



Staff and Presenter Bios

Staff

John Bell
*Vice President for Leadership
Development and the
Academy for Transformation*
YouthBuild USA

John's career in the youth development and leadership field spans 40 years as teacher, counselor, community organizer, program developer, leadership trainer, director, and parent. He was a founding staff member of three youth leadership organizations: Youth Action Program (in 1978) in East Harlem, the original YouthBuild; Children of War (in 1984), an international youth leadership organization; and YouthBuild USA (in 1988). John is a nationally known trainer, consultant, and published author in the areas of youth leadership development, peer counseling and healing, and diversity. He has done training and consulting work for the Peace Corps in Africa and South America. He is a steadfast advocate for including young people as partners in community development.

Kelly Belmonte
*Mentoring Program Advisor,
National Mentoring Alliance*
YouthBuild USA

Kelly's primary interest is in really good conversations, the kind that change people, programs, and communities for the better. Insatiably curious, Kelly has been exploring the possibilities of social media for facilitating these sorts of conversations for the past few years. In addition to supporting YouthBuild USA's National Mentoring Alliance, Kelly's mentoring program experience has included a range of program design, evaluation, technical assistance, and training services for youth-serving organizations, including the Beamer Foundation, DoD STARBASE, the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, and the Amachi mentoring program.

Carlos Campos
*Director,
National Mentoring Alliance*
YouthBuild USA

Carlos is currently the Director of the YouthBuild USA National Mentoring Alliance. The Mentoring Alliance consists of 82 YouthBuild Affiliated programs. His career in public service and management spans more than 30 years, most recently as owner of a management consulting firm (FoxTrot6) specializing in training, organizational, instructional, program, and web product design solutions. He was a senior vice president for business development at the Lawrence & Battelle management consulting firm. Carlos has managed numerous federal contracts; while at Dare Mighty Things, he was the vice president and leader of the Youth and Family practice. In that capacity he oversaw the mentoring training and technical assistance for the Youth Challenge program, the second largest youth mentoring program in the country. He was also dean of the accredited National Challenge Institute (NCI). Under his direction, NCI trained more than 900 hundred adult professionals who worked in the Challenge program, managed 42 training events, and produced 35 knowledge management deliverables each year, including 35 websites, and responded to over 1,000 technical assistance requests per year. He has done writing, training, and speaking on mentoring. He was a course director at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He later developed and taught leadership curriculum while serving as a department chair of the Tobin College of Business at St. John's University, where he was recognized as professor of the year. Additionally he spent 23 years as a career military officer, retiring as a Colonel, with multiple leadership positions in education, training, assessment, fiscal and personnel management, and policy development. Carlos



is a decorated veteran and graduate of the highly selective U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and has a BA in political science from the University of New Hampshire and an MS in personnel management from Troy University. He has also received a Professional Diploma in instructional leadership from St. John's University.

Amy Cannata
*Senior Program Advisor,
National Mentoring Center
Education Northwest*

Amy's work focuses on providing training and technical assistance for local and national initiatives in the areas of volunteerism, mentoring, and education success. She assists a diverse group of programs via distance learning, in-person training, publication development, and one-on-one coaching. A graduate of the University of Oregon, she has a master's degree in public affairs. Her past training and technical assistance projects at Education Northwest include the U.S. Department of Education Mentoring Resource Center, Corporation for National and Community Service LEARNS Project, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention-funded National Mentoring Center, and the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service Mentor Texas statewide initiative. Her passion for youth work stems from her experience researching teen courts and hip-hop youth culture, and serving as an outreach and shelter worker with homeless street youth.

Charles Ciano
*Grants Administrator
YouthBuild USA*

Charles "Chaci" is the Grants Administrator for the OJJDP grant at YouthBuild USA. Chaci has more than six years of experience working with mentoring programs and federal contracts. Previous to his arrival at YouthBuild USA in July 2010, Chaci worked as a Program Officer with the Massachusetts state commission on community service, administering multiple state and federal grants to sub-grantees (including AmeriCorps and mentoring programs). During his time at the commission, Chaci received his B.S. from Emerson College in integrated marketing and communications, and his M.S. in human services with a specialization in non-profit management from Northeastern University. Chaci has been a mentor for two years.

