



Advisory Board

Board Purpose

The Invest in My EducationSM initiative operates with guidance from an advisory board. The board is comprised of eight members who are leaders from community nonprofits, higher education institutions, and workforce development experts. The advisory board has been created to help assist Fidelity Investments in how Invest in My EducationSM can best assist students to help access, persist, and graduate with an appropriate post-secondary credential and land an upwardly mobile job.

Invest in My EducationSM looks to its board members to:



Provide high-level input on strategy and approach of supporting students with their postsecondary pathways.



Provide insight into the nuances of this strategy in each of the localized markets we will launch this work.



Act as an external champion and validator of this work, helping Fidelity amplify this work through their networks.

Our Board Members



Chris Coxen
Managing Director, Educate Texas



Chris Coxen is the director of programs for Educate Texas, helping to improve educational outcomes for low-income, minority and first-generation students across the state. Prior to coming to CFT, Chris held a number of educational leadership positions including teacher, teacher leader, district administrator and principal. Before moving back to Dallas, he was the chief academic officer of the Boston Public Schools for five years. During his tenure, the district was designated by the Broad Foundation as one of the top five urban school districts in the nation for improving academic gains for all students and decreasing achievement gaps.



Akeshia Craven-Howell
Partner, Bellwether Education
Partners

 CHARLOTTE,
NORTH CAROLINA

Akeshia Craven-Howell is a partner with Bellwether in the Strategic Advising practice area. Akeshia brings more than 15 years of leadership experience in large urban school systems, most recently serving as Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' associate superintendent for student assignment and school choice in North Carolina. She led innovation, college and career readiness, and equitable access to high-quality learning in the district. As a member of the superintendent's cabinet, Akeshia was a key contributor to district strategy and performance management.

Prior to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Akeshia worked in Chicago Public Schools as a project manager for high school transformation, a senior manager in instructional leadership, a chief area officer for high schools, and an officer for pathways to college and career. Akeshia began her career working in engineering and consulting firms in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Evanston, Illinois. At The Alford Group in Evanston, she led consulting teams to provide strategy management and development solutions in the not-for-profit sector.

Akeshia is an alumna of The Broad Superintendents Academy and The Broad Residency in Urban Education. She holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from North Carolina State University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Amanda Fernandez
CEO and Founder of Latinos for
Education

 BOSTON,
MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Fernandez is the CEO and Founder of Latinos for Education, the first Latino-founded and led national organization dedicated to developing, placing, and connecting essential Latino leadership in the education sector, while mobilizing Latino voices to promote practices and policies that remove barriers to equitable educational opportunity. Under her leadership, the organization has grown from a Boston-based nonprofit to a national leader on education policy, advocacy and leadership development with a presence from coast to coast and an operating budget of over \$6 million.

In 2023 she was appointed to serve on the Massachusetts Governor's Latino Empowerment Council which will advise on strategies to expand economic opportunities for and improve the overall wellbeing of Massachusetts' Latino community. Prior to this appointment, she served on the Governor's transition team as the co-chair of the thriving youth and young adults committee.

Amanda previously served as a Trustee of the Board with the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. She is a 2020 recipient of the McNulty Prize Catalyst Fund and a Senior Fellow at FutureEd. Amanda has over 25 years of experience in the areas of recruiting, diversity, organization development, change management, strategic planning, and Latino community relations.




Danielle Gonzales
Senior Fellow, One Generation

 ALBUQUERQUE,
NEW MEXICO

Danielle Gonzales, nonprofit and educational leader, currently senior fellow for One Generation, focused on educational equity and sustaining Indigenous language, culture and wellness. Most recently Danielle served as Executive Director of New Mexico First, a statewide nonprofit building consensus on challenging issues. She has over 20 years of experience in education, policy, and leadership at the local, state and national levels. Previous roles include Managing Director at The Aspen Institute, and Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Danielle was elected to serve on the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education in 2021. She earned her Masters from the University of Notre Dame, and Bachelors from The George Washington University.



Joe Scantlebury
President and CEO of
Living Cities

 WASHINGTON,
D.C.

Joe Scantlebury is the President and CEO of Living Cities, a collaborative of 19 of the world’s leading foundations and financial institutions who work together to close racial income and wealth gaps in American cities.

Prior to joining Living Cities, Joe Scantlebury served as vice president for program strategy (places) at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. He led, designed and implemented strategic programming efforts to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families in the W.K. Kellogg Foundation priority places.

Prior to joining the Kellogg Foundation in January 2015, Joe served as senior program officer, U.S. Program Advocacy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Washington, D.C. In this role, Joe led state policy advocacy within a subset of priority Northeast and Mid-South states, as well as led civil rights and equity work at Gates. He was responsible for advancing foundation strategies, priorities and brand by building public and political will among national, federal and state leaders and constituencies. Prior to working at the Gates Foundation, Joe was a staff attorney at the Youth Law Center in Washington, where he advocated and litigated nationally to reduce disproportionate minority confinement and addressed conditions within the juvenile justice system.

