Dear Cahn Fellows, Alumni, and Allies,

What a winter this has been! But despite the weather, we have had so much going on!

One of the other high profile events being worked on for the Cahn Fellows Program this year is a presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in Chicago this April. We have been invited to present as a Presidential Spotlight Session with a focus on the Chicago schools since the conference is being hosted there. Our 2014 Chicago fellows, Janice Jackson and Donella Carter will be presenting with Dr. Xiaodong Lin of Teachers College and me at a presentation focused on the topic of motivation and the fear of failure in both high-performing and low-performing schools. We are looking forward to having the opportunity to bring more attention to the work and accomplishments of the Cahn Fellows and their schools and to help us grow this program in other large urban cities.

Currently, we are busily working on finalizing the selection of our next Cahn Fellows cohort. A big “Thank you!” to our core selection committee (Randy Asher, Lisa Goe, and Carmen Parache) who worked on developing a uniformed selection rubric, and to all of the alumni and fellows who so willingly volunteered to help out with the site visits (in alphabetical order for NYC: Randy Asher, Margaret Choy-Shan, Lisa Goe, Betty Gonzales, Alice Hom, Aileen Mitchell, Miriam Nightengale, Brian O’Connell, Carmen Parache, Nancy Sing-Bock, and Ed Tom, and for Chicago: Donella Carter, Mathew Ditto, Janice Jackson, Alan Mather and Tara Shelton). Your assistance in the whole process has been invaluable! The welcome reception for the 2015 cohort is planned for Thursday, May 14th from 4pm to 6pm. We hope that many of you will be able to join us on that day!

Recently, we held several sessions that were very well received and well attended by both alumni and fellows (the Crisis Communications event was videotaped and is available for viewing and for reference in the video gallery of our website):

- Crisis Communications: Navigating Education Lawsuits, Grievances and the Media
- Teaching Math to ELLs in Grades K-8
- ExecComm – Developing Presentation & Communication Skills

We have some great plans for the Cahn Fellows Program for the coming year. Since so many of you have said that the Gettysburg trip was one of the highlights of the program for you, we wanted to follow up on the leadership lessons learned from that trip with an event in the Fall of 2015.

We are currently in the process of planning an event with Dr. Jeff McCausland, retired colonel and national security consultant for CBS television and radio. He is also the founder and CEO of Diamond6 Leadership and Strategy, LLC, which conducts executive leadership development workshops for leaders and organizations in both the public and private sector. In addition, he is a visiting professor of international security at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and a senior fellow with the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership at the U.S. Naval Academy and the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. Jeff conducted many of the Gettysburg trips for the Cahn Fellows Program in the early years of the program and is very happy to work with us again. Once we finalize the arrangements, we’ll send out email invitations to everyone. We hope that you will all make arrangements to attend this “not to miss” event!

Wishing you all the best and a happy spring!

Lily
CAHN ALUMNI APPOINTED TO THE SUPERINTENDENCY

CAHN-GRATULATIONS!

COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENTS

BARBARA BROWN FREEMAN
District 13, Brooklyn
2005 FELLOW

ALICJA WINNICKI
District 14, Brooklyn
2010 FELLOW

DANIELLE GIUNTA
District 26, Bayside
2011 FELLOW

MARY BARTON
District 27, Ozone Park
2007 FELLOW

HIGH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

FRED WALSH
Manhattan High Schools
(Districts 2,3,4,5,6)
2007 FELLOW

PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP FACILITATORS

MUSA ALI SHAMA
2012 FELLOW

RAFAELA LANDIN
2010 FELLOW

JOE ZAZA
2005 FELLOW
2014 CHICAGO CAHN FELLOWS FEATURED AT AERA PRESIDENTIAL PANEL APRIL 18TH

CAHN FELLOWS SPOTLIGHT:
Janice Jackson, Chief of Schools
Network 9, Chicago Public Schools
2014 Cahn Fellow

For the first time at its April conference in Chicago, an American Educational Research Association (AERA) Presidential Key Session panel will consist of both researchers and school leaders associated with the Cahn Fellows Program.