Stephen Dosch
*Director of YouthBuild USA's
AmeriCorps*VISTA
YouthBuild USA*

Stephen is the Director of YouthBuild USA's AmeriCorps*VISTA Project. YouthBuild USA has 61 VISTA members engaging in capacity-building service at 35 different YouthBuild programs in 16 states. Stephen graduated from Boston College, where he earned a degree in economics, and then served two terms of full-time AmeriCorps service through Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education. While in service, Stephen taught middle and high school students in Donaldsonville, Louisiana. Stephen's AmeriCorps experience inspired a career in international development, public service, and the private and non-profit worlds. Before coming to YouthBuild USA, he worked in rural Nicaragua, served as an aide to United States Representative Barney Frank, taught economics in Bogota, Colombia, consulted for AIG, and earned a degree in International Education Policy from Harvard University.



Abrigal Forrester
*Associate Director,
Start Making A Real
Transformation (SM.A.RT)
Program
YouthBuild USA*

Abrigal is the Associate Director of the Start Making A Real Transformation (SM.A.RT) Program at YouthBuild USA. The SM.A.RT Program, funded through the Department of Labor’s High Crime/High Poverty Initiative, will serve 558 court-involved youth throughout YouthBuild USA program affiliates. Abrigal received his education from the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he earned a BA in Psychology. He has worked with court-involved youth, low-income populations, and chronically unemployed individuals for more than nine years. His previous work was with the Boston Foundation’s Street Safe Boston initiative, providing services for gang involved youth who have been identified as the drivers of crime and violence within the city of Boston. He also worked for the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts as manager of the Employment Resource Center. In addition, Abrigal worked with STRIVE, Boston Employment Service, where he played an essential part in developing a re-entry workforce development program for previously incarcerated adults. He also worked closely with the sheriff of the Suffolk County House of Corrections and provided “behind the walls” job readiness training and transitional assistance to inmates. Abrigal is very committed to supporting previously incarcerated individuals with actualizing their vision of transformation and living a productive and healthy lifestyle. He exemplifies the possibility of transformation for the population he works with and for because of the education and transformation he experienced through incarceration.

Michael Garringer
*Resource Advisor,
National Mentoring Center
Education Northwest*

Michael is an information services professional with extensive experience in developing and disseminating collections of education-related materials. As a Resource Advisor with the National Mentoring Center (NMC) he provides mentoring programs nationwide with information, consultation, and resources to assist in the development, improvement, and evaluation of their program practices. Michael is the author, co-author, or editor of numerous publications and guidebooks, including *Foundations of Successful Youth Mentoring*, *ABCs of School-Based Mentoring*, and *Peer Mentoring: An Introductory Guide*. Through his work at the NMC, he has built the most comprehensive lending library of youth mentoring resources in the United States and one of the most widely utilized mentoring websites in the youth development field.

James Mackey
*AmeriCorps*VISTA,
National Mentoring Alliance
YouthBuild USA*

James was born in the most dangerous streets of Chicago’s south side, where he experienced firsthand the trials and tribulations of growing up in poverty-stricken neighborhoods. However, he was able to overcome those hardships by being exposed to a more positive environment at YouthBuild. James was the first student at YouthBuild Columbus to serve on the Young Leaders Council, National Alumni Council for YouthBuild USA, and also became the first graduate to become valedictorian. After YouthBuild, he continued his education at Columbus State Community College. James is majoring in business management/entrepreneurship and pursuing his dream of one day becoming a powerful motivational speaker and starting a non-profit organization to help people in need. James continues to advocate for youth in their education;



empowering them through hard work and dedication; and helping them live up to their dreams. James is a powerful, influential, young professional who leads by example and whose mission is to impact the lives of others and change this world. James is currently pursuing the initial steps of his dream by working as a Program Assistant with the YouthBuild USA National Mentoring Alliance.

