leads the team responsible for driving organizational performance through annual budgeting, business planning, financial analysis, and ongoing review of key organizational metrics. Meredith previously served as the Director of Strategic Initiatives at Jumpstart, during which time she supported national and regional teams in advancing organizational initiatives, with an initial focus on market growth and systems development. Before joining Jumpstart, Meredith completed a year-long fellowship with Citizen Schools as a Harvard Business School Leadership Fellow. She also worked as the Manager of Communications and Special Projects at The Guidance Center, a nonprofit specializing in prevention, intervention, and family support services. Other positions have included a three-year role at Prudential Financial as a management associate, as well as a summer associate internship with Teach for America. Meredith holds a bachelor's degree in



African American Studies from Wesleyan University and a master's in business administration from Harvard Business School.

Executive Directors

Sue Werley, Executive Director, Northeast Region, joined Jumpstart in July of 2004 as a Site Manager at Tufts University. After a year, Susan was promoted to a program director eventually overseeing all of the programming for the Northeast Region. During this time Susan brought a focus of the whole child to the region continuing to build partnerships with non-profits that helped the organization develop more comprehensive services for the region's children. Prior to working for Jumpstart she did her Masters work in Child Development at Tufts University. She focused on adolescent social and emotional development by conducting a qualitative study on peer group memberships in four different contextual settings and also policy and leadership within the field of Early Education. Susan is a graduate of McDaniel college where she completed an industrial efficiency study of a pre-service teaching and educational partnerships between McDaniel College and the surrounding county public schools. Susan was a member of the 2007 Schott Fellowship in Early Care and Education, which is a one-year public policy leadership program designed to create the next generation of early care and education policy leaders in Massachusetts. During the fellowship, Susan published a paper on the state of Early Education and Care Assessment in Massachusetts. She is continuing to pursue multiple policy issues throughout the Commonwealth. Sue oversees all Jumpstart programming, operations, and development functions in the Northeast Region.

Jan Arnold, Executive Director, Central Region As the new Executive Director, Jan is responsible for overseeing development and fundraising, program management and growth, relationship cultivation, staff management, and operational effectiveness for Jumpstart Chicago. Jan has a wealth of senior management experience in both the public and not-for-profit sectors. Jan has previously worked for the City of Chicago in a variety of senior-level positions where she was responsible for personnel management, budget oversight, and strategic initiative development for both the Department of Aviation and the Department of Buildings. Jan has also served in multiple roles for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, including Vice President of Operations and Vice President of Programs and Membership, where she developed strategic partnerships and launched new program initiatives to increase the organization's reach and effectiveness. Jan most recently served as a senior manager for KPMG, where she advised senior-level clients in the public and not-for-profit sectors on a range of critical and strategic issues. Jan holds a B.S. from Murray State University, a M.S. from Indiana University and a M.B.A. from Lake Forest Graduate School of Business.

Christopher Padula, Executive Director, Western Region is responsible for overseeing regional development and fundraising, program management and growth, relationship cultivation, staff management and operational effectiveness. Chris comes to Jumpstart after 7 years with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), the nation's largest educational organization supporting the Hispanic community. As a member of HSF's executive management team, Chris served as Vice President of Development, overseeing all national and regional fundraising from corporations, foundations, individuals, special events and cause-related marketing. Leading a team of twenty fundraisers throughout the nation, Chris spearheaded an aggressive growth plan that resulted in annual revenue up to \$20 million in support of scholarship and outreach programs. Prior to his promotion to VP, Chris served at HSF in increasingly responsible roles as Director of Donor Relations and Senior Development Officer. His major accomplishments included significantly increasing corporate-related revenue and working with Fortune 500 donors including Wal-Mart, Target, Procter & Gamble, Coca-Cola, Google, General Motors, Toyota, Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo among others. While at HSF, Chris also secured major private foundation support from the

Gates, Ford, Lumina, Lilly, Goizueta and College Access foundations as well as launching HSF's first alumni and major gifts individual campaigns. Prior to joining HSF, Chris served as Development Manager for Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. Previous to his transition to non-profit roles, Chris spent ten years in corporate marketing and business development positions for Bechtel, Orion Picture and NBC Productions. Chris has been active in his community through volunteer work, including spending seven years on the Board of Directors for Dolores Street Community Services in San Francisco. A graduate of Bentley College in Waltham, MA, Chris is originally from Warwick, RI but has resided throughout California since his college graduation.

