

DC PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT YOUR PASSPORT TO EXCELLENCE

PARENT PANELIST PROFILE

The 2013 Parent Panel is comprised of parent representatives from all eight wards in the District of Columbia. Committed to strengthening educational outcomes for students, the members of the Parent Panel support student learning in their various roles as parents, grandparents, mentors and partners to our local schools. As active student advocates in our educational system, they have partnered successfully with schools and identified strategies that are effective for parents to support their children's education. Each panelist strongly believes that parents must serve as partners in the education process for our children to achieve academically.

WARD ONE



ELIZABETH QUEVEDO

Ms. Elizabeth Quevedo is a District of Columbia parent of a six-year-old girl. Originally from Mexico City, Ms. Quevedo became a teacher 20 years ago and has been teaching in the United States since 2003. She currently serves as a 5th Grade Spanish Dual

Language Teacher in the District of Columbia. Although Spanish is her first language, Ms. Quevedo is still continuing to learn English. She understands that being bilingual can be a challenge for students and is very involved in her child's education. Like all mothers, Ms. Quevedo works hard to ensure that her daughter is successful.

WARD TWO



EVELYN BOYD SIMMONS

Ms. Evelyn Boyd Simmons is a parent of two DCPS students. Her commitment to education prompted the founding of the ANC2F (Logan Circle) Education Committee, which she co-chairs, and is evident in the leadership she provides to local ANC's and neighborhood

associations. Ms. Simmons, alongside other parent leaders, developed and presented recommendations to the Chancellor on the creation of a feeder system that would provide parents with more choices. Elected by the DCPS Head Start Parent Policy Council to represent Ward 2, Ms. Simmons has had the

opportunity to serve in various roles, including as a Room Parent, PTA officer, LSAT community representative and a member of a SPED parent working group. Ms. Simmons has also coordinated and led school fundraising efforts. She is a certified Partnership Broker and Parent Leadership Facilitator. For her work in the community, Ms. Simmons was awarded the Logan Circle Community Association Community Service Award.

WARD THREE



JOY WALLIS

Mrs. Joy Carol is a DCPS mother of two boys. Originally from the United Kingdom, Mrs. Carol was an elementary school teacher in South London and was one of the first women to be ordained into the priesthood of the Church of England. Mrs. Carol was

a spokesperson for the ordination of women and served on the Church of England's General Synod. She also served as an advisor to the popular BBC TV comedy series, the Vicar of Dibley. After 10 years of inner city ministry work, she moved to live and work in Washington, DC with her husband, Jim Wallis, and their sons, Luke and Jack. Her work in the District includes chairing and co-chairing five auctions, serving on the HSA board as the fundraising co-chair, being a Room Parent and serving as John Eaton's HSA Co-President. Ms. Carol graduated from Exeter University with a Bachelor in Education and is a published author. Her book, 'The Woman behind the Collar', is published by The Crossroad Publishing Company.

WARD FOUR



TERRY GOINGS

Mr. Terry Goings is the Parent Coordinator at Coolidge HS where he served as PTA President from 2002 to 2009. Mr. Goings was instrumental in leading a group of parents, teachers, students and community members in the passage of the 2007 DC Education

Reform Act, which guaranteed the modernization of all schools in the district. Mr. Goings was also the first Vice President of the Ward 4 Democrats from 2009 to May 2012. He currently sits on the board of DC School Reform Now (DCSRN) and Good Ground Good Life, a group that works with teenage children in the community.

WARD FIVE



MARY MELCHIOR-FISHER

Ms. Mary Melchior-Fisher is the mother of three boys, ages 3-11. She is a member of the McKinley middle school SIT and the Board of Governors of the Alpha Delta Phi. She is the third vice president of the Ward Five Council on Education. Ms. Melchior-Fisher is a 23-

year resident of Ward 5 and previously served on the Langdon Montessori LSAT.

WARD SIX



NIKOL McCOMBS

Ms. Niki McCombs is the mother of two children. She is a family wellness coach and project management professional who is passionate about helping parents learn how to nourish their families' bodies and souls

through healthy eating. Ms. McCombs also advocates for the exploration and enjoyment of nature. She currently serves as the Chair of the Sustainability and Wellness Parent Association Committee at Washington Yu Ying Public Charter School. Ms. McCombs is the co-founder of the Friends of J.O. Wilson Elementary School (JOWES) Grounds Renovation Committee, created to transform the schoolyard grounds into a safe and educational environment for the students and a welcoming gathering place for the community. The committee's efforts resulted in approximately \$2 million in funds for schoolyard revitalization activities, which included the creation of athletic fields, enlarged and safer playground spaces, kitchen gardens, secure staff parking and increased and improved lighting and fencing in 2009.

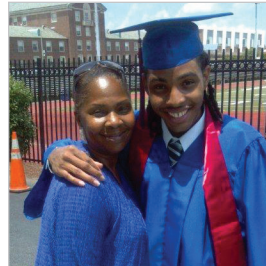
WARD SEVEN



EBONI-ROSE THOMPSON

Ms. Eboni-Rose Thompson is a program specialist with Save the Children US, overseeing the early childhood and school programs in the District. She currently serves as the Chair of the Ward 7 Education Council and is an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner.

WARD EIGHT



KIM HARRISON

Ms. Kimberly Harrison is a fifth generation Washington native. A product of the DC public school system, Ms. Harrison is an active alumna of Anacostia High School, Johnson C. Smith University, U.D.C. and USDA Graduate School. Since

1982, she has worked with private sector, government and non-profits. She has owned and operated her own community-based non-profit organizations, Women's Clubs and consulting firms. Ms. Harrison is a communications contact for the Concerned Parents for Action Coalition. She is a great apolitical organizer, community activist and student advocate who has committed many years of her life towards providing dedicated community-based services to the residents of the District of Columbia. Her non-profit, Working In The Spirit Of Excellence, Inc., has partnered with Anacostia SHS New Heights Teen Parent program on numerous projects. She has also implemented educational, life skills coaching, college and career preparation training programs. Ms. Harrison works with several public school, elected and appointed government officials/agencies and local non-profits on developing learning modules for slow learners, creating partnerships, volunteering and mentoring/tutoring projects. Ms. Harrison developed dozens of in and out-of-school programs for DCPS, community-based organizations, leaders, families and young adults. Ms. Harrison served as a Community Leader on a panel consisting of community leaders from across the United States. She attended meetings at the White House discussing Education Issues. Ms. Harrison was recently reappointed to serve as the Education Chair for the DC Parent Teachers Association (PTA).