

2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT AND CALENDAR





Dear Friend and Supporter of Great Oaks,

The year that just ended was an eventful one for our country and for Great Oaks. We were ecstatic to read the news last May that Great Oaks was awarded an AmeriCorps grant of more than \$10,000,000 over three years by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. This grant provides stipends and scholarships to support several hundred tutors giving a year of service across the