Myung Lee, Executive Director, Eastern Region is responsible for overseeing regional development and fundraising, program management and growth, relationship cultivation, staff management, and operational effectiveness for the region. Myung comes to Jumpstart from Safe Horizon, where she served as the Vice President of Corporate Development and secured over \$5 million dollars from corporate donors in 3 years through corporate sponsorships, cause marketing, event sponsorship, and restricted support for programs, including a 450% increase in corporate support in non-event related corporate work. Prior to her work at Safe Horizon, she held a management role with Partnership for the Homeless, where her aptitude for leadership helped shape the agency's vision through aggressive public relations campaigns, marketing, and new business development. Myung also previously worked in the private sector for high-growth new ventures, including Major League Baseball Advanced Media, The Legal Knowledge company, and Modis (formerly Special Counsel). In addition, Myung has worked for the Corporation for National and Community Service, Jumpstart's largest funder, as an Associate General Counsel for the Office of the General Counsel and a Program Officer with AmeriCorps State and National Direct. Myung holds a B.A. in Political Science from the State University of New York at Binghamton and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law School.

Sekou Biddle, Executive Director, Southern Region joined Jumpstart in 2007 and has accumulated over 14 years of experience in urban public education and education reform. Also in 2007, Sekou was elected to the DC State Board of Education and was re-elected to 2008. Sekou previously served as the Director of Community Outreach in DC for KIPP, a national network of free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory public schools. Prior to this he trained and supported first and second year teachers as a program director with Teach For America, the national teacher corps. Sekou started his career as a Teach For America corps member in New York City and has also been a classroom teacher in Atlanta, and Washington, DC. Sekou is a graduate of Morehouse College and earned a Masters in Education from Georgia State University. He is also on the Board of the Directors for the DC High School Baseball Classic which generates resources to support DC based youth baseball programs and to highlight the recent successes of the DC Public School system. and the Rosemount Center a bilingual Head Start/Early Head Start Center located in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Washington, DC.

Gary Jimenez, Executive Director, Southern California, is responsible for overseeing regional development and fundraising, program management and growth, relationship cultivation, staff management, and operational effectiveness in Los Angeles and surrounding areas. Gary has a wealth of non-profit leadership and senior-level fundraising experience from within the education sector in Southern California. Prior to joining Jumpstart, Gary served as the Regional Vice President for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), where he established the Southwestern operations; launched a major gift and annual fund program generating \$2,000,000 annually from individuals, corporations, foundations, promotions, and special events; hired and supervised six staff members and opened two satellite offices; established a regional advisory board and

managed relationships with local stakeholders including donors and media; and worked closely with HSF's headquarters to align strategic plans and fundraising agendas. Prior to HSF, Gary served as Director of Development for Claremont Graduate University, managing a \$40 million 4-year endowment campaign; Associate Director of Development at the University of Southern California (USC), responsible for securing gifts up to \$100,000; Manager, Corporate Relations for the Fulfillment Fund, responsible for raising \$2 million from corporations annually; and Regional Director for the Community for Education Foundation, responsible for all fundraising and operations for the organization's Los Angeles office. A native of Los Angeles, Gary earned his MBA from Claremont Graduate University and his BA from University of Southern California.

Staff Profiles:

Kate Cieri

Kate Cieri has been with Jumpstart for four years. She served as a Corps member and team leader at her alma mater, Boston University. After graduation, Kate became site manager at Jumpstart Boston at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. After a year at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, Kate moved into and developed the pilot of the associate program director role in the Northeast Region. Following this success, Kate was promoted to program director and was most recently promoted to pilots' manager, education and research.

"Jumpstart has given me the great opportunity and challenge to positively impact early education on a national and local level. I have yet to find a place where I can be surrounded by so many experts from our field who are so passionate and committed to improving the education of all young children in America. During my time at Jumpstart, I have learned skills and gained experience in areas such as early education, national service, developing and maintaining partnerships, training, management, and strategic planning."

Atalaya Sergi

Atalaya Sergi has been with Jumpstart for 3 years. She serves as Program Director in our Los Angeles, California satellite office. Atalaya joined Jumpstart after working in the public school system in Virginia where she worked with families and community partners to address the academic and social challenges that faced the children of Charlottesville. Over the past three years Atalaya has served on several national product development teams and created several programmatic tools that are utilized at a national level. Atalaya has also championed Jumpstart's community collaborations in Southern California by fostering partnerships with departments of education, city and county offices, school districts, membership on the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee, and working closely with many community organizations. She has also doubled the number of university partners in Los Angeles County. Recently, Atalaya was spotlighted by Jumpstart's president in his monthly newsletter for her phenomenal work in Southern California.

"Jumpstart's mission is what drew me to the organization. Quality early education is the key to academic success and I believe every child should be afforded that opportunity. What excites me about Jumpstart is the innovative approach to helping young children succeed. Partnering caring and trained adults with young children not only benefits the children, but allows adults to have a meaningful and fulfilling way to provide service to their community. I am excited to be a part of an organization that includes all stakeholders in supporting young children and their families".