2014 Chicago Cahn Fellows Janice Jackson (Chief of Chicago Public Schools, Network 9, and former principal of George Westinghouse College Prep) and Donella Carter (Principal of John M. Gregory Math & Science) will join Cahn Fellows Program Director Lily Din Woo (2003 Cahn Fellow and Principal Emeritus of P.S. 130M in NYC), and Teachers College researchers Drs. Xiaodong Lin (Professor of Cognitive Studies) and Zhong-Ying Shi, along with Beijing Normal University President Sian Bellock.

The presidential panel, entitled “Fear of Failure and Motivation will take place on April 18th from 10:30am to noon at the Hyatt West Tower in Chicago. Each panelist will to address how the “fear of failure” exists for students and staff in both high and low performing schools in Chicago and New York City Public Schools.

AERA President Joyce King will introduce the panelists who will tackle some common challenges facing them in their work, in their research and in their schools. All three Cahn Fellows (Woo, Jackson and Carter) have been successful principals with proven records of using motivation as a change maker. Each school leader will address fear of failure’s impact on instruction and student/teacher performance, and ways that they have dealt with it in their schools.

What kind of students are afraid of failure? How do some people approach learning and school work? How does this affect their performance and where does the fear come from?

2014 Fellow and Chicago Principal Carter will present on the Teachers Perspective and Mindset and how teachers often misdiagnose poor academic behaviors and lack of perseverance not as a lack of strategies or a problem with mindsets, but as indications that students are not motivated or do not care.

CPS Chief Jackson will identify problems related to motivation around STEM related subjects, the pervasive fear of academic failure amongst minority students and the five non-cognitive research factors that contribute to student success.

Using scientists to confront fear, Dr. Xiaodong Lin will discuss classroom-based motivational instructional programs that impact student performance and how her National Science Foundation study has helped schools improve student achievement and engagement in science and technology.

Beijing Normal University President Sian Bellock will address the problem with Math Anxiety Interventions while Zhong-Ying Shi will consider why Chinese students’ are afraid of failure and what aspects of support are needed, as well as the benefits and risks of motivation research.

CAHN FELLOWS SPOTLIGHT:
Donella Carter, Principal
John M. Gregory Math & Science
2014 Cahn Fellow
You Are Cordially Invited to the

**CAHN FELLOWS PROGRAM**

**WELCOME RECEPTION FOR THE 2015 COHORT**

May 14<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Teachers College, Columbia University

*Everett Lounge*

*4pm – 6pm*

RSVP at cahnfellows@tc.edu

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**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**CHUCK CAHN**
Cahn Fellows Program Founder and Chairman

**CARMEN FARINA**
Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
Former Cahn Fellows Program Board Member

**MARK CANNIZZARO**
CSA Executive Vice President
2009 Fellow

**CHRISTINA FOTI**
Executive Director
NYC DOE Office of Special Education


FACULTY UPDATE: Dr. Carolyn Riehl

Associate Professor of Sociology & Education Policy, Teachers College

VISITING CAHN FELLOWS AND ALLIES IN THEIR SCHOOLS

There is nothing like working with the Cahn Fellows Program for helping me stay in touch with the day-to-day realities of school leaders’ work. We faculty advisors are privileged to be able to hear all about the joys and frustrations, questions and worries, bold ideas, fierce determination, and all the big and small details that demand our leaders’ attention as they nurture schools where children and adults can thrive.

But all of this really POPs! when we get the chance to see our Fellows and Allies in their “natural habitats.” Looking over the list of schools I have visited, I remember Stacey Gauthier’s (2012 CF) Renaissance Charter School, where I got to see their very cool indoor play area but was most impressed by the walls of windows everywhere. That building really embodies a spirit of collegial teaching – very little happens behind closed doors. At I.S. 228, I saw the New Classrooms math wing with the TV monitors all around the big open space, sending kids on to their personalized math lessons. Principal Dominick D’Angelo (2012 CF) opens his school to visitors like he’s giving tours of Hollywood.

