

Social Entrepreneurship: Taking Action, Leading Change

September 30, 2009

Participant Biographies



Jonathan A. Kaplan has served as president of Walden University since September 2007. He assumed his position after serving as an officer of Walden University and in a range of senior positions at Laureate Education, Inc., for several years. As president, Kaplan focuses on efforts to attract a diverse population of working professionals to Walden and to provide students with an engaging learning environment. He also works to expand global opportunities for students through Walden’s membership in the *Laureate International Universities* network.

Prior to joining Walden University, Kaplan had a distinguished career in government, public policy, and law in Washington, D.C. Kaplan served in the White House as chief of staff of the National Economic Council and as special assistant to the president for economic policy under President Clinton. Previously, he held posts at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and on Capitol Hill, focusing on economic and domestic policy issues. Prior to his government service, he practiced law as an associate at Covington & Burling, a leading international law firm. Kaplan graduated *cum laude* from Harvard College with a B.A. in government. He received his J.D. from Boston University School of Law where he served as an editor of the *Boston University Law Review*.



David Bornstein specializes in writing about social innovation. He is the author of *How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas* (Oxford University Press), described by the *New York Times* as “must reading” for “anyone who cares about building a more equitable and stable world” and a “bible” in its field. The book, which is in the process of being published in 20 languages, chronicles and analyzes the work of social innovators who are successfully addressing social problems at scale in several countries.

Bornstein’s first book, *The Price of a Dream: The Story of the Grameen Bank*, traces the history of the Nobel Peace Prize–winning Grameen Bank during its first 20 years and describes the global emergence of the now-famous anti-poverty strategy known as microfinance. Bornstein grew up in Montreal, Canada and now lives in New York City with his wife and son. He is currently developing a Web site to share the stories and insights of innovative social changemakers. Bornstein’s newest book, *Social Entrepreneurship: What Everyone Needs to Know*, co-authored with Susan Davis, will be published in January.



Dr. Cheryl Dorsey was named president of Echoing Green in May 2002. She is the first Echoing Green Fellow to lead this global nonprofit organization, which has awarded more than \$28 million in start-up capital to over 450 social entrepreneurs worldwide since 1987.

Dorsey earned a degree in history and science in 1985 from Harvard-Radcliffe College. In 1992, while studying to be a pediatrician at Harvard Medical School, she received an Echoing Green Fellowship. With it, she launched the Family Van, a community-based mobile health unit that provides basic health care and outreach services to at-risk residents of inner-city Boston. As a public policy innovator, Dorsey served as a White House Fellow from 1997–1998, serving as special assistant to the U.S.

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Secretary of Labor, advising the Clinton Administration on health care and other issues. She was later named special assistant to the director of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, where she helped develop family-friendly workplace policies and spearheaded the labor secretary's pay equity initiative. Dorsey was most recently appointed vice-chair of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.



Anthony Jewett is the president of Bardoli Global, which has provided study abroad and leadership development opportunities to more than 130 minority scholars to date. After serving as a bilingual elementary school teacher in New York City with Teach for America from 2003–2005, he founded Bardoli Global to provide opportunities for outstanding African-American, Latino, and Native American youth through study abroad and service-learning.

Jewett has studied and worked abroad in South America, West Africa, China, and the Middle East. He is a 2006 recipient of the Echoing Green Public Service Fellowship. He earned a B.A. in international studies from Morehouse College in 2003 where his passion for study abroad and community service earned him both the Freeman-ASIA and Benjamin A. Gilman awards from the Institute of International Education. He is currently a fellow in community and family philanthropy at The Zeist Foundation in Atlanta. Jewett is currently enrolled in the M.S. in Nonprofit Management and Leadership program at Walden University.



Michele Jolin is currently a senior advisor for Social Innovation for the Domestic Policy Council at the White House. In this capacity, she is developing policy tools to support and catalyze greater innovation directed at solving our most serious social problems, especially in the areas of education, economic mobility, energy conservation, and health care.

Prior to joining the White House, Jolin was a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, where she co-edited the presidential transition document. As a senior fellow, she authored a number of articles and reports on policy tools to promote innovation and impact in the nonprofit sector, including a Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSIR) piece arguing for a White House Office of Social Innovation. Prior to her work there, Jolin was a senior vice president at Ashoka, a global foundation that invests in leading social entrepreneurs in 45 countries around the world, where she launched and managed several global initiatives. During the Clinton Administration, Jolin served as the chief of staff for the president's Council of Economic Advisers. She also worked for Senator Barbara Boxer on the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and as an associate at the Washington, D.C. law firm Patton, Boggs, & Blow.



Peter Kannam is the executive director of New Leaders for New Schools, Maryland, the state-level initiative of a national social enterprise with program sites in Baltimore City and Prince George's County. Kannam has been leading New Leaders in Maryland since it was launched in 2005. He directs the work of securing the best talent from around the country and providing cutting-edge, competency-based training to instructional leaders who are transforming urban education in Maryland's most challenged districts. Under his leadership, the program has grown to 80 leaders across the state and more than 15 percent of Baltimore school principals.

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His professional career began as an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Lombard Middle School in East Baltimore where he gained practical expertise on how to move students and systems. He then was the executive director of Teach for America, Baltimore. During his tenure, he cultivated a successful partnership with the Baltimore City Public School System to place and support close to 300 teachers in Baltimore's schools. Kannam also has experience in the corporate sector. He was the New England regional director for Catapult Learning where he managed all aspects of regional operations that served students in Boston, Providence, Hartford, Conn., and Springfield, Mass.



Dr. Kathia Castro Laszlo is a Walden University faculty member, and co-founder and executive director of Syntony Quest, an educational, research, and consulting organization that empowers businesses and communities to work and learn in ways that embody social and environmental integrity, with offices in San Francisco, Calif. and Monterrey, Mexico. Under her leadership, Syntony Quest has launched the social enterprise Syntony Creations, a fair-trade initiative that markets crafts made from recycled materials by interns of the Centers for Social Readaptation of the state of Veracruz, Mexico.

In addition to her classes at Walden, Laszlo has taught in the M.B.A. program for sustainable business at Bainbridge Graduate Institute and the program for sustainable management at the Presidio School of Management since each program's first year of operation. Currently, she is a mentor for M.B.A. students studying green sustainable enterprise at the Dominican University of California and a faculty member for the "Green Your M.B.A." executive certificate. She is an advisor and professor of organizational development, systems thinking, evolutionary consciousness, and sustainability at Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center. She is author of more than 40 publications, including academic journal articles, book chapters, and a forthcoming book.



Dr. John Nirenberg is a Walden University faculty member and the author of numerous books, including *Global Leadership* (Capstone, 2002), *Power Tools: A Leader's Guide to the Latest Management Thinking* (Prentice Hall, 1997), and *The Living Organization: Transforming Teams Into Workplace Communities* (Irwin Professional Publishing, 1993).

Nirenberg has worked abroad (including Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, and Thailand) as an educator and consultant. While in Malaysia, he edited *Aspects of Management in Malaysia*. It was the first management textbook in Malaysia that integrated Malaysian cultural influences with conventional management principles. Nirenberg has visited more than 120 countries. In Australia, he developed the PROBE methodology (Practical Organizational Behavior Education)—a student-centered and experiential technique for teaching organizational behavior to full-time students. While in Singapore he organized that country's first Organization Development Network. He has been active in the American Society for Training and Development, the Organization Development Network, ILA, ALE, AMA, and other professional bodies. He served as an elected member of the board of AccountAbility, a U.K.-based organization that is a leader in the creation of international corporate social responsibility standards. Nirenberg currently mentors doctoral students at Walden University.