



John Van Arnam has a 15-year record of advocacy protecting children from viewing online pornography, and a passion for real-world practical solutions. John sees our young people viewing online pornography as an avoidable challenge. His team teaches parents and kids how to avoid the emotional challenges watching pornography can cause young children, based on history, facts, experience, testimonials, and constantly updated information vetted by doctors, educators, psychologists, and scientists. He has assisted the largest search engines in the world to create family safe search practices surrounding pornography for over eight years. He has worked for The State of North Carolina as a School Safety Program Trainer under the Department of Public Instruction. He is a Partner in Prevention on the Buncombe County Prevention Taskforce. He has spoken at seminars for The North Carolina Center for Safer Schools (NCCSS). John is the President of Raising Better Boys and the Founder of The Third Talk™ Inc., a non-profit 501(c)3. John has a degree in Psychology and a minor in Child Psychology.



Dr. Kashi Bazemore is the Executive Director of the John Maxwell Team at Added Education Solutions, LLC. She also serves as a member of the NCPTA Diversity and Inclusion Committee and is Vice President of the local PTA Chapter at River Bend Middle School in Raleigh. Dr. Bazemore is a passionate educator who works as a public education advocate to support educational initiatives from cradle to college. She has 17 years of experience as a Middle Grades ELA / SS Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal, having worked in public traditional, magnet, and charter school sectors. She is a licensed teacher in North Carolina and New York, a licensed principal in North Carolina, and is currently studying for the July 2020 NC Bar Exam. Dr. Bazemore holds a B.S. in Middle Grades Education, with a dual concentration in ELA and SS, from East Carolina University, a Master of School Administration (MSA) and PhD in Educational Research and Policy Analysis from NC State University, and a Juris Doctor degree from UNC Chapel Hill School of Law.



Dr. Wanda Boone's career in prevention spans over 30 years. She founded Together for Resilient Youth (TRY) Coalition in 2003. TRY has received local, state, and national recognition such as The Ann Doolen Visionary Award, The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America Got Outcomes Award, and The Dogwood Award presented by NC Attorney General Josh Stein. Dr. Boone is a national guest speaker and technical advisor on all things related to the Strategic Prevention Framework, Substance Use, Community Resilience, ACEs, Trauma (individual, community and environmental), Resilience, Behavioral Health Disparities, and Disadvantaged Communities. She has earned the title Social Justice Warrior.



Matthew Ellinwood joined the North Carolina Justice Center as a policy analyst in the Education and Law Project in August 2010. Matt directs the Justice Center's legislative advocacy on education policy issues that promote equity and impact the quality of education for low-income North Carolinians. Prior to graduating from Temple University Law School, Matt ran after-school programs in underserved communities in West Philadelphia and performed outreach work with migrant workers for AmeriCorps in rural Virginia. Matt received a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and holds a master's degree in education policy and management from Harvard University.



Karen W. Fairley is the Assistant Director with the Center for Safer Schools house in the Department of Public Instruction. She has been with the Center since March of 2016, and her topical area in the Center includes: Gang Violence Intervention and Human Trafficking in Schools. She also conducts Mental Health First Aid Training for adults, youth and teens. Previously she was the Administrator for the SAVAN Program within Victim Services in Department of Public Safety. Karen also served on the NC Sexual Predator Panel. She has conducted and presented in numerous workshops, trainings and conferences on varied topics that include: domestic violence, workplace harassment, leadership development, women's empowerment, single and teen-age parenting, and youth program development, just to name a few. Karen received her Associates Degree from Inter-American University in San Juan, Puerto Rico, a bachelor's degree from Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio, and her Juris Doctor from University of Toledo- College of Law.



Brian Lewis has worked in NC politics and policy since 1996 and holds a master's degree in public affairs and bachelor's in political science from UNC Greensboro. He is a veteran lobbyist at the General Assembly and has been involved in some of the state's most high profile political and policy debates on public education. It was those debates that drove Brian to found New Frame in 2013. After years of witnessing the politicization of public education, Brian is putting his vision of lobbying and advocacy to practice by focusing on finding common ground, listening to diverse ideas, especially communities in poverty, putting aside partisanship, and making good public policy for North Carolina. Brian and New Frame proudly represent NCPTA.



Marques Ogden attended Howard University where he played Division I football and was named All Conference Junior and Offensive Most Valuable Player Senior. For five years, Ogden played as an offensive lineman with the Titans, Bills, Ravens, and Jaguars, before retiring and pursuing a career in construction and contracting. At the age of 27 he founded his own firm and quickly became successful, winning the African American Subcontractor of the Year Award in Maryland. In 2013 he became involved in a bad business deal and ended up filing for bankruptcy. He subsequently became a speaker to help others succeed where he had failed, and with hard work and determination, is now an inspirational keynote speaker, executive coach, corporate trainer, and best-selling author.



Teicher Patterson is the Principal of Enfield Middle S.T.E.A.M. Academy in Enfield, NC. Teicher earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Performance as well as a Master of School Administration from North Carolina Central University In 2017. Teicher was also awarded with an Education Specialist Certificate from North Carolina State University. Teicher feels that his job is his hobby and therefore he strives to show his students the effects of having a great life through education. He works extremely hard with students who are less fortunate and who are troubled because he feels that is a part of his calling.



Ayax Rangel serves as an Information Operations action officer, conducting strategic and theater deliberate, contingency and crisis planning support at USSOUTHCOM (Latin America area of responsibility). Previously, he served as a Foreign Affairs Specialist at the G5 - SCD, USARNORTH, Fort Sam Houston, TX. As part of the Mexico Branch his activities centered on MIL-to-MIL relationships with Mexico in the homeland defense and civil support arenas. Ayax also served as an Assistant Professor at the Defense Language Institute in Fort Bragg, NC, where he imprinted language and cultural competence on Special Operations Forces Soldiers for the US Army. Himself a veteran with seven years of military service, he was honorably discharged in the fall of 2017. Maintaining links to North Carolina, Ayax serves on the NCPTA Board of Directors (2018-2020 term), and currently is a team leader responsible for managing a Gates Foundation initiative and grant on the value of education data for parents and teachers in the state of North Carolina.



Leonardo Williams is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of the PHASE 3 Group, Inc., an academic achievement focus group that provides helpful accountability strategies on education matters in the home, community and schools. Leonardo possesses a broad portfolio of experience in education policy, curriculum, mental health, and business development across North Carolina, the southeastern region of the United States, and the southern region of Africa. He currently serves as Chair of the North Carolina Central University College of Arts & Sciences Advisory Board, establishing two successful endowments for student scholarships. He recently served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the NC Foundation for Public School Children, North Carolina's largest nonprofit foundation for public schools. He and his wife Zweli Williams also own Zweli's Piri Piri Kitchen, one of the most popular restaurants in Durham, NC. Leonardo holds two degrees from North Carolina Central University.