I was in Chicago in February and got to visit Donella Carter (2014 CF) at her school there. The hallways have clever street names, like Empathy Way, and Donella’s office seemed big enough for a whole grade level to come and have a story read to them! I’ve seen the “data room” at P.S. 273 with Melessa Avery (2010 CF), the high-ceilinged classrooms at Brooklyn Latin with Jason Griffiths (2012 CF), and of course the small-school charm at Teachers College Community School with Jeanene Worrell-Breden (2013 CF). I could go on and on – the hallways of Brooke Jackson’s (2011 CF) NYC Lab School, where I hung out as a parent and not just a faculty advisor.

The excellent use of whiteboards at Miriam Pedraja’s (2008 CF) Amistad Dual Language School, the lovely open lobby of P.S. 160 with Margaret Russo (2008 CF), and Ramon Gonzalez’s (2004 CF) windows on the neighborhood at the Lab School of Finance and Technology.

Getting to all these schools and seeing their neighborhoods has been an adventure. Driving between Queens and Brooklyn to get to Denise Jamison’s (2012 CF) J.H.S. 50 and seeing a startling view of Manhattan….napping on the A train on the way to Dana Gerendasi’s (2013 CF) Waterside Children’s Studio School in Far Rockaway (that shuttle train is like the little engine that could)...enjoying a walk through the science classrooms at Rhonda Perry’s (2013 CF) Salk School of Science...getting to the Grant Avenue Elementary School with Kristin Erat (2014 CF) a little late because Beshir Abdellatif (2014 CF) absolutely insisted I grab a bite of lunch with him at a really good Middle Eastern café near P.S. 50.

Once I see Fellows and Allies in their own schools, it’s so much easier and more interesting to help them as they work through their Cahn Projects. I can visualize the people and places they’re talking about. But the best part of visiting Cahn schools is seeing the Allies in action. In my visits, it became completely obvious how vital a part of their schools the Allies are, and how their principals would be lost without them. So here’s to you, Asalmah George (2014 CA), Sheerin O’Connor (2013 CA), Cynthia Lascano (2013 CA) and Marie Sarabia (2013 CA), and all the other Allies I’ve visited. Your principals, and the entire Cahn Program, are so lucky to have you!
CAHN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: 2011 Cahn Fellow Danielle Giunta

Community Superintendent, District 26, Bayside
Former Network Leader and Principal, P.S. 154, Queens

Danielle Giunta has worked for the Department of Education for the past 18 years. Danielle was recently appointed as Acting Community Superintendent for District 26 where she conducts Quality Reviews, Principal Practice Observations and informal visits, providing schools with accurate, fair and credible review experiences, in an effort to advance the work of ongoing school improvement.

Prior to her current role, Giunta served as Network Leader for a portfolio of 28 diverse schools across four community school districts by promoting student achievement through trusting relationships with her team and school leaders, fostering collaboration, and focusing on increasing capacity, instructional rigor, and independence for students, teachers and leaders.

Danielle is an experienced early childhood teacher and assistant principal who served as principal of PS 154Q in District 25. During her six years as principal, Danielle was committed to strengthening her school community and recognized for parent engagement, supporting teacher development through nurturing teacher leaders, and mentoring aspiring school leaders. Under her tutelage the school was selected as a TCRWP project school where educators from within the DOE and across the county could visit to observe best practices in literacy instruction. Additionally, Danielle served as a “mentor” principal in the former Collaborative Communities of Practice initiative.

Danielle received her master’s degree in Educational Leadership at Bank Street College of Education. She is an alumnus of the 2011 Cahn Fellows cohort, a former mentor for the NYC Leadership Academy’s Aspiring Principals Program, and currently an adjunct professor in the CUNY Queens College Educational Leadership department.
CAHN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: 2005 Cahn Fellow Joe Zaza

Principal Leadership Facilitator/Assistant Superintendent, Staten Island Schools and Renewal Schools
Former Network Leader and Principal, Leon Goldstein High School, Queens

MOVING ON AGAIN!