Nicky Martin

*Director,
National Mentoring Center
Education Northwest*

Nicky directs the National Mentoring Center and manages Education Northwest's work in support of the Social Innovation Fund and selected AmeriCorps*VISTA training projects. She came to Education Northwest in 2000 to work on youth development and service-learning projects and curricula. Since then she has led national training and technical assistance projects funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Nicky is a certified volunteer management trainer. Before joining Education Northwest, she worked with immigrant and refugee youth and adults, in both community-based and higher education settings. She holds a BA in literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an MA in comparative literature from the University of Washington.

Tommy McClam

*Mentoring Program
Manager,
National Mentoring Alliance
YouthBuild USA*

Tommy is the Mentoring Program Manager of the YouthBuild USA National Mentoring Alliance. The Mentoring Alliance consists of 67 YouthBuild Affiliated programs. Tommy comes to YouthBuild with a wealth of mentoring and youth programming knowledge. He received his formal education in the Buffalo public school system, and later went on to graduate from Daemen College in Buffalo, New York, with a BS in Business Administration, specializing in accounting. He has served in the public, private, and governmental sectors for more than 30 years, including 17 years at the Internal Revenue Service. He is the former executive director of the Elim Community Corporation, a community-based organization that housed the Girls to Women and Boys to Men faith-based mentoring programs, yearlong mentoring components that provided one-on-one mentoring matches for more than 150 urban youth with mentors from faith-based and community-based organizations. In addition, Tommy served as the Youth Pastor at Elim Christian Fellowship, in Buffalo, New York, for more than 10 years, where he directed weekly programming for 500 youth between the ages of three and 21. He has 30 years of experience assisting urban youth to be the best they can be. Tommy has traveled throughout the western hemisphere presenting seminars and workshops to youth program administrators, youth workers, and young people. These groups included the National Network of Youth Ministries, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, St. Paul School District Mentoring Program, Memphis, Tennessee, District Attorney Truancy Initiative, and various international youth agencies. Tommy's passion is to see young people strive for excellence, become well balanced adults, and reach their maximum potential.



Melissa Medina
*Mentoring Program
Associate,
National Mentoring Alliance
YouthBuild USA*

Melissa is the Mentoring Program Associate in support of the YouthBuild USA National Mentoring Alliance. The Mentoring Alliance is funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and consists of 67 YouthBuild programs who have agreed to come together to form a learning community of practitioners to further mentoring work across the network. Melissa's roles include creating and maintaining the systems of communication, data and financial management, and assistance in the delivery of mentoring products and conferences. Melissa comes to YouthBuild USA with a wealth of experience in the mentoring field. In her most recent position, she was the Assistant Coordinator and Site Supervisor of the Mentoring for Academic Achievement and College Success (MAACS) program through the Bridgeport Public Education Fund in Bridgeport, CT. Her passion and experience is grounded in working with at-risk youth from many different backgrounds and assisting them through their high school years and into college. She holds a B.S. in marketing and a minor in Spanish from Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT and will be pursuing an M.A. in organizational management and leadership.

Dr. Dorothy Stoneman
*Founder and CEO
YouthBuild USA*

Dorothy is founder and CEO of YouthBuild USA, the national support center for 273 YouthBuild programs in low-income, urban and rural communities in the United States, and the sponsor of YouthBuild International which is working with NGOs and governments replicating YouthBuild in Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Mexico, Nicaragua, Serbia, and South Africa. Since 1994, more than 110,000 YouthBuild students have produced more than 21,000 units of low-income housing in America's poorest communities. Dorothy has a bachelor's degree in history and science from Harvard University and master's and doctoral degrees from Bank Street College of Education. She was awarded the international Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship from 2007 to 2013, the Philips Brooks House Harvard Call to Service Award in 2011, the John Gardner Leadership Award in 2000, and a MacArthur Fellowship in 1996. She has worked in the fields of youth and community development since 1964, starting in the Civil Rights movement at the storefront Harlem Action Group, then teaching public school, and running a parent-controlled independent community school before founding the first YouthBuild program in 1978 in East Harlem. She has orchestrated the process of scaling up this proven social innovation city-wide, then nationally, and now internationally. In 1992 YouthBuild was authorized as a federal program under the jurisdiction of HUD; in 2006 it was moved to the US Department of Labor, which distributes an annual appropriation through a competitive process to local non-profit or public entities that sponsor the YouthBuild program, opening their doors to young people seeking a chance to rebuild their communities and their lives.



