



## **Meet the New Achievement Advisory Council for 2014!**

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We are extremely fortunate to have brought together a group of 24 amazing community stakeholders in Memphis – parents, students, alumni, business owners, and pastors – to serve as volunteers on the Achievement Advisory Council for 2014. Each brings his or her own unique experience and awe-inspiring commitment to work with the Achievement School District (ASD), Memphis neighborhood communities, charter operators, and ultimately on behalf of Memphis students to recommend school matches for the 2015-2016 academic year.

All AAC members will serve on the Council from September-December 2014, representing one of four neighborhood clusters: North Memphis-East, North Memphis-West, South Memphis-East, and South Memphis-East. More information about the AAC's role and composition this year can be found on the Achievement School District's website.

To help you get to know just who the new AAC members are, please read their bios on the following pages!



## North Memphis -- East

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A native Memphian, is currently serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer. He works as a community resource coordinator with Leadership Memphis and their SUCCESS High Schools initiative, which works to increase the post-secondary continuation rate of over 7,000 students in the Memphis Area over a 5-year period. Alex has over 7 years of experience working in the educational access and attainment for underserved student populations across the state of Tennessee. Before accepting his position with Leadership Memphis, Alex was a supervising teacher and a floating teacher at High Hopes in Nashville, TN, an all-inclusive pre-school and therapy clinic for children with disabilities. During his professional experience, he consulted on numerous educational search committees and advisory boards. Prior to relocating to Nashville after graduating from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a BA in Anthropology with a concentration in Africana and African American Studies, Alex worked as a substitute teacher in the former Memphis City School District. He is currently in the fieldwork phase of completing his Masters of Science degree in school counseling with a graduate certificate in contemporary mental health studies.



She works at the VA Medical Center in Memphis and has a deep passion for helping people that goes beyond her professional role. She has a strong compassion for her community and is an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., which she serves on the communications committee for the past six years. Through her organization, she has provided numerous scholarships to Shelby County students and has been instrumental in the community to help better their lives. In her current role, she has the opportunity to mentor four high school seniors through a mentorship program and got to learn about their future goals in life and how they appreciated that other adults really took the time to



He plans to continue to mentor other students in the future and will be available for opportunities when needed.



Isadore Harris is a business owner; member of the Memphis Police Ambassador, Neighborhood Watch Raleigh Community Council, Stand for Children, and United States Armed Forces; former PTA President of Alton, Longview, and Keystone Elementary Schools under Memphis City Schools; activist for children's education; and head chairperson of the Coleman Aspire Advisory Council.

### **Claudia K. Jones**

Claudia "Gloria" Jones is a supervisor in the public school system where she has over 28 years of experience in the Child Nutrition Department. She has served in various capacities, such as Information Technology Coordinator in the division of Nutrition Services, Menu Planning Assistant, and District Determining Official in charge of the meal application process. Claudia had the charge of qualifying all households to take advantage of the free/reduced lunch program. She has led the division in various implementation projects, training, and promotions and taught professional development workshops for several years. She served over 15 years as a member of the Board of Directors, Volunteer Teacher, and Outreach Coordinator and Mentor for the Youth Striving for Excellence Ministry (YSE), serving children in the Raleigh/Frayser/ Douglass communities where the vision is "to enable children to develop positive life skills and to break negative patterns of behavior while developing a strong relationship with "God." Claudia received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from LeMoyne-Owen College and a Master of Operations Management degree from The University of Arkansas.

**Not pictured:** Sarah Carpenter and Ezra Howard

## **North Memphis -- West**

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She is the mother of four daughters -- two who currently attend school in Memphis, TN and two who are freshman in college, attending The University of Memphis and the other Middle Tennessee State University. She is a 14-year employee for the Department of Health Services in the Mental Health/ Psychology/ Psychiatry Section at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. Chavon serves as the Special Emphasis