When asked the secret to his longevity and long life, George Burns quipped, “Love your job.” It is easy to change jobs when you do not have a real sense of vocation, so the last three years has run counter to the previous 26 years of my career.

I spent ten glorious years as a teacher at Edward R. Murrow High School where I both learned how to teach and how to lead under the tutelage of Saul Bruckner and parlayed this experience and lessons learned as principal for the Leon M. Goldstein High School for the Sciences for 11 years.

During my principalship, I was fortunate enough to be selected as a Cahn Fellow, an experience I not only treasure, but also continually learn from and apply in my position as Network Leader of Children’s First Network 201 and now, as newly appointed Principal Leadership Facilitator/Assistant Superintendent for Staten Island Schools and Renewal Schools.

While there is no better place in education than principal, supporting school leaders, communities, and students run a close second. Over the past year as Network Leader, I have worked with a diverse group of schools (from specialized high schools and screened programs to traditional, large comprehensive high schools to both phase out schools and priority focus schools), to improve student achievement as collaborative partners. In our network, we created a unique vision that academic excellence is only possible when school leaders collaborate and build both community and capacity.

Over the last three years, network schools (NEST and the Bronx High School of Science) worked together to send science experiments into space, partnered with the Department of Health to “create suicide safety in school” (most recently, 10 schools are piloting NYC Teen Text in order to support teens in crises), and working together with Apple and November Learning, implemented a project-based learning initiative that included use of technology.

It is clear that strong teacher collaborations coupled with a strong school-community relationship improves student achievement (Waters and Marzano, 2006). Research on educational leadership underscores the importance of principals operating as instructional leaders and intensive job-embedded supports for such work and cites the important role of central administration in supporting principal development. In this new role, I hope to continue to build partnerships, capacity and communication between and among both principals and school communities so that together, we all improve student achievement as, with apologies to Hillary Clinton, if it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community of learners to increase student achievement.

My passion for the work that we do has always driven me to seek innovative ways to engage our students to ensure that they are prepared for success in college and careers. I look forward to sharing my enthusiasm for this work, what I have learned, as well as to continue to learn from all of you in our community of progressive learners and collaborators.
CAHN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: 2004 Cahn Fellow Hector Geager

Hector Geager Principal of Manhattan Village Academy Participates in Inaugural Summit of Selective Public High School Leaders Convened by Cooke Foundation

2004 Cahn Fellow and Manhattan Village Academy Principal Hector Geager joined school leaders and experts from across the country at a two-day summit to identify solutions to close the excellence gap—the troubling disparity in academic performance between lower income and higher income students at advanced levels.

“Closing the Excellence Gap: Advocating for High-Achieving, Low-Income Students” was convened in February by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, which offers the largest scholarships in the country to high-performing students who have financial need.

Principal Geager was personally invited by the Cooke Foundation to collaborate with more than 100 other principals of selective high schools as well as leaders of organizations such as the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools, researchers focused on high-achieving, low-income students, other scholarship providers, education advocates, and John B. King, Jr., senior advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, to learn about cutting-edge research on and share and identify best practices for supporting high-achieving, low-income students.

At this landmark event, a new organization of these principals formed, called the Coalition of Leaders for Advanced Students Success, with an agenda to support and advocate for high-achieving students with financial need.

“We are leaders in our communities who have a stake in nurturing talent wherever we find it and regardless of a student’s economic status,” said Geager. “We need talent to remain competitive as a nation. This summit underscored the fact that SCHOOL is part of the solution.”

“I wanted to bring these school leaders together to discuss how to better support high-performing students with financial need because I know the high caliber of their leadership and of the education provided at their schools,” said Harold Levy, executive director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and who is a former chancellor of New York City Schools. “This summit confirmed my belief that these leaders have excellent insights to offer policymakers at all levels of government to benefit high-ability students from low and moderate income families.”

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. By offering the largest scholarships in the country, in-depth academic counseling and other direct services, the Foundation seeks to help high-performing, low-income students to develop their talents and excel educationally.

