

**Kate Greeley***Principal*

Emily Griffith High School



Kate Greeley has over 16 years' experience in education and youth development. She earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from Drake University in Des Moines, IA where she focused on broadcast journalism, and international studies. After graduation, she worked for CBS in Minneapolis, MN in their satellite division and the broadcast division for the Minnesota Twins. She also worked on two around the world voyages for Semester at Sea, a shipboard education program, focused on global comparative education. She transitioned to education in 1999 after completing a Masters of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Colorado at Denver. This degree would lead her to six years of teaching math in Northeast Denver, two years in Hawaii coaching math teachers for Edison Schools and being an assistant superintendent for a Charter School Network in Austin, TX. She returned to Denver to work for DPS in 2008. Her roles have included being a data specialist for both elementary and high school principals and then an assistant principal at East High school where she has worked to utilize innovative approaches to closing the achievement gap for students of color and ensure these students receive a second chance in earning their diploma. Kate currently serves in the role as co-principal at Emily Griffith High School. She is also a recent Leadership Denver graduate.

**Debbie Hearty***Chief of Human Resources*

Denver Public Schools



assistant principal. She was also a lead designer of the DPS educator effectiveness and instructional support initiatives. Hearty also has experience as a university faculty member at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Outside of DPS, she and her husband are busy with their two elementary school-aged boys and pets. She and her family love to be out and about exploring Colorado and beyond.

**Damion LeeNatali**

*Executive Director*

Teach for America – Colorado



A Denver native, Damion LeeNatali taught as a high school English teacher in Denver Public Schools for

**Eddie Koen Jr.**

*Chief of Staff*

Denver Public Schools



fellow at Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights law firm that provides legal representation to indigent defendants and prisoners who have been denied fair and just treatment in the legal system. He served as past national chair for the National Black Law Students Association, overseeing over 4,000 law students of color. During his tenure he campaigned for equity in law school accreditation standards that would have a disparate impact for students of color. Towards the end of his legal education, he traveled to Haiti and co-founded Konbit Pou Edikayson, an international nonprofit focused on education and youth gang prevention in Cité Soleil, Haiti. In addition to international work, Eddie worked in partnership with the law firm of Sidley Austin and the American Bar Association in the “Death Penalty Representation Project,” providing crucial legal services to resource-poor clients on death row. As a result, the Alabama State Bar recognized Eddie for his outstanding work.

Eddie is not only a first generation college graduate, but also a former high school drop-out. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alabama, Masters of Public Administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, a law degree from Samford University, and is currently enrolled at Harvard receiving a Masters of Liberal Arts in Management.

## **Kathryn Harris**

*President & CEO*

Qualistar Colorado



Kathryn V. Harris is president and CEO of Qualistar Colorado, a statewide nonprofit that advances quality, access and equity in early care and education so that all children are valued, healthy and thriving. For 15 years, Qualistar has been the voice for quality early care and education in Colorado. Under Kathryn's leadership, Qualistar has expanded its mission to increase access and equity, so every family can find and afford quality early care and education. During her tenure, Kathryn has restructured Qualistar's business model to align with the Early Childhood Colorado Framework, which is a strategic, wraparound approach used by public and private stakeholders to build systems that support every child. This model recognizes that Qualistar's work is multiplied when the organization collaborates with community partners across all fields. To create this system, Kathryn utilizes her professional background in fundraising and corporate consulting to engage the business community, create nonprofit partners and effectively influence policymakers.

Kathryn launched her career in consulting at Accenture, where she worked with large Fortune 100 Financial Services companies, including Bank of America and Wachovia, to deliver complex technology programs with consistency and predictability. Next, Kathryn took her ability to manage multiple initiatives, lead programs and excel in a corporate environment to the nonprofit sector, working as executive director of the Grand Foundation for eight years. She has held leadership and donor development positions at Generation Schools Network, Rose Community Foundation and the Grand County Builders Association.

## **Van Schoales**

*Chief Executive Officer*

A+ Denver



Van Schoales is the Chief Executive Officer of A+ Denver. Most recently, he served as the Executive Director of Education Reform Now (ERN), a national education policy and advocacy non-profit organization closely affiliated with Democrats for Education Reform (DFER). Prior to leading ERN, Mr. Schoales was the education Program Officer at the Piton Foundation where he oversaw a \$3 million portfolio of investments related to state policy, district reform and new school development. During his tenure, Piton was an early investor in Teach for America-Colorado, Denver's New Schools Office, Stand For Children, and many of the highest performing charter school networks in Denver. Mr. Schoales co-founded Hot Lunch, an ongoing speaker series that continues to bring thought leaders to Colorado for an audience with influential policy-makers. He was instrumental in founding EdNews Colorado, A+ Denver, DFER-Colorado and Get Smart Schools. An effective policy advocate, Mr. Schoales has played a key role in school board elections and in the passage of legislation related to school autonomy, teacher evaluations and new data collection of high school graduation rates. Mr. Schoales has served as the interim President of the Colorado Children's Campaign, and the Vice President of Education at the Colorado Small Schools Initiative, where he oversaw an \$8 million Gates investment to turn around low performing schools and invest in new schools, including the (then conceptual) Denver School of Science and Technology. Prior to his work in Denver, Mr. Schoales founded the Bay Area Coalition of Equitable Schools, a coalition that now includes hundreds of schools and more than two dozen affiliate centers. Mr. Schoales started his career teaching high school science, leading to his tenure as a school principal and the founding school leader of one of Denver's highest performing charter schools (The Odyssey School) before his entry into advocacy work.

Mr. Schoales's has authored and edited a variety of papers on school choice, school accountability, student achievement, school design, state policy and other education reform topics. He is regularly quoted in education news stories and can be found in The Denver Post, NBC, National Public Radio, EdNewsColorado, Christian Science Monitor, The New York Times, Education Week, Univision and Fox News. Mr. Schoales earned a B.S. from the University of California - Santa Cruz, M. S. from Brown University, M.A. from San Francisco State University, and an M.A. from Stanford University.

## Coming up at the Leadership Foundation

### **Impact Denver Applications**

Due Monday, October 24 at 5 p.m.

#### **Who should apply?**

Emerging leaders who are ready to find innovative solutions to and learn more about the challenges that our community faces.

**Like us to add someone to the interest list? Contact [Erica.rutledge@denver.leadership.org](mailto:Erica.rutledge@denver.leadership.org).**

### **Call for Nominations: 9NEWS Leader of the Year**

Due Friday, November 18 at 5 p.m.

#### **Who can be nominated?**

This award goes to an extraordinary individual who, in the early stages of his or her career, has demonstrated character and competence through his/her behavior and accomplishments.

**To nominate someone: <http://www.cvent.com/d/xfqht1>**