Presenters

- Craig Bowman** Craig and his firm, Common Ground Consulting, have been providing world-class consulting services for community-based, national, and international social profit organizations for 20 years. Craig has spent his career developing a philosophy of learning and leadership that harnesses passion and trust as a bridge between human potential and social responsibility. He provides valuable advocacy, and management and fund development training; offers executive-level, one-on-one coaching and board development; addresses diversity and multicultural, organizational development issues; teaches beginning and advanced courses in facilitation and curriculum development; leads strategic new media communications efforts; and specializes in the creation and implementation of youth and community development programming strategies. He is an expert in organizational assessment, development, and management; and provides on-site technical assistance and capacity building to social sector organizations in the U.S. and abroad.
- Dr. Clara Carter** Clara is the President of Management Consultant Services, which provides technical assistance to non-profits in building and maintaining collaborations between youth programs and community partners. Clara is the former Director of Training for the Maryland Mentoring Partnership (MMP). Her work with MMP helped the organization to emerge as a leader in the mentoring movement that has worked to make mentoring an integral part of state's social fabric. Clara is recognized as an expert in the field of mentoring and youth development and is called frequently to offer assistance to programs across the country. Prior to joining the staff at MMP, Clara was employed in federal government. Upon her retirement, she received the Excellence in Federal Service Award for her successful efforts in launching mentoring initiatives in four federal agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with public school districts. A native of Baltimore, Clara was educated in the Baltimore City Public Schools, earned her BA in sociology from Morgan State University and completed her graduate studies in management at the University of Baltimore. Clara's career also includes 10 years as a college academic advisor, which led her to pursue and earn her EdD in higher education administration from Morgan. With a passion to aid in the development of the country's citizenry, Clara is dedicated to assist all young people who cross her path to reach their full potential.
- Janet Forbush** Janet is an independent consultant specializing in program development, evaluation, and sustainability of human services programs focusing on high need youth populations. Currently she serves as a Senior Advisor to The Center for the Advancement of Mentoring, the training and technical assistance provider for all Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) mentoring grantees. She worked as a Senior Policy Analyst on the evaluation of the Juvenile Mentoring Program, also funded by OJJDP. Janet consults with a variety of national, state, and local government agencies as well as non-profit/profit entities engaged in youth development and mentor-



ing initiatives. Her advocacy work has included providing testimony to congressional committees responsible for oversight on youth issues. She earned her BA in political science from Michigan State University and her MA in education from George Washington University. Janet served in the U.S. Peace Corps in the Caribbean from 1966 to 1968.

Sam Glenn Sam knows success and failure. At one time, Sam was negative, broke, depressed, jobless, had no place to live, and got by working odd jobs at night. Sam's attitude was in the dumps until a dear friend gave him what he calls a "kick in the attitude," a gift that changed his attitude for the better. Sam began to work on his attitude and made some life-changing discoveries. Within two years, Sam went from sleeping on the floor to achieving dreams he once thought were impossible. Today, Sam energizes audiences as large as 75,000 at stadium events with his inspiration and sidesplitting humor. His book, *A Kick in the Attitude*, highlights his own journey and describes how to find opportunities in your adversities and use courage to conquer your fears. For the past 15 years Sam has worked with hundreds of organizations on training and development, peak performance, employee motivation, staff development, leadership training, fundraising, or simply kicking off an event with the purpose of creating a positive tone.