Program Manager for the Women Employment Program on the Diversity and Inclusion Council as a Civility Respect Engagement in the Workplace (CREW) Facilitator, a position she has held for the last four years at the VA Medical Center, and a VHA Mentor. She is a partner in Y' Solutions Agency, a very successful bookkeeping and tax preparation firm. She attends World Overcomers Outreach Ministries Church where she serves as a youth volunteer in XChange. Her true passion and destiny lies in mentoring girls, so she founded a mentoring organization called Grace, Integrity, Respect and Love (G.I.R.L.) Empowerment Connections, Inc., when her oldest daughter was in the eighth grade; she noticed a need to empower girls. G.I.R.L. Empowerment is an organization that primarily focuses on facilitating youth services with emphasis on young women. Its services include life coaching, mentoring, and afterschool programs for at risk and low income girls, which centers around leadership, as well as building character and self-esteem; setting and completing educational goals; and mentoring and life coaching from women business leaders in the community by using career exploration. She also volunteers with many community organizations that organize around education and empowering our community like Stand for Children, Parent Revolution, and BAEO to name a few! She says her success in life is “not about what she has done on paper; it’s about how much she has given back to her community in service.”



### **Regenia F. Dowell**

Regenia F. Dowell is a graduate of Memphis State University in Biological Sciences. She was employed by the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where she was involved in research of Hypertension and Gastroenterology and published several research articles. In 2010, Regenia received the “THOMAS C. LICHTERMAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD.” She retired in 2011 after 36 years of service. Regenia is currently involved in the Parent Teacher Association and on Memphis City Schools’ Pre-K Advisory Council and served on the Achievement Advisory Council in 2012 and 2013. Regenia is a member of the Frayser Neighborhood Council, a graduate of the Certified



Neighborhood Leaders Training 2013, and served on the Frayser Community Association Spring Festival and Fall Festival Committees. Also, she is a board member of Mothers of the Nile. Regenia has been married to the love of her life, Robert, for 41 years and they have 2 sons and 5 grandchildren.



### **Hutton Easley**

Hutton Easley is principal of Easley Marketing Services, LLC. For more than 20 years, Hutton has been helping businesses, from startup to multi-national, grow by launching innovative products and new services.

Making Memphis competitive on a national basis has led Hutton to focus his public efforts on education and nutrition which are key components of a healthier and more prosperous community. He is actively working with and serving on the boards of First Book MidSouth, Food Advisory Council of Memphis and Shelby County, and Sales and Marketing Society of the MidSouth to effect change. Hutton was graduated from the University of Richmond with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Speech Communications and Theatre Arts.



professional, Deron Hall has developed education and health initiatives and programs executed by schools, community development corporations and works with various top-tier universities and arts



organizations. As a Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Cincinnati, he studied replicable and sustainable intervention programs for at-risk youth which led to the cultivation of various education initiatives within area organizations. As a community leader, he was featured on the front page of the Cincinnati Enquirer for his efforts in the Avondale community as the Executive Director of COR Music Project, a Music Teacher Fellowship serving nearly 1000 students each school day. He was awarded the Spirit of Community Award and the prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award by the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music awarded to one alumni per year with 10-15 years of experience influencing the arts sector. As subject matter expert, he has consulted internationally with Community Arts Center Directors from Dakar, Senegal, Africa, and with prominent arts executives from Baghdad, Iraq, representing the Ministry of Culture, University of Baghdad and the Iraqi National Symphony regarding program development in the arts. Lastly, as a trained music educator, he has successfully taught along the K-12 spectrum in Title 1 public schools, private, parochial, and afterschool settings for the last 4 years in both Cincinnati, OH and Memphis, TN.



### **Johnnie M. Hatten**

Johnnie M. Hatten served on the AAC in 2013. She was born and raised in the rural community of Collins, MS (near Hattiesburg) by her parents and is the 12th of 13 children. In 1998, she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Education from the University of Southern Mississippi and is currently working on her graduate certificate from the University of Memphis. Johnnie started her career as a Behavioral Specialist at Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources in Hattiesburg. Later, she ventured into the public school system while discovering her passion in the social service arena. She was promoted as the Senior Research Specialist for Mississippi State University. Her other work experience includes home health services, nursing home care, motivational speaker, and a promoter for healthy lifestyles. She has always been loyal to her church and community. In the community, she serves as

a supervisor for Connectors with Agape Child & Family Services, the President of the Frayser Community Development Corporation, an auxiliary probation officer with Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court, steering





committee member for Church Wellness Center, and a member of the City of Memphis Community Affairs Office, just to name a few. She has a passion for seeing change among young people and assisting seniors in finishing their life's journal. She says "it's a pleasure to serve and bring about a restoration to those in need."



