

Biographies of Founders and Key Consultants

Founding Team

Erin Ashley - Founding Executive Director



Erin is passionate about making education equitable and engaging for all students. She is a National Board certified science teacher with eleven years teaching experience at the high school and middle school levels. Erin has spent the last year developing the instructional, operational, and financial systems required to start the Ipso School. Her instructional design background as a science teacher, instructional coach and academy coordinator provide the foundation for this work.

Erin has experience leading professional development seminars through Google Apps for Education Summit in the areas of 1:1 Technology and Differentiation. She has led other professional development seminars on project based learning (“PBL”), competency based grading, Understanding by Design (“UBD”) pedagogy and supporting English Learners (“EL”) through the districts she has served. She has served as an instructional coach to support math, science, and social science teachers in academic language development for EL students.

As the Coordinator of the Poseidon Marine Biology Academy at Mar Vista High School, Erin gained experience managing finances, fundraising, facilitating operations, and serving as a community liaison. In addition, Innovate Public Schools has given Erin significant training in the areas of leadership, school culture, finance and operations, data-driven instruction and governance.

Prior to her career in public education, Erin taught mathematics and science in Costa Rica and worked in the biotechnology industry in San Diego. Erin holds a Master of Education from the University of California at San Diego. She graduated with highest

honors from the University of California at Santa Barbara where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Biology through the College of Creative Studies.

Katy Foster - Founding Principal



Katy's work in education is grounded in the belief that education is the foundation for a social justice and equity. A native of Marin County, she has twenty-four years of experience in education as a social studies teacher, department chair, instructional coach, grant coordinator, and administrator in San Francisco and Marin County public high schools. As an assistant principal at Burton High School she worked with a team of teachers to create the Freshman Academy, designing a more personalized learning experience for students, and creating opportunities for teachers to collaborate with each other to ensure student learning.

In her work as a high school administrator, Katy has focused on equity, curriculum and instruction, educational technology, professional development, special education, and school-to-career initiatives. Throughout her work in San Francisco and Marin, Katy has worked with coaches and colleagues to develop her skills and knowledge in education, leadership, and reform through work with the National Equity Project and the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative. Over the last year, Katy has participated in Innovate Public Schools' Start up Schools Fellowship program, where she has received significant training in the areas of operations, school culture, governance, and data-driven instruction. She has also spent the last year developing Ipso School's model.

Katy has extensive training and experience in leading professional learning opportunities for other educators. She has been trained as a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment ("BTSA") mentor and instructional coach, and has led staff workshops on equity, teaching English learners, writing across the curriculum, and standards-based instructional practice. Through her work with North Bay Computer

Using Educators, (“CUE”), she has led workshops on educational technology as a tool to engage students, enhance learning, and strengthen leadership capabilities.

Katy holds a Master of Education in Curriculum, Technology, and Education Reform from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the University of Virginia.

Ann Waterman Roy - Founding Board Member



Ann Waterman Roy is currently Innovate Public Schools’ Managing Director of Schools and Operations. Prior to moving to California, Ann was the Boston Executive Director of the Achievement Network, a nonprofit that partners with schools to boost student learning through standards and data-driven teaching. She built a partnership with Boston Public Schools (“BPS”) to advise district leaders and provide intensive coaching and support to 40 district schools. Ann has also served as the Executive Director of Excel Academy, a public charter school serving primarily low-income Latino students that has consistently been one of the top performing public middle schools in Massachusetts. She also oversaw Boston Public Schools’ incubation and support for autonomous district schools, including in-district charters, as BPS Director of Strategic Planning. Ann currently serves on the board of Cornerstone Academy, a charter elementary school in San Jose. Ann is an alumna of the Broad Residency in Urban Education, and holds a bachelor’s degree from Harvard and an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.

Sharon Cravanas - Founding Board Member



Sharon's career has always addressed issues of college access, advocacy and equity. Currently the Director of College Counseling and Student Activities at The Marin School, Sharon has created and directed college counseling and diversity programs in several Bay Area schools. She has served as Director of College Counseling at Head-Royce School and an Assistant Principal at KIPP King Collegiate High School. Sharon has been an instructor at the UC Berkeley College and Career Counseling Certificate program, the National Association of College Admissions Counselor ("NACAC") summer programs for college admissions, and has been a consultant for the College Board. She has also been a member of accreditation teams and several national multicultural assessment teams for the National Association of Independent Schools ("NAIS"). Sharon holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from Mills College and a Master of Educational Leadership from St. Mary's College.

