



CWC Schools Leadership Team

J. Kristean Dragon

Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Kriste began her work in education as a middle school mathematics teacher in South Los Angeles. She later served as Executive Director of Teach For America in Los Angeles and Vice President of regional operations for six of Teach For America's western regions. In that role, Kriste managed the then-largest community of Teach For America regional leaders, with responsibility for the placement and ongoing support of over 900 Teach For America corps members. She has also served as professional development coordinator at UCLA's Center X, developing mathematics curricula and training more than 4,000 teachers in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Kriste served as founding board chair for Citizens of the World Charter School Hollywood, vice chair of Community Magnet Charter School for five years, and a board member of Larchmont Charter Schools for eight years. She has a Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia and a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Alabama. Kriste is a Fellow at the Broad Center for Management's first cohort of Education Leaders and a Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow for the spring of 2013 cohort.

Krupa Desai

Chief Strategy Officer

Krupa joined Citizens of the World after serving as the Senior Managing Director of Development at Teach For America in Los Angeles. In that capacity, she managed the region's fundraising campaigns, doubled the region's revenue in two years, and worked to develop both short- and long-term regional growth plans. Previously, Krupa worked as an associate attorney at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges on entertainment and intellectual property litigation. Her career in education began as a Teach For America corps member in New York City, teaching 7th and 8th grade science at I.S. 183, The Paul Robeson School, in the South Bronx.

Krupa graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in American Studies focusing in Politics, Policy and Governance and earned her Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from New York University School of Law.

Dr. Hillary Johnson

Chief Academic Officer

Hillary began her career in education 20 years ago as a Teach For America corps member and for the first five years was a Spanish-bilingual kindergarten, 1st grade, and Reading Recovery teacher in Oakland, CA. Prior to joining Citizens of the World, Hillary spent 13 years as an independent consultant helping organizations, schools, and teachers improve their performance. Her experience includes engagements with district schools and central offices, charter schools (charter management organization and single-site), four charter authorizers, and a charter resource center, and she is able to bring all of those perspectives to her work with Citizens of the World. Though her work has taken many forms, she considers herself to remain a teacher at heart and working alongside teachers and instructional leaders as they strive to improve their practice has been among her most satisfying work.

Hillary graduated with distinction from the University of California at Berkeley and earned her doctorate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education as a member of its Urban Superintendents Program.

Carrie Wagner

Chief Financial Officer / Chief Operations Officer

Carrie Wagner joined Citizens of the World in October 2012. Before that, she spent nine years at ExED, a leading nonprofit provider of charter school management services, where she served as COO and President. Her performance highlights include:

Managing 56 employees, including 11 direct reports, expanding the company from 12 to 78 clients, averaging a 27 percent annual growth rate, helping to increase the budget from \$1 million to \$6 million, expanding and standardizing ExEd's product offerings, overseeing significant accounting enhancements, and enhancing internal controls.

Prior to ExED, Carrie was the Social Enterprise Manager for New Directions, Inc., a nonprofit organization assisting homeless veteran, and worked in corporate finance at Heller Financial. Carrie is a Certified Public Accountant with experience at PriceWaterhouseCoopers as a Senior Accountant in the audit division. She earned an M.B.A. from The Anderson School at UCLA and a B.S. in Accountancy and Computer Applications from The University of Notre Dame.

Jana Reed

Chief of Schools

Jana comes to CWC Schools from Ascend Learning, Inc., a Brooklyn-based charter school management organization, which she co-founded and served as Chief Operating Officer for five years. Ascend serves 1,200 students in three elementary schools and one middle school in Bushwick and Brownsville, two of Brooklyn's most challenged neighborhoods. Jana was instrumental in launching the organization and guiding its growth to its current revenue of \$23.6 million. She also oversaw Ascend's business systems and operations, and played a key role in selecting school sites and navigating the charter application process.

Prior to Ascend, Jana was an executive with Commongood Careers, an executive search firm for nonprofit groups. In that role, she helped forge a partnership between Teach For America and many of the nation's leading business schools, among other accomplishments. Jana has also served as Director of Business Development for Boston-based Building Excellent Schools, and worked in the offices of two Massachusetts governors, William F. Weld and Jane M. Swift.

A resident of Brooklyn, NY, Jana will be based in our New York office, where she will help manage and nurture our school regions as the CWC Schools network continues to expand.

Andrea Arroyo

New Site Development and Community Engagement Director

Andrea Arroyo joined Citizens of the World in February 2013 after spending 15 years as a manager, strategist and advocate in the nonprofit and economic development sectors.

Most recently, Andrea served as Director of Grants at LA's Promise, helping to secure over \$4 million of funding from private foundations, public agencies, corporate partners and other supporters to enhance educational initiatives at LA's Promise schools. Before that, she served as Managing Director of District and School Partnerships at Teach For America, where she led the placement of over 250 new teachers in LA County.

Andrea previously worked at two consulting firms focused on integrated real estate advisory and affordable housing services. She assisted in the development of over 45 affordable housing projects and advised clients to help them make strategic investments and improvements in their communities. In addition, Andrea spent two years as a 2nd grade teacher at Saul Martinez Elementary School in Mecca, California.

Andrea earned a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology from Pitzer College. She is an alumna of the CORO Fellowship in Public Affairs.