

Volunteerism: Encouraging Individuals to Effect Societal Change

October 27, 2010

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 was an editor of the *Boston University Law Review*.



Jim Dickinson, Ph.D. is the director of community engagement for Business Volunteers Unlimited Maryland. His duties include managing the organization's educational programs for volunteers and nonprofit leaders, as well as leading various initiatives that assist potential volunteers in finding meaningful opportunities to donate their time and talent. Prior to his current role, Dr. Dickinson served as a senior organization development consultant and senior human resources analyst at Erickson Retirement Communities. Dr. Dickinson has also held positions with the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers and the Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation, two prominent Baltimore philanthropic organizations. Highlights of his work in philanthropy include leading the efforts of Knott Foundation staff members to develop their current strategic plan and organizing a national workshop on grantmaker collaboration sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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Dr. Dickinson graduated magna cum laude from Loyola University Maryland and holds a Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Clemson University.



Marina Kim, executive director of Ashoka U, brings together university partners from around the world to increase the quantity and quality of social entrepreneurship education. Having been at Ashoka for five years, Kim helped to found Ashoka's University Network for Social Entrepreneurship, and more recently, Ashoka U. The Changemaker Campus Initiative is the signature program of Ashoka U and partners with leading universities across the country to build partnerships with Ashoka Fellows and advance best practices in social entrepreneurship at a campus-wide level. Her involvement with Ashoka dates back nearly a decade, when she spearheaded Ashoka's first efforts to formalize outreach to universities. Kim has worked with the Nonprofit Enterprise Self-Sustainability Team (NESsT) and the Flora Family Foundation, and has been featured in The Chronicle of Higher Education and The New York Times, as well as on Social Edge and Change.org.



Jaime Hiraishi is an associate, external affairs, at the Taproot Foundation. She has dedicated herself to building community and effecting social change through service. She leads the Taproot Foundation's efforts to promote the pro bono ethic in professions and professional schools by identifying and overcoming barriers to the adoption of pro bono service. As a thought leader on pro bono service in professional schools, she has partnered with national organizations such as AIGA and Net Impact to make pro bono work more accessible, and she also leads evangelism efforts for Taproot Foundation. Hiraishi has built an online showcase of some of the best university pro bono programs, created a framework for the five best practices of pro bono programs in professional schools, and spearheaded the inaugural annual Chicago Summit on Pro Bono Service in Professional Schools.

Prior to her tenure at the Taproot Foundation, Hiraishi co-founded a nonprofit organization that connects thousands of students and community leaders through a day of volunteer service at more than 65 nonprofit sites. Hiraishi holds degrees in mass communications and political science from the University of California, Berkeley.

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Gary Kelsey, Ed.D. is currently a faculty member in the School of Public Policy and Administration at Walden. Since joining the institution in 1996, he has worked in a variety of positions at Walden, including serving as interim associate dean of the School of Public Policy and Administration

Dr. Kelsey has 33 years experience within the non-profit, government and education sectors. Since 1993, he has worked as the principal consultant of Gary Kelsey and Associates where he worked with more than 350 nonprofit, philanthropic, education, and government organizations. In this role, he has provided non-profit board development, program development, strategic planning, fundraising, collaboration, team-building, qualitative research and other organizational development assistance and training.

Prior to that, Dr. Kelsey held positions as a community organizer, program director, grants manager, administrator, senior planner, and executive director for both nonprofit and government organizations. His research interests include governance, program and board development, and strategic planning for nonprofit organizations. He received his Ed.D. in Leadership from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.