

CORO CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 2009-2010

CAMPUS MANAGER BIOGRAPHIES

Leslie Brown

East Bay Coro Campus
Oakland High School



Leslie has an extensive background in youth development, specifically in youth engagement and empowerment. In her current role as Program Coordinator of Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY), Leslie is responsible for developing curriculum, training and coaching her team to develop and present community trainings. She also provides supervision and support for four dynamic youth board members. Leslie received her Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI and her Master of Public Administration from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor/Dearborn, MI.

Amy Chan

San Francisco Coro Campus
Balboa High School



Amy is passionate about supporting young people to reach their leadership potential through innovative youth development programming. Amy is the director of the Coro Exploring Leadership Program. Prior to this, Amy taught high school English in Japan, directed a literacy program in Washington DC, and ran apprenticeship-based, after-school programs in Boston middle schools with Citizen Schools. She also served as the Dean of Students at Oakland School for the Arts and as a Literacy Specialist at KIPP Bridge College Prep in West Oakland. Amy received her Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Carleton College in Northfield, MN and her Master's in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, MA.

Matt Colley

San Francisco Coro Campus
ISA (International Studies Academy)



As a graduate of a public high school and child of two public school teachers, Matt feels a certain duty to contribute his skills and energy to help improve today's public education system and mentor students. For the past two years, Matt has taught 9th and 11th grade social studies at Punahou School in Honolulu. He also participated in the Surfrider Spirit Sessions mentoring program which worked in conjunction with the Juvenile Drug Court to help at-risk youth transition out of probation and become productive citizens. Matt received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA.

Lalo Duran

East Bay Coro Campus
Lionel Wilson College Prep



Lalo brings a diverse background in program development, conflict mediation, and community organizing. As an AmeriCorps VISTA Program Coordinator for the International Rescue Committee, he expanded the after-school programming by leading a conflict resolution skills training for youth in tandem with providing scholastic case management for refugee and immigrants. He also coached a soccer team made up of refugee, immigrant, and urban youth. Lalo received his Bachelor of Arts in International Security and Conflict Resolution with a concentration in Global Systems and minor in Spanish from San Diego State University.

Lizzie Lincoln

East Bay Coro Campus
Berkeley High School



Lizzie believes in the transformational power of education and she wants to work towards improving the educational experiences of underserved communities. She has spent four years at The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum working as the Education Coordinator for Public Programs. She developed a new literature series for the Guggenheim's galleries and led tours and programs for students. Lizzie hopes to transition back into a nonprofit setting or into a role as a classroom teacher. Lizzie received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR.

Sean McClung

San Francisco Coro Campus
Mission High School



Sean has been working with a group of at-risk high school students and their families at the Denver Big Picture High School. He ensured that his students were accepted to college. Sean was a Corps Member Advisor at the Teach for America LA Summer Institute in 2008 and was the founding director of an international school in Beijing, China. Sean received his Bachelor of Arts in English & Religion from Boston University and his Master's of Education in Administration, Planning & Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, MA. He also received his Colorado Teaching License from The Teacher Institute at La Academia in Denver, CO.

Laura McGowan
East Bay Coro Campus
Oakland Technical High School



Laura is driven by her passion to help others, and to instill in all people the desire to have an impact in their communities. Laura has spent the past 12 years with the Close Up Foundation in Washington, DC and the Bay Area working with students and educators, engaging them in civic education programs so they could better understand how the government works, how they can return home and become leaders in their communities, and how they can make a tremendous difference on issues they care about. Laura received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, minor in French from the University of California at Davis.

Ben Polansky
East Bay Coro Campus
El Cerrito High School



Ben is passionate about empowering youth with the knowledge and skills to take action in their school and neighborhood communities. For the past three years, Ben has managed the Coro Exploring Leadership Program. Before joining Coro, Ben was the founder of an internet company called Matador Travel, a site that connects travelers from around the world. For the last ten years, he has worked with young people as a teacher, mentor, coach, tutor and outdoor educator in the Bay Area and abroad. Ben received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Andrew Rothman
San Francisco Coro Campus
Burton High School



Andrew brings a diverse background in youth development. He worked in Northern Uganda developing educational programs for returning child combatants with a local NGO. He has also taught ESL in San Francisco and led a summer trip for high school students to Puerto Rico. Furthermore, Andrew taught 7th grade American History in New York City. Andrew received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from San Francisco State University and his Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University in New York, NY. He also received the advanced Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Alison Traina
San Francisco Coro Campus
The Academy of Arts & Sciences



As a Youth Development Coordinator with Youth and Family Enrichment Services, Alison utilized multiple youth development frameworks to enhance under-resourced high school students' natural skills and abilities. She oversees the Youth Advisory Board and the Peer Education Program at Menlo-Atherton High School. At Public Allies, she completed a three-part leadership development program consisting of an apprenticeship with a non-profit organization, a team service project, and professional development trainings. Alison received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, emphasis in Social Services and minor in Social and Ethnic Relations from the University of California at Davis.

Lea Troeh
San Francisco Coro Campus
Galileo Academy of Science & Tech



Lea is passionate about community development, service learning, and academic equality. Most recently, she was the Residential Dean of Civic Leadership Institute, a program where students' potential is tapped to encourage confidence, community activism, and skills sharing. Lea also worked as a Naturalist at Camp Bloomfield with the Conejo Valley Unified School District where she developed the geology curriculum. In addition, she has served as Faculty Advisor with National Young Leaders Conference. Lea received her Bachelor of Arts in Communications, Media and minor in Spanish, Environmental Studies from the University of San Diego.

Zoe Wadkins
East Bay Coro Campus
San Leandro High School



Zoe brings a strong background in youth facilitation and leadership, curriculum development, conflict resolution, and community organizing. She has worked with a diverse group of individuals in a variety of situations. She has co-facilitated after-school programs, teaching conflict resolution to young women ages 10-16. She was a youth leader and counselor for orphaned children in Russia. Zoe received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. She also received a Mediation Certification from the King County Dispute Resolution Center in Seattle, WA.