Steve Gonzales Steve is the President and Founder of Dream Weavers, a youth outreach organization, and the former Mentor Program Coordinator of MentorYouth.com. He has been working with youth for more than 25 years in many capacities including mentor program director, gang diversion speaker, and youth advocate. Steve is a motivational speaker for many schools and programs serving youth. He has been married for 34 years and has three adult children.

Brian Sales Brian Sales is a youth development professional with more than 25 years of experience working in a variety of programs including high school-aged mentoring, college access programs, after-school programs, foster care mentoring, and opportunity programs for first generation college students. Sales currently provides training and technical assistance for national mentoring programs across the country.

Jerry Sherk Jerry is President and Founder of Mentor Management Systems of Encinitas, California. Jerry has a master's degree in counseling psychology, and for the past fifteen years he has provided workshops for hundreds of program staff, mentors, and protégés, while helping approximately 300 mentoring programs develop their trainings and operating systems. Jerry implemented group mentoring programs in San Diego City Schools for five years, and in doing so developed strategies for helping others to improve their group mentoring efforts. Jerry is also one of the founders and the former chair of the Mentoring Coalition of San Diego County.

Judy Taylor

Judy is currently Senior Vice President of Mentor Management Systems a consulting group that assists in the development and operation of adult mentoring initiatives as well as more traditional youth mentoring models. She is also co-directing the Adult Mentoring Initiative for the U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center Mentoring Initiative. Judy is a specialist in the fields of training; youth development; alcohol, drug abuse, and delinquency prevention; juvenile justice; mentoring; and alternative health care. With more than 40 years of experience, her career has ranged from providing direct service at the community level to policy development as a clinical analyst with the White House Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention. She has directed technical assistance initiatives for federal agencies including the departments of Labor and Education, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Bureau of Prisons, and the Agency for International Development. Her special area of expertise is training and curriculum development. Judy also served as Executive Vice President of the National Office for Social Responsibility, and senior trainer for the Southwest regional office of Communities in Schools, the nation's largest stay-in-school network. Judy has most recently worked with Education Northwest and YouthBuild USA as a program coach, and with Evaluation, Management and Training; the Center for Applied Research Solutions; and the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board. She also assisted in statewide training efforts for Texas and Colorado.

Kathleen Tomberg

Kathleen is a research analyst with the Research and Evaluation Center where she has worked on an evaluation of a therapeutic program for incarcerated adolescents, the creation of a youth reentry directory, and the study of sexual abuse of minors within the Catholic Church. Her interests include therapeutic work with juvenile victims and offenders, as well as counseling the severely mentally ill. Kathleen is a graduate of Furman University and she earned her master's degree in forensic mental health counseling from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York.

Dr. Susan Weinberger

A leading authority on mentoring and the Founder and President of the Mentor Consulting Group based in Norwalk, Connecticut, Susan was a pioneer in designing and developing a school-based mentoring program, the Norwalk Mentor Program, in the early 1980s and served as its director for 12 years. Susan has been recognized for her expertise in establishing, maintaining, and evaluating school, corporate, Native American, and community-based mentoring programs and school-to-work initiatives. The program she designed has been replicated throughout the United States and internationally including Bermuda and Canada. She has been published widely on the subject of mentoring and is a consultant to U.S. departments of Labor, Education, Health & Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Justice; Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs; Center for Substance Abuse Prevention; Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Canada; Communities in Schools (CIS); National Congress of American Indians; and Governor's



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Prevention Partnership (Conn.). In 1993, Susan traveled to the White House to receive President Clinton's coveted Volunteer Action Award for her work in mentoring. In 2011, she received the Governor William O'Neil Legacy Award from Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy for her tireless efforts on behalf of youth through mentoring. Among her greatest joys is having been a mentor for a young woman, now 25, since she was seven years old. Information about Dr. Mentor, as she is affectionately called in the field, can be found at www.mentorconsultinggroup.com.