

Richard Lemons brings over 25 years of experience to the Center, formerly serving as a classroom teacher, literacy coach, change coach, researcher, policy advocate and university professor. Regardless of the role, Richard's professional career is defined by a commitment to the large-scale improvement of instruction and leadership aimed at bringing about more equitable outcomes for young people. Richard earned a bachelor's degree in political science from North Carolina State University, and master's and doctorates in administration, planning, and social policy from Harvard. Richard co-authored *Change Leadership: A Practical Guide to Transforming our Schools* with his colleagues at the Harvard Change Leadership Group. He has published numerous book chapters and articles in periodicals including *Kappan*, *Journal of Staff Development*, *ASCD Express*, *Voices in Urban Education (VUE)*, and *Education Canada*. Richard also serves as a faculty member for Yale University's Education Studies Program. In addition to working with the board to provide leadership for the Center, Richard helps facilitate the Superintendents' Network, teaches in the annual Equity Institute and works closely with numerous district clients on strategic planning, central office transformation and capacity and coherence audits.

Jessie Butash has been in education for over 20 years with experience in K-12 education in the public and private sectors and currently serves as the Vice President of Mount Saint Charles Academy in Woonsocket, RI. Recent experience as Assistant Principal of Teaching & Learning at Cumberland High School propelled her passion for supporting teacher development. Her involvement with the Highlander Institute as a FUSE fellow, former work as an induction coach supporting beginning teachers state-wide and membership in RIILA (the professional development arm of RIASP) have shaped her professionally. Butash was part of the writing team for the ISTE teacher standards and has presented at iNACOL, NEASC, NESSC, and at MassCue on blended learning, competency-based education and professional development.

Daniel P. Kelley is the veteran principal of Smithfield High School in Smithfield, RI. He is an educator, instructional leader, and innovator. Dan served as president of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) during the 2017-2018 school year and was a member of the NASSP Board of Directors for five years. He has served as a high school assistant principal; a high school and middle school special education teacher; and a middle school math and science teacher. He was named the Rhode Island Secondary Principal of the Year in 2012. As a leader in education, Dan believes in challenging current instructional practices to provide creative and effective opportunities for students to learn, grow, and succeed. He is passionate about educational leadership that builds strong relationships with faculty and the community, utilizing social media to foster connections between educators, and establishing Personal Learning Networks for collaboration and professional development.

Kristen Danusis has eighteen years of preschool - grade twelve experience and has held an administrative position for over ten years as the principal in Foster and the assistant principal at Chariho Middle School. She has completed the FUSE Fellowship program through the Highlander Institute, establishing multiple Lighthouse Classrooms in her school and fully integrated blended and personalized learning as a practice in all of the classrooms in Foster. This transformational work was recently featured as a chapter in the book, "Pathways to Personalization". Kristen has led professional learning sessions on the creation and implementation of common assessments, creating flexible, blended classrooms, project-based learning, moving to a mastery based system of learning, and implementing and sustaining a school-based initiative (specific to personalized learning). She is currently on leave from her district and serving as the Leadership Fellow at RIDE.

Steve Morrone is in his sixteenth year of education. Morrone's career began as an elementary special educator and fourth grade teacher in the Westerly Public Schools. His administration career began in the Chariho Regional School District where he served as Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning at the middle school and Principal of Ashaway Elementary School. Steven also taught at the Community College of Rhode Island in the Teacher Assistant Preparation Program. He also taught at the University of Rhode Island in the Elementary Education Program. His work in Chariho was published in the March/ April 2016 edition of *Educational Leadership* called *Scaling To the Top to Close the Gap*. Steven is currently the RIASP Elementary Director and serving as Principal of Dunn's Corners Elementary School in Westerly.