In addition to providing students both counseling and financial support from middle school to graduate school, the Foundation (www.jkcf.org) provides grants for noteworthy and innovative initiatives that support high-performing, low-income students. Founded in 2000, the Foundation has awarded over $130 million in scholarships to almost 1,900 students and over $80 million in grants.
CAHN ALLIES SPOTLIGHT:  
2014 ALLY ANDY SZETO  
Principal, Queens Adult Learning Center  
Former Assistant Principal  
Robert F. Kennedy Community High School, Queens

Andy Szeto is a 2014 Cahn Ally who began his fellowship year as Assistant Principal at the Robert F. Kennedy Community High School in Queens, under the leadership of his Cahn Fellow, Principal Beshir Abdellatif.

In December, Andy accepted the principalship at the Queens Adult Learning Center, an adult education program located in Long Island City, Queens. The program supports adult learners committed to self improvement and provides purposeful learning experiences to include workforce development and job training.

Queens Adult Learning Center has a reputation of excellence and Andy feels very fortunate to be joining such a dedicated team of educational professionals that are focused on adult learning, a commitment to high expectations, innovation and collaboration. He intends to continue these important traditions and practices.

Before joining Queens Adult Learning Center, Szeto was the director of Flushing YABC in Queens. He has taught Global History, U.S. History and AP U.S. History. He earned a bachelor's in history from Stony Brook University and a master's in Reading from SUNY Albany.

Andy has previously shared best practices and strategies as a curriculum developer, an assessment writer and a program consultant for local and national organizations.

“My experience in the Cahn Fellows program has been intellectually stimulating. It certainly helps me to face the leadership challenges in the ever-changing educational landscape. I am thankful for being selected to learn with a group of dynamic and distinguished education professionals.”

Andy Szeto
THE ALLIES’ ROAD TO THE PRINCIPALSHIP...

CAHN-GRATULATIONS!

DENISE HARPER-RICHARDSON
2010 Cahn Ally

MICHAEL WALKER
2010 Cahn Ally

WASHINGTON HERNANDEZ
2010 Cahn Ally

DENISE HARPER-RICHARDSON
Principal
Channel View School for Research
Queens

MICHAEL WALKER
Principal
The Susan McKinney High School of Performing Arts
Brooklyn

WASHINGTON HERNANDEZ
Principal
P.S. 8
Luis Belliard School
Manhattan

KATIE DELLO STRITTO
2010 Cahn Ally

INTERIM ACTING
PRINCIPAL
P.S. 58
The Carroll School
Brooklyn

INTERIM ACTING
PRINCIPAL
The Susan McKinney High School of Performing Arts
Brooklyn

KATIE DELLO STRITTO
2010 Cahn Ally

INTERIM ACTING
PRINCIPAL
P.S. 58
The Carroll School
Brooklyn
In March, the New York City Department of Education’s Emerald Society honored several educators, including three Cahn Alumni, at Terrace on the Park in Queens. Each year at its annual scholarship award dinner, the Emerald Society also honors promising public school students.

Brian Bradley, President of the NYC DOE Emerald Society, a former 2014 Cahn Ally, heads the fraternal organization that celebrates Irish culture.

Brian was recently appointed Interim Acting Principal at the Renaissance School of the Arts in New York City. Previously, Bradley served as Assistant Principal at the Manhattan Center for Science & Mathematics under the leadership of his 2014 Cahn Fellow and Principal David Jimenez.
MARCH 23rd WORKSHOP: TEACHING MATH TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
HELD FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERS

In partnership with Generation Ready, The Cahn Fellows Program hosted a workshop that supported distinguished principals of English language learners (ELL) on March 23rd at Teachers College.

In a response to requests to provide more academic program support to our fellows and alumni, the Cahn Fellows Program partnered with Generation Ready and over 40 Cahn Alumni and Fellows with English language learners (ELLS) in the content area of math. The special workshop was designed for Grades K-8 and many Cahn Alumni attended the morning session including elementary and middle school principals, their Assistant Principals, math coaches and lead teachers.