te of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a  
ee in Elementary Education. She is currently pursuing  
e at the University of Memphis in the Instruction and  
Reading department. Katie is a teacher leader and  
as a Reading Specialist and Mentor/Master Teacher.  
r the New Teacher Project as a selector for the  
ws, as well as in school recruiting capacities. Katie  
olved in her community as an active member of the  
his and as a New Memphis Institute-Embark cohort  
ate about education for all children here in the  
o be a school leader working as a change agent in a



researcher at the University of Tennessee Department of  
rch focuses on intestinal fat absorption to treat obesity.  
torate (PhD) degree from India and was invited to Vienna,  
to 2003 to pursue further research in this area. His  
rought him to Memphis, TN, in 2004, where he is  
ng a mechanism to treat obesity. He has published  
icles in peer reviewed scientific journals and is a reviewer  
s. Shahzad has been invited to present his research work  
es all over the globe. Due to his interest in teaching and  
e is associated

with summer research programs where he mentors medical and college students under the National Institute of Health (NIH) and other research programs to develop students' careers and interest in science. He is a former member of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at Frayser High School. Shahzad has a wonderful family with a beautiful wife and a 4-year-old handsome son.

**Not pictured:** Regina Harris



## South Memphis -- East

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Cheryl has demonstrated her commitment to the education and community through active participation in the community as an adult education and socialization of children. She serves as the VP of the Tennessee PTA as its VP of Membership and Leadership. Her leadership has been demonstrated in hosting leadership training workshops across the State. She is currently employed as a Program Management Advisor in the FedEx TechConnect Program Management Office, and completed the FedEx Leadership Exploration Program which was developed to prepare talented and highly motivated individual contributors to meet the leadership challenges of the future. Cheryl serves as co-chair to the African American Network at FedEx whose focus is mentoring at risk youth and is a mentor in the Connect Mentoring program. She is a graduate of the Leadership Memphis FasTrack program and continues to serve her community through volunteer efforts. A native Memphian and product of legacy Memphis City Schools, Cheryl holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from LeMoyne Owen College and a Master of Science degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Cheryl is married to Johnny Floyd, and between them, they have four children -- 3 sons and 1 daughter.



### **Tiffany Futch**

Tiffany Futch, a returning 2013 AAC member, is an Instructional Designer for American Home Shield (AHS) (a ServiceMaster Company) where she designs and develops learning solutions in support of business initiatives and skill development. As an associate of AHS for 10 years, Tiffany has experience in the company's customer service, workforce management, sales, marketing, training and development operations. She has consulted and worked on several company initiatives to improve associate satisfaction and performance and operational efficiency. In addition to her job responsibilities in the sales marketing department, she was responsible for heading a committee to improve associate and management relations. In 2011, she was awarded the company's RIGHT Award for her dedication to hard work and support of the organization's core values. Transitioning to an associate development role as an Instructional Designer, Tiffany has been responsible for several projects to evaluate and develop training curriculum to improve associate performance. In July 2014,





she was awarded the Training and Development Department's SPARK award. She proudly carries the title of Memphis native, graduating from Kirby High School then studying Biology at Christian Brothers University and Special Education at the University of Memphis. Very passionate about women and children's issues, she's very active in the community through outreach and advocacy. Tiffany volunteers with a number of local organizations like the Women's

Foundation for a Greater Memphis, the Women's Action Coalition of the Mid-South, and Urban Bike Food Ministry. She sits on the board of CHOICES: Center for Reproductive Health and the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, and is chair for the Young Women Philanthropists. Looking to expand her reach and effectiveness within the city, Tiffany is a recent graduate of Leadership Memphis' Fast Track program.



### **Sean Norris**

Sean Norris is the Regional Director of Business Development and Commercial Lending in West Tennessee for Pathway Lending, a community-based lender to small and mid-sized companies and public charter schools throughout Tennessee. He has over 26 years of experience as a business development and sales management professional and driving growth in the financial services industry at entrepreneurial startups and global organizations, including as a Banker and Relationship Manager with business development responsibilities in commercial and corporate banking with institutions like JP Morgan Chase, FleetBoston, and First Horizon (First Tennessee). Sean also managed a national sales team and independent representative network while he was president of Gotham City Sports Group (an independent custom athletic team supplier) until they were sold in 2000. During the last 12 years, Sean has arranged, sold, participated, and advised on a multitude of



alternative lending (asset-based lending, subordinated debt placement, SBA, USDA, and charter school) transactions to small and mid-sized business nationally as a shareholder with entrepreneurial advisory and intermediary companies like Praetorian Consulting Group and Campbell, Isaac & Co., which still exists today. Sean has a B.A. degree in Political Science and M.A. degree in International Relations, both from St. John's University in Jamaica, NY. He is married with 3 children and resides in Memphis. In addition, Sean sits on the boards of Boys and Girls Club of Memphis (Samuelson Club) and the Center City Revenue Finance Corp. of Memphis and Shelby County.