Jonathan Kibera - Founding Board Member



Jonathan D. Kibera is an entrepreneur and angel investor with experience in strategy and business development. He brings a deep understanding of technology, finance, and business development to our team. In 2002, Jonathan founded an e-commerce company named Mercantila that was eventually sold to Google. While at Google, he founded Google Express and Google Catalogs. In 1999, Jonathan was a product manager at Epinions.com, an early consumer review site. Jonathan recently served as an angel investor at AngelList, an organization that connects investors with start-ups. He is also in the process of starting a new company. Jonathan was born in Nairobi, Kenya, but now calls Mill Valley home. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Harvard.

Ruth Rivera - Founding Board Member



Ruth serves as a clinic director of Marin Community Clinics in San Rafael, where she coordinates operations for the clinic. Ruth grew up in San Rafael and is passionate about closing health and education disparities in our community. Ruth has experience in management, human resources, and community organizing. Ruth was a participant in the San Rafael Chambers of Commerce Leadership Development Program. She is an active member of the San Rafael community and teaches Sunday School at Iglesia Nueva Jerusalem in Novato. Ruth is also the parent of a 12 year old son who hopes to attend Ipsos School.

Michele Hansen- Founding Board Member



Michele's background combines experience in education, business and technology. After teaching first grade in Poway Unified School District for three years, Michele joined Intel Corporation, where she spent nine years in a variety of marketing, business development, and management roles. Subsequently, she served as Senior Vice President for Products and Services at the California Charter Schools Association. More recently, Michele co-founded and led Activate Instruction, an internet-based nonprofit that provided quality free content to the K-12 education market. Michele earned her BA in Political Science from Claremont McKenna College, an MA in Education from Stanford and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management. Michele also serves as Vice President of Girard Foundation, which supports innovation and systemic reform in K-12 education.

Cody Bartrug - Founding Teacher



Cody is a first generation college graduate from West Virginia. Understanding the role education has in social mobility, he began his career as a high school chemistry teacher in Poca, WV. He discovered that the culture of the community is a major driver in perception of education. In order to understand the nuances of culture, Cody went on to earn a Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies from Union University. During graduate school, he worked with refugees in Oakland and ethnic-

Chinese in Singapore. Cody has served as a teacher in the subject areas of chemistry, physical science, integrated science, and astronomy. Cody has experience using project based learning, competency based grading, and blended instruction in his classes. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education from Marshall University.

Biographies of Volunteer Consultants

Jan M. Rizzuti

Jan has a Ph. D. from Cornell University in Mathematics Education, a Master's degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.A. from Thiel College (PA) where she majored in mathematics. Her graduate research focused on high school students' use of technology in their understanding of functions in pre-calculus mathematics.

Jan has had a long career as a professor of mathematics and mathematics education, teaching at Bard College, Antioch University Seattle, and Central Washington University, and she has worked with pre-service and in-service teachers at all levels of K-12 schools. After moving to CA in 2011 she served as a professional development consultant for Scholastic Corporation's "Math Solutions" team, working with high school mathematics teachers around the country.

She currently is an adjunct professor at Dominican University of CA in San Rafael, teaching Quantitative Reasoning courses to Humanities and Business majors.

Rajkumari Neogy

Rajkumari works with individuals and organizations to make transformative and sustainable shifts. Over the last 20 years, she has worked with organizations worldwide such as Shuddle, Cisco Systems, Facebook, Sony, Adobe, JVC and Amazon. In 2013 she founded iRestart, providing expertise in leadership development, diversity & inclusion and mentorship.

She is the creator of the Disruptive Diversity Framework and author of *The WIT Factor: Shifting the Workplace Paradigm by Becoming Your Optimal Self*. She holds a Master's Degree in Transformative Leadership Development from the California Institute of Integral Studies. Rajkumari explores interpersonal neurobiology, technology and culture. Rajkumari she brings her keen insight and systems-thinking perspective to provide holistic and integrative solutions when addressing complex problems.

