

**EDUCATORS ARE CRITICAL
PARTNERS IN MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF
CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED
PARENTS**

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

September 24, 2015
2:00 – 3:30 PM EDT

Federal Interagency Reentry Council's
Subcommittee on Children of
Incarcerated Parents

American Institutes for Research

ANN ADALIST-ESTRIN
Director, National Resource
Center On Children And
Families Of The Incarcerated
Rutgers University



Ann Adalist-Estrin is Director of the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated at Rutgers University, Camden New Jersey where she also teaches in the department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice. Under Ann's leadership, NRCCFI has provided training and consultation to government and non-government agencies and community programs in 48 states including Sesame Street's "Little Children, Big Challenges Campaign; Connecticut's Children of Incarcerated Parents Initiative; OJJDP Youth Violence Prevention Forum Multi Discipline Trainings on Children of Incarcerated Parents and programs in Taiwan, Uruguay and Argentina.

Ann is also a consultant to the Echoes of Incarceration video projects, a contributor to the video "Dependent Children of Incarcerated Parents: An Educational Video for Judges and Legal Professionals" recently released by the Pennsylvania Office of Children and Families in the Courts and author of *The Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children in the Child Welfare System Curriculum* (New Jersey Department of Children and Families, 2011) *Mentoring Children of Prisoners Curriculum (CWLA, 2004)* *Responding to Children and Families of Prisoners: A Community Guide* (FCN, 2003), and *The Children of Incarcerated Parents Library* on line at www.nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu

In 2013 she was honored at the White House as a "Champion of Change" for her work as an advocate for children and families of the incarcerated.

Ann is also a Child and Family Therapist at Samaritan Counseling Center in Jenkintown, PA and a trainer for the Healthy Steps for Young Children Pediatric Training Program at Boston University School of Medicine.

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DAVID OSHER
Vice President and
Institute Fellow
*American Institutes for
Research*



David Osher, an American Institutes for Research vice president and Institute Fellow, is senior advisor to the Health and Social Development Program. His work focuses on collaboration; children's services; prevention (school failure and drop out, emotional and behavioral disorders, and violence); social emotional learning; school climate; youth development; the social and emotional conditions for learning, teaching, and healthy development; and culturally competent interventions for children and youth with mental health problems and disorders and their families.

Dr. Osher serves as principal investigator of three major research and technical assistance centers funded by the U.S. government: The National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments, The Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, and The National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk. Dr. Osher also serves as principal investigator of a contract to help the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs improve the coordination and efficiency of youth programs across 12 federal departments and executive agencies and to develop a national plan for youth aged 10-24. He and his colleagues have developed multiple student and staff school climate surveys and have done extensive research on social emotional learning and the conditions for learning, positive behavioral supports, and effective student support.

Dr. Osher was academic dean of a liberal arts college and two professional schools of human services; has consulted with ministries, non-governmental organizations, educators and human service professionals across the world, serves on numerous expert panels and editorial boards; and has authored or co-authored over 325 books, monographs, chapters, articles and reports.

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DWIGHT DAVIS
Assistant Principal
Wheatley Education Campus
Washington, D.C.
City Bridge Education
Innovation Fellow



The Reverend Dwight Davis is a ten-year veteran teacher and proud product of the District of Columbia Public Schools. For the past decade, Davis has served Wheatley Education Campus (WEC) as a fifth-grade teacher, English & language arts coach, home visits coordinator and teacher lead. Now serving as the assistant principal of Wheatley, Davis is working to partner with parents and the community in an effort to continue to raise achievement levels. As both a teacher and administrator, he is most passionate about the need for, and use of, culturally and contextually relevant texts in reading instruction.

Last year, Davis was selected as a City Bridge Education Innovation Fellow, a distinguished honor that led him across the nation, from Washington, D.C. to California. Through the program, Davis learned how to better personalize the educational experiences of his students, and he has applied that successfully in his WEC classroom.

In 2012, Davis was a member of the Teach Plus D.C. Policy Fellowship, at which time he had the opportunity to learn about issues relevant to the local community, city and state and worked to create solutions on the ground for high-need students. He has also partnered with the Flamboyan Foundation as home visit trainer, attended the Aspen Ideas Festival as an Aspen scholar and worked to align curriculum resources with the Common Core State Standards via the District of Columbia Public Schools Common Core Reading Corp.

Prior to his teaching career, Davis played both professional and semi-professional basketball within the United States and abroad. He earned a master of divinity and master of arts in education from Princeton Theological Seminary, a certificate in teaching from Princeton University's Program in Teacher Preparation, and a bachelor's degree in psychology, history and education from Albright College. Davis also completed a certificate program in reading and literacy at George Washington University.

Recently, Davis published "High IMPACT: It's the Feedback That Adds Value" in the book, *Learning from the Experts: Teacher Leaders on Solving America's Education Challenges*, and he has written several op-eds for the Huffington Post.

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KENDALL TIDWELL

Freshman

Lamar University

Beaumont, TX



Kendall first became a part of the U.S. Dream Academy in the 5th grade when his grandmother enrolled him after she was able to get him and his sister out of foster care and legally adopted her grandchildren. With the on-going guidance of Dream Academy staff and his mentor, Kendall worked hard to learn to cope with the trauma, shame and anger he was experiencing at that time as a result of the many challenges he had faced in his young life, to include abuse, the arrest and incarceration of his mother, an incarcerated father, foster care and uncertainty about his place in the world. Dream Academy staff have opened up avenues of support and opportunity for Kendall including helping him to get into KIPP Academy for middle and high school. Over the past four years, Kendall has been an advocate for mentoring children of incarcerated parents and underserved youth. He uses his experiences of being in the foster care system and the impact of family incarceration as a platform to inspire other young people to overcome adversity.

Kendall has shared his story on Huffington Post Live, KTSU Radio and as a speaker at the 2014 National KIPP Summit. He also represented DreamKids at the White House for a Forum on Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents, where he shared with congressional representatives and high-level White House officials the impact of mentoring in his life. Kendall has volunteered for two summers at the Dream Academy to mentor elementary students in our program. Kendall was selected by his peers to deliver the Graduate Address at his graduation ceremony this May. Kendall enjoys playing football, basketball, and is on a step team. On July 23, the recent graduate was invited to attend the Beating the Odds Summit hosted at the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Kendall is attending Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas where he is majoring in Sociology.

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