### **Alfred Robinson**

Alfred Robinson has over 28 years of federal and local city management experience in both the public and private sectors and is a returning 2013 AAC member. As a relocation specialist and property manager for the Memphis Housing Authority, he has managed and coordinated the relocation services for over 4,000 families in the Memphis area and developed plans and strategies for family transitions out of low income

housing

and into the commercial market or revitalized subsidized housing. As a licensed probation officer for the state of Tennessee and detention supervisor for Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court, Alfred has guided and implemented behavioral

modification strategies for at risk youths and their families which aided in their transition into productive citizenship. As a site director and coordinator, he has worked with BRIDGES Inc. in Memphis to implement the 21<sup>st</sup> century after-school learning program for under achieving school districts and at risk youths and to help develop programs and activities for future leaders. As the youth director and family counselor for Shiloh Ministries of Memphis, Alfred helped to develop, design, implement, and train youth in the Power-Seekers program. He is an alum of The University of Memphis, where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a major in pre-med and a minor in English. He is also a licensed insurance agent and housing manager (by the National Housing Association and Section 8). Alfred is a graduate of the University of Memphis.



Community Outreach Director for the A Step Ahead  
works with the community to address women's health



issues. Belinda has worked in the non-profit sector for the past two years. In her current position, she has built strong relationships with community leaders from both grassroots organizations and well established organizations. In addition, Belinda has worked with her Outreach staff to develop A Step Ahead's signature program "Girl Talk." This program educates young women about setting goals, healthy relationships, and sexual and reproductive health. Prior to moving into the non-profit sector, Belinda worked for over 14 years in corporate America, using her customer service, logistics management and business analyst skills. She is an alum of The New Memphis Institute and Leadership Memphis and serves on the Advisory Board of Project ENRICH at the University of Tennessee Boiling Center. Belinda earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from the University of Memphis and master's degree in business administration from Bethel University. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Successful Single Moms Memphis. Belinda is the mother of two sons, Robert, a sophomore at Kirby High School and Matthew, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Kirby Middle School.

## South Memphis -- West

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### **Glenda C. Wilson Hicks**

Glenda C. Wilson Hicks is the mother of three, with one daughter currently attending Central High School in Memphis Tennessee. A returning 2013 AAC member, she is a 17-year employee of Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division where she currently works in the Customer Accounts and Records Department as a Power Account Representative. In general, her work in this area requires detailed analysis of data, research/review of data, and extensive computation servicing large commercial industrial accounts. Glenda is an active community volunteer with the Project Max team at the Division and member of IBEW Local 1288 Union. She is an active member of Praise of Zion Ministries Church, where she is a Church Board chair and Youth Mentoring Advisor. She is also a member of The Watoto



Academy of Performing Arts Parent Advisory Team, an organization that she has been working/volunteering with for 7 years. Glenda is a Wynne, AR, native with seven other siblings. Because of her love for accurately gathering and sharing information, she persuaded and secured a Bachelor of Science Degree from Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR, in Radio/TV Broadcasting - Mass Communications with a minor in Speech Communications. Glenda is actively involved in her youngest daughter's education and extra-curricular activities within her school, as well as the community.