Jessica Colvin

Jessica Colvin, MSW, MPH, PPSC is the Wellness Director for the Tamalpais Union High School District. In her current role, she is conducting needs assessments, planning and implementing Wellness Centers at high schools within TUHSD. The Redwood Wellness Center launched in Fall 2015 and offers coordinated health, mental health, substance use/abuse and sexual health services and prevention/education to students on campus

Jessica helped administer the Wellness Initiative and overseeing health and mental health grants within San Francisco Unified School District for two years in the School Health Programs Department and then became a Wellness Coordinator on site at Galileo Academy of Science and Technology for 9 years where she coordinated and managed a Wellness Center on the high school campus serving over 50% of the student's population. Through her leadership, the Galileo Wellness Center became a

model for other Wellness Centers in the district. Jessica has been in the field of adolescent health for over 20 years. She has worked in a wide variety of settings and with a diverse population of young adults including adjudicated, homeless youth, foster, transitional age, and with severely emotionally disturbed adolescents.

Jessica went to the University of California, Berkeley, where she received a Master's in Social Welfare with a focus on the management and planning of programs serving children and families and a Master's in Public Health with a focus on maternal, child and adolescent health. Jessica then received her Pupil Personnel Services Credential in Social Work from San Francisco State University and a Pupil Personnel Services Credential in School Counseling from University of San Francisco. Jessica studied Psychology and Women's Studies in her undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin in Madison where she graduated with honors.

Nick Driver

Nick Driver works to support new school growth and strategic development for Charter School Management Corporation, a California social venture that supports the public charter school movement as well as district public schools. Nick joined CSMC in 2011 after diverse experiences in education advocacy and advice, research, and business. From 2004 until 2011, he supported hundreds of public schools through his work at the California Charter Schools Association, the country's largest charter school support organization. At both CSMC and CCSA, he has served on school design teams, trained school leaders and board members, advocated for quality schools at school board meetings, and provided technical, political and operational advice for charter and district public schools.

In the San Francisco Unified School District, he served on the Alvarado Elementary School Site Council for six years, was selected to the SFUSD Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, and served as member and chair of the district's Parent Advisory Council. At Education for Change Public Schools, Nick serves as board chair. In addition to chairing the board, Nick serves on the executive and academic accountability committees. He takes an active role in the strategic direction of the organization.

Corbin Howes

Corbin has been a business operations and finance executive for over 20 years. His strengths include an exceptional ability to support teams as they continually revise their systems to maximize performance. Corbin has a strong background in law, finance, operations, and is a systems-thinker. Corbin has served as the Senior Vice President of Business Operations at Ask.fm and at Dictionary.com, among other organizations. Corbin is passionate about helping students identify their strengths and find purpose in their lives. Corbin holds a J.D. in Law from the Pepperdine University School of Law, and a B.S. in Finance from Arizona State University, where he graduated *cum laude*.

[Biographies of Paid Consultants](#)

Bryce Fleming

Bryce serves as EdTec's Senior Director of Client Management and School Finance. Over the past eight years, Bryce has worked with dozens of charter schools throughout the state to help them with budgets, financials, cash flow and compliance. Bryce has led many trainings on state funding, cash flow, benchmarking and new school startup and has been a lead presenter at CCSA's Finance Academy Trainings.

Janelle Ruley

Janelle is a partner at Young, Minney & Corr law firm, where she has been practicing law for the last nine years. She specializes in law pertaining to education and governance. She earned her JD from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law and earned a BA in History from Dartmouth College.

Mark Cooper

Mark is well known throughout the Bay Area for his success in commercial real estate and for his continued involvement in various local Chambers of Commerce and community networking groups and organizations. Mark started his real estate career working for the Kunst Family leasing Multi-Family and Industrial properties in Marin and Sonoma Counties. He then worked as an associate with Bradley Commercial in San Rafael and KW Commercial in Oakland. Mark's prior career was in Commercial

Photography for Architecture, Annual Reports, Packaging, Billboards and Magazine Advertising. Mark hold as bachelor of fine arts in photography from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA.

Jennie Bartkowiak-Shin

Jennie currently serves as the Director of School Development at the California Charter Schools Association. She supports new school teams as they develop the academic, and operational aspects of their school models. She also provides support during the charter petition and authorization process. Jennie has experience in the areas of project management, finance, and strategy. She holds a MBA from University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan.