Advisory Board





Dr. Mildred Browne

Dr. Mildred Browne has spent 30 years as an educator and psychologist assisting and advocating for students and families whose needs fall outside traditional school systems. Her expertise includes special education, pupil services, student discipline, and alternative education. She has developed innovative programs including, the Mental Health Collaborative Model, the Counseling Clinic/Wrap Program, and School Coordinated Care Teams. Dr. Browne's passion is addressing disproportionality as it relates to the over- representation of specific ethnic groups in special education and in regards to suspension and expulsion. She has brought this passion to all of her professional endeavors over the last four decades.



Steve Edrington

Steve Edrington is President of two Oakland-based companies, Edrington & Associates and Adapt Dwellings, Inc. With over 25 years of experience in the real estate industry, his companies provide services to increase the supply of safe and decent housing in the Bay Area. As a long-time Oakland resident, Steve has seen the effects of inequity in our education system and is passionate about improving educational outcomes for the city's underserved communities.



Conway Jones

Conway B. Jones, Jr. is a patriot, businessman, and arts patron. He retired from the United States Air Force Reserve in 1993 with thirty years of combined active and reserve duty. He is credited with 87 airlift missions in Vietnam. He is the past chairman of the Oakland Arts Council, the Oakland Aviation Museum, and the Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission. He is board chairman of the CTC Foundation, which provides grant support in the area of education. He is founder and chairman of the Calvin Simmons Center for the Performing Arts.



Jessie Banuelos

Jessie Banuelos is a proud mother and a Latina Business Owner of a Farmers Insurance agency in Orinda. Born and raised in Richmond, Jessie learned English as a second language and struggled with reading comprehension until college. Nonetheless, she persevered to attend UC Berkeley, and has made sure that all of her sons attended college. Her agency is involved in many community events, hosting financial literacy seminars at the high school level, participating in Hispanic Heritage Read-In with the elementary school students, and speaking engagements with Hispanic students at local colleges.



Chris Dunlap

Chris Dunlap is a dedicated educator who has lived and taught in Oakland schools for over 40 years. She has extensive knowledge and experience teaching literacy skills. As a master teacher, she has mentored beginning teachers who have gone on to successfully teach in Oakland public schools. Having worked with the National SEED Project for 24 years, Chris is a lifelong learner and leader in educational equity and inclusion work. She combines that passion with her commitment to the educational success of all students.



Imran M. Alavi

Imran Alavi is the CEO at Proleadsoft, an award winning and 5-star rated software, app design and development, and digital marketing firm based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Imran holds a BS in Computer Science from the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, an MS in Computer Science from San Francisco State University, and has completed Stanford University Continuing Studies courses in Business, Marketing, and Communication. For more than 10 years, Imran's company has been helping numerous nonprofit organizations in the Bay Area achieve their digital transformation goals.



Gary C Wong

Gary C Wong, a California CPA, is a Business Financial Advisor and a Profitability Coach, who centers his practice around Jesus Christ. He has been married to his CPA wife Annie for 45 tax seasons, and, have raised three dependents - Christina, Melissa, and Richard. Gary has practiced in public accounting and specializes in business and individual income taxation for 35 years. He enjoys helping business owners make more money while reducing their lifetime taxes. Gary is enthusiastic and passionate about the four "Ts" in his life: "Taxes, Toastmasters, Travel, and Training Servant Leaders" He is active in Rotary International, Lions Clubs International, and Toastmasters International.



Jason Mathews

Jason Matthews, MDRT is the President and C.E.O. of Matthews Financial & Insurance Solutions. He is a native Californian based in Oakland, California. Jason began his career in the insurance & financial services industry in 2004 with New York Life Insurance Company. During his tenure with New York Life he achieved the prestigious NYLIC Executive Council in recognition of outstanding sales results three consecutive years in a row. Jason was the youngest person to reach the Elite Executive Council ranking during two of those three years.



Barbara Mahan

Barb Mahan grew up in Oakland and attended all Oakland Public Schools. Barb has 20+ years of teaching from kindergarten through adult education in Public, Private and Parochial Schools. Many summers were spent teaching Art classes, while many years were spent teaching English as a Second Language in night school to adults. She Developed, Implemented and Directed a one week summer school for children from 10-12 years old who lived and learned from Professors on the Cal campus. She has done research with Professors in Australia, China, California, Florida and on two islands in the Caribbean. She continued to tutor after retiring from the classroom. Barbara is excited about the Right Path to Learning program. She knows the importance of reading in one's life. Making a difference in children's success has always been a goal of hers.



Stephanie Silver

Stephanie works at Education Super-Highway, a national nonprofit with a mission to close the digital divide for the 18 million households with access to the internet but without the affordability to connect. She has worked extensively with homeowner associations as a property and project manager. For five years she worked at Doctors Without Borders (MAF) as Field Logistician and still volunteers for them as Bar Area Co-Hub leader for the MAF association. She earned a BS in Biology from CSU Hayward and used her degree to teach High School Biology in OUSD.



Right Path to Learning is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to achieve literacy for all students in the Oakland Unified School District by the third grade.