

Jon Heymann, CEO, Communities In Schools of Jacksonville

Jon Heymann attended the University of Florida where he received his master's degree in education leadership and is currently in the process of completing his doctoral degree in education leadership at the University of North Florida. He is a Florida Board Certified Addiction Professional (CCJAP) with a specialization in Criminal Justice. He has written a substance abuse curriculum and has assisted the Certification Board of Florida in establishing standards for the Certification of Addiction Professionals. Jon serves on various national and state boards including *Foundations Inc*, the University of Florida's Lastinger Center for Education, and has served on the boards of North East Florida Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NEFCADA) and the Jacksonville Children's Commission. Jon's professional background of working in private ministry, public penitentiaries and substance abuse programs has led him to his current position of Chief Executive Officer of Communities in Schools of Jacksonville which he has held for the over 14 years.

Keto Porter, Director, Achievers for Life

Keto Porter is a native of Jacksonville, FL and graduated from William M. Raines High School of Duval County. He continued his education at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, FL, where he received his bachelor's degree in Criminology. He began his professional career at the State Attorney's office, and has served in various positions over the past thirteen years including the Program Administrator/Mentor Coordinator of the Juvenile Justice Division. Keto is currently employed by Communities In Schools of Jacksonville and serves as Director of Achievers For Life, a mentoring and dropout prevention program. He is a former board member of Inside/Outside House, Inc., an advisory board member of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Inc. and sits on numerous committees in Duval County.

Carolyn Lynn, Director, DUVAL READS!

Carolyn Lynn is a native of Jacksonville, FL, and graduated from Paxon Senior High School of Duval County. She continued her education at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, FL, where she received her bachelor's degree in Business Management. She began working with CIS as a Student Advocate in its Student Enrichment Program at Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology. After serving the students of FHP for 2 years, she became the Director of DUVAL READS! a literacy and AmeriCorps program. She has been honored with various awards including Volunteer Florida's award for Outstanding Service as Leader Guide and Peer Trainer in 2010.

Eric Johnson, Director TEAM UP

Eric Johnson is a native of Chicago, IL. He moved to Jacksonville to attend Edward Waters College where he earned a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication. He has worked with organizations such as WJXT-TV4, Humana, American Express, Edward Waters College, YMCA of Florida First Coast and Jacksonville University Upward Bound Program. Eric began working with Communities in Schools of Jacksonville in 1998 as the Director of TEAM UP, an after school enrichment program that works with over 3,000 students in Duval County schools every year. Eric has been honored with many awards including being nationally recognized for his dedication to youth during the National Symposium for the Advancement of Youth Development in March, 2002.

Murray Beard, Director Resource Development

Murray Beard has lived in Jacksonville his entire life. He graduated from Englewood Senior High School and has degrees from Florida Junior College (FSCJ) and the University of Florida in finance. Murray worked for many years in the Jacksonville banking industry as well as his own company, Morgan Davis Associates. Murray is active in the community as a member of the Ponte Vedra Rotary Club, a youth leader at Palms Presbyterian Church and Past Chairman of The Players Championship.

Leon Baxton, Chief Operating Officer

Leon Baxton grew up in Harlem, New York and graduated from the City College of New York with his bachelor's degree in Sociology. Leon has worked in the field of social work for over twenty-five years in programs involving substance abuse prevention, community based after-school programs and school based after-school programs. He has been working with Communities In Schools of Jacksonville for over nineteen years. He now serves as the Chief Operating Officer and is affiliated with various Jacksonville organizations including Learning to Finish, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, the Urban Symposium. He is also on the Florida State College at Jacksonville's Education Advisory Committee.

Leah Barker, Director, Take Stock in Children

Leah Barker attended Washington State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education. Upon moving to Jacksonville in 1995, she formed the Let Us Play! Foundation. Let Us Play! offers teenage girls opportunities to excel in both sports and education. Leah's sixteen year involvement with the not-for-profit community led her to Communities in Schools in 2007 where she took the position as Development Director. She then moved into the role of Director of Take Stock in Children for Duval County in April of 2010. Leah is passionate about Take Stock in Children viewing it as a proven solution to high school and college completion for low-income students.