Joe received a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University’s New York State School of Industrial & Labor Relations. He holds a Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law.



David Shapiro
President and CEO YMCA of
Greater Boston



David Shapiro serves as the 14th President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston. The YMCA of Greater Boston, America's first YMCA, is one of the largest private social services providers in Massachusetts, offering programs and services to improve community health, build bright futures, end hunger, remove barriers to economic stability and demand equity for all. David joined the YGB on October 17, 2022.

Prior to leading the YMCA of Greater Boston, Shapiro served as CEO of MENTOR and MENTOR's Massachusetts Affiliate, Mass Mentoring Partnership. A servant leader of the mentoring movement for over 20 years, David Shapiro has dedicated his career to working across sectors and driving equity through the power of relationships. Shapiro's movement-building expertise has also been recognized by leading organizations including the Social Impact Exchange, the Stanford Social Innovation Review, the BARR Foundation, and Grantmakers for Effective Organizations. His thought leadership has been featured in publications including *The Hill*, *The 74 Million*, and *Thrive Global*. Shapiro is a frequent speaker around the country on diverse topics ranging from youth mental health, education, workforce development, and civic engagement centering on the power of social capital and relationships as drivers of healthy development, diversity, and equitable support and opportunity.

Shapiro has held leadership positions with the U.S. Golf Association Foundation and the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay. He serves as an emeritus board member of the Mass NonProfit Network and Common Impact and is on the boards of the Institute for Nonprofit Practice, America's Promise Alliance, The Center for Healing and Justice Through Sport, and the national board of Friends of the Children. In 2022, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker appointed him to the board of trustees of Bunker Hill Community College, the largest community college in Massachusetts. Also in 2022, Shapiro became the first recipient of the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation's "Bill Russell Mentoring Award," which recognizes individuals who have made a significant impact in the mentoring field in the New England area.

Shapiro and his family reside in Boston. He is a husband, father, mentor, and youth baseball coach.



Artis Stevens
President & CEO at Big Brothers
Big Sisters of America

 ATLANTA,
GEORGIA

As President & CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Artis Stevens takes the helm of the organization at a critical moment for our nation's youth. The youngest in a large family with limited resources, Artis was surrounded with positive relationships that inspired his potential. The son and grandson of preachers, he often shares, his calling for the past 25 years has focused on empowering young people.

As the first Black CEO in BBBSA's 100+ year history, Artis sees this historic announcement as fuel to break more barriers. He previously served as Senior Vice President/Chief Marketing Officer for National 4-H Council, and the National Vice President, Marketing, Strategy & Operations at Boys & Girls Club of America. An award-winning non-profit marketing leader with a passion for building purpose-driven brands, boards, and teams, Artis' experience has also led to transformational outcomes in fundraising and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives.



Lynn Wooten
President, Simmons
University

 BOSTON,
MASSACHUSETTS

Lynn Perry Wooten, a seasoned academic and an expert on organizational development and transformation, is the ninth president of Simmons University. She is the first African American to lead the University.

Specializing in crisis leadership, diversity and inclusion, and positive leadership, Dr. Wooten is an innovative leader and prolific author and presenter. She came to Simmons from Cornell University, where she was the David J. Nolan Dean and Professor of Management and Organizations at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. Prior to that, she served on the faculty of the University of Michigan Ross School of Business for nearly 20 years.

Dr. Wooten is the author of nearly 30 journal articles, more than 15 book chapters and four books. This includes The Prepared Leader and the Wall Street Journal best-selling book Arrive and Thrive. A resident of Brookline, Dr. Wooten is actively involved in the Boston philanthropic and civic community. She currently serves on the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees, the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Trustee Advisory Board, the JFK Library Foundation Board of Advisors, the Fenway Alliance Board of Directors, The George School Board of Trustees, the MASCO Board of Directors, and the GBH Board of Trustees. In addition, Dr. Wooten is an active member of several national volunteer leadership organizations, and she serves on the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan Board of Directors and the North Carolina A&T University Board of Trustees.

Dr. Wooten holds a bachelor's degree from North Carolina A&T State University, where she was valedictorian; an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business; and a doctorate from the University of Michigan. In addition, she received a Certificate in Advanced Educational Leadership from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Dr. Wooten is married to David Wooten, a chaired marketing professor at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. They have two children, Justin and Jada. Read more about Dr. Wooten.



For more information on the Invest in My Education program, contact InvestInMyEducation@fmr.com.

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