Generation Ready math expert math consultants Eric Siegel and Chris Coombes encouraged participants to engage all levels of ELLs and school leaders walked away with an easy-to-implement set of tools. Participants learned how to excel their English language learners (ELLS) students’ understanding of mathematics by employing the following strategies with ELLs:

• To use research into math instruction for ELLs to inform mathematics instruction for all students. This includes three categories of strategies: Making math content more comprehensible, providing opportunities for talk, and providing support for talk.

• To use models and representations to frame mathematical thinking. These include models to help students make sense of story problems (e.g., tape diagrams) and models to help students with computation (e.g., open arrays).

• To enable students to access mathematical vocabulary and language structures. This includes exploring the power of sentence frames to support students’ oral and written language.

• To facilitate student discourse and use discourse to generate high levels of mathematical thinking. Research shows that “students deepen their understanding of mathematics by using language to communicate and reflect on their ideas, and cement their understanding.”

• To frame questions, both written and verbal, that both scaffold and challenge student thinking. Questions can be adapted to match the level of ELLs, for example, becoming more open ended as students progress in their ability to respond.

• To structure math lessons that emphasize open-ended exploration. This will include specific lesson delivery structures that lead to more student-centered instruction.
IN THE NEWS...

BRIAN O’CONNELL
Principal
The Scholars’ Academy
Queens
2009 CAHN FELLOW

Named
DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL
Rockaway’s
2015 ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE

CHRISTINA TETTONIS
Principal
Hellenic Classical Charter School
Brooklyn
2008 CAHN FELLOW

awarded
BROOKLYN’S TOP WOMEN IN BUSINESS
HONORED BY
Councilman Vincent Gentile for
GREEK HERITAGE DAY
CAHN-GRATULATIONS!
MOVERS AND SHAKERS

MATHEW DITTO
Former Principal
Andrew Jackson Language Academy
Chicago
2013 CAHN FELLOW

BERNADETTE FITZGERALD
Former Principal
P.S. 503, Brooklyn
2012 CAHN FELLOW

GIULIA COX
Former Executive Director
Office of Teacher Effectiveness
2005 CAHN FELLOW

RETURNING PRINCIPAL
M.S. 118
WILLIAM NILES SCHOOL
Bronx

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR
OF SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION
Chicago Public Schools

DIRECTOR
NYC Department of Education
North Brooklyn Borough
Field Support Center

MATHEW DITTO

GIULIA COX

BERNADETTE FITZGERALD
CAHN-GRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

ALAN COHEN
Principal
2006 CAHN FELLOW

THE PORTLEDGE SCHOOL
PORTLEDGE, NY

Harlem Village Academies is seeking exceptional instructional leaders and classroom teachers for the coming school year. HVA has just such opportunities - for a middle school principal, and for elementary literacy and middle school literacy directors - who embrace their progressive pedagogical philosophy within a culture of urgency and accountability. The principal and literacy directors will work with Shelley Harwayne, Grant Wiggins, and other master educators who are creating the Progressive Education Institute, a new teachers college based at HVA.

What’s more, HVA has exciting opportunities for elementary, middle and high school teachers! We strongly encourage interest from teachers committed to quality progressive pedagogy and to engaging students every day in authentic, meaningful learning experiences. At HVA, we foster a rich intellectual life for teachers, and provide them with extensive professional development and coaching from master educators. Those interested can learn more at: www.harlemvillageacademies.org.

OPPORTUNITIES
Is Hiring!

Free Teacher Workshops at Harlem Village Academies

Harlem Village Academies will open its doors to K-8 educators from all over the city and offer them a high-quality professional development focused on aspects of progressive pedagogy. Each session has a different instructional focus, including workshops on struggling readers, diverse children’s literature, nonfiction reading strategies, teaching math through problem solving, special education, inquiry, social studies and more. This winter professional learning series featuring 10 workshops led by HVA’s academic leadership team, including Shelley Harwayne and Donna Santman. To register, go to the HVA website.