

2012-2013 New Candidate Bios

Tazra Mitchell

Tazra Mitchell joined the Budget and Tax Center—a project of the North Carolina Justice Center—in August 2011 as a Public Policy Fellow. From 2007 to 2011, Tazra held multiple positions at the North Carolina General Assembly. She served as an Intern and a Legislative Assistant in the Office of State Representative Becky Carney, and she worked as a Research Assistant in the non-partisan Fiscal Research Division. Her policy interests include fiscal policy, equity, and communities of opportunity. Tazra graduated *summa cum laude* from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a minor in the French language. She also received a Master of Public Policy degree from the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University.

Pat Orrange

Pat was born and raised in Buffalo, New York where she spent 10 years as a middle grades teacher. She became very actively involved in teacher organization work and was hired by the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) in 1972 to lead a coalition of organizations in the state involved with teacher education. When NYSUT disaffiliated from the National Education Association in 1976, Pat stayed with NEA and eventually became the Executive Director of the NEA affiliate in New York.

In 1982, Pat moved to Washington, DC to work for the National Education Association. She was responsible for managing the largest single program of NEA, its state staffing program, UNISERV. In 1990 she was promoted to the position of Director of Human Resources for NEA. In this position she was responsible for the full range of personnel and Human Resources and Organizational Development activities for a staff of slightly over 600. Also from this position Pat was given the work flexibility to engage in the political activity of NEA. She headed their Women's Leadership program, initiated an Internship Program for Women and Minorities and worked several political campaigns including the 2000 Senatorial campaign in New York for Hillary Clinton. Pat retired from NEA in 2005 and moved to Raleigh. After retiring she spent the next five years consulting with organizations across the country. In that time she organized coalitions, fund raised, planned and coordinated conferences in 14 different states on supporting and staffing high needs schools and family-school-community engagement. Pat is now retired for the third and final time working harder than ever, but with no pay.

She lives with John Dornan, the former Executive Director of the Public School Forum, her dog Spirit and cat, Shogun. She still owns a home in DC and spends time there whenever it is practical.

Kay Paksoy

Kay earned her BSW from Campbell University. During her time in school, Kay traveled to South Africa over two winter breaks to the Lotus Home in Mabopane to work with 200 abandoned children and young adults and returned to South Africa in 2010 to work with Hospice patients and afterschool groups in Cape Town. In 2008, Kay studied abroad in London, England and was introduced to the world of advocacy. Kay spent two months in a youth and women's healthcare agency working with the Press

Department to develop creative advocacy tools for international issues that affect young teenagers and was privileged to present her work at the Houses of Parliament. Kay worked with NASW-NC as an intern during her senior year of college and then as an Advocacy Associate. After completing college, Kay worked for the Methodist Home for Children in a level 2 residential group home for teenage girls. Currently, Kay serves as the Director of Advocacy, Policy and Legislation for the National Association of Social Workers, NC Chapter. In this role, Kay works with the Board of Directors and NASW-NC's 4500 members to advocate for the social work profession. Kay enjoys engaging social work professionals and students in the political process and teaching them key advocacy components to advance their issues.

Carey Pope

Carey Pope is the Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina. She recently accepted the position of Advocacy Communications Strategist with Ipas and will transition into this role in July. Carey has worked in the fields of reproductive and sexual health education, research and advocacy for more than eight years, developing a career interest after volunteering for NARAL NC as an undergraduate and then working as a health educator for the American Social Health Association. While attending graduate school in Washington, DC, she worked on a cervical cancer prevention and HPV awareness campaign for the Academy for Educational Development and served as a lobbyist for the American Association of University Women. Prior to joining NARAL NC, she served for three years as Manager of Resource Development for a non-profit HIV/AIDS service organization in Houston, TX that provides free healthcare and social services. Carey holds a master's degree in public policy and women's studies from The George Washington University and a B.A. in English and women's studies with a minor in Sociology from North Carolina State University.

Rob Powell

Rob Powell moved to North Carolina in 2009 after accepting a job with the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Chatham County as the Rape Prevention Education Coordinator. Prior to accepting the position in North Carolina, Rob completed a degree at Berry College in Communication in Women's Studies. After working with the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Chatham County for a year and a half, Rob accepted a position at the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault as the Member Services Coordinator. In this position, Rob works to support rape crisis services providers in their efforts to support survivors and end sexual violence. Rob uses his personal time to engage in issues including but not limited to queer rights, eradicating poverty, and various political campaigns.

Heather Williams

Heather Williams is a dedicated community organizer for Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina in Fayetteville, NC. After attending UNC-Greensboro for Women's and Gender Studies and English, Heather returned to Fayetteville to serve her community. Observing the health and social disparities for low-income women and women of color in her native Sandhills region, she decided to become an advocate and volunteer with Planned Parenthood in 2009. Her efforts to advocate for and inform local women of their healthcare options afforded her a great opportunity when, in 2010, she joined PPCNC as Field Organizer and Volunteer Coordinator. During her initial year at PPCNC, she helped to organize the

first canvassing campaign the organization had ever undertaken. Recently, Heather is working on a Get Out the Vote campaign that will bring more NC women to the polls in 2012. She continues to engage women throughout the Sandhills region and encourages local women to have their voices heard through advocacy.