### **Rosalind Moore**

Rosiland Moore served on the AAC in 2013 and currently manages Turning Point Inc. and Freedom from Unnecessary Negatives (aka FFUN "Stop the Killing"), a recognized 501 (c) (3) non-profit, with her husband Stevie Moore who is founder and president of both entities. In addition, she is a licensed real estate agent, notary, and parenting and certified credit counselor. She has successfully managed a Fortune 500 company in

Memphis and Jackson, MS and was CAO of World Overcomers Outreach Ministries Church in Memphis. Also, Rosiland has experienced many "first" opportunities

in her lifetime: the only African American Miss Dixie Bell finalist in 1970; the first African American to be employed on the customer service counter with the Bank of Idaho in Boise, ID; the first African American as an executive secretary in the offices of Oppenheimer Companies in Boise, ID, during the late 70s; the first African American hired with Kelly Services in Memphis, TN, in 1983 where she was promoted into management; the first African American to manage Kelly Services' Jackson, MS, office/district in 1988; and the first African American woman to volunteer for a barber in the Air Force to cut her afro while she was in Goldsboro, NC, in the mid-70's; it netted her a feature in the local newspaper. Rosiland advocates for children to have a quality education, safe communities, and encourages youth to become entrepreneurs and pursue their passions. She believes that it is through one's passion that financial freedom can be realized. Rosiland and her husband of 23 years have four children who are living and one is deceased.



### **Denise S. Richardson**

Denise S. Richardson is a returning 2013 AAC member. Currently, she is a realtor with Crye Leike



Realtors Inc. and minister at Mount Zion A.M.E. Church in South Memphis. She has been a realtor in the Memphis area since November 1980. But within that time, Denise became a full time realtor in 1988 after resigning her position as a GS 11 Contract Negotiator with the United States Defense Department. Her focus has been helping first time low to moderate income purchasers to successfully purchase affordable homes and as a short sale specialist. Licensed to preach in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in February 2003, Denise teaches the weekly bible study class, preaches the Sunday sermon at least once a month, and performs other functions as necessary. She is a product of Memphis City Schools, where she graduated from Fairley High School in 1971 and Southwestern at Memphis in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with emphasis in Pre-Law. Denise also graduated cum laude from Memphis Theological Seminary in May 2011, receiving a Master's of Arts in Religion. She is the mother of 5 children who have attended various schools -- public, private, and optional, with one presently attending a charter school in Memphis.



**Mitchell Saddler, Sr.**

A returning AAC member from the 2013 council,





Mitchell Saddler is a graduate of Carver High School in Memphis, TN and a lifetime member of Carver's National Alumni Association (GWCNAA Inc.). Mitchell has been actively involved in supporting the students and community of Carver High School. He has worked diligently on fundraisers for scholarships, reviewed scholarship applications, interviewed scholarship candidates, served as a judge during the MCS Think Show 2013, volunteered as an End of Course testing proctor, and was a presenter for the Carver Alumni Association's 2013 Hall of Fame induction ceremony. He lead efforts to fund athletic activities such as raising over \$2000 to send the basketball team to play in the Martin Luther King Jr. tournament at Seymour (TN) high school in December. Mitchell proudly served our country in the US Army where he managed communication centers, established training for various communication networks, and directed numerous highly classified national security programs at overseas and stateside military installations. He retired from the Army after 20 years of service and was chosen as Warrant officer of the year (1993) by the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association (USAWOA) retired from Comcast Cable in January 2013. Mitchell received an Associate Degree in Business from Southeast College of Technology and is an ordained Baptist Deacon and a spiritual officer at the Anointed Temple of Praise (ATOP) Outreach Ministries, Memphis.



### **Dr. Kati Thomas**

Dr. Kati Thomas is a transplant to Memphis, devoted mother of two sons, clinical psychologist, and business owner. As the owner of aBeanStalk Company, she has been providing families with practical parenting tools for parenting in our digital age for the last four years. aBeanStalk created the first Parent Intelligence Software, which proactively protects youth from bullying and digital dangers while educating on digital citizenship and privacy.

She is also the CBDO/Managing Partner for ProudOnTV, a private social sharing software. Dr. Thomas serves on the Board of Directors for Memphis Mediation Association for Restitution and Reconciliation. She is also the TN State Leader for The BULLY Project and had the pleasure to contribute to TN's anti-bullying legislation. Committed to the ministry of healthy families, youth empowerment, and excellence in education, Dr. Thomas utilizes her professional and personal resources to increase educational opportunities within

schools, provide access to services that will benefit families and contribute to the building of healthy, sustainable communities. Her affiliation with Leadership Memphis, MULYP, Common Ground, and STAND for Children has provided excellent foundations to serving others. She says she has been



“richly blessed to be a blessing to this community and truly honored to worship God though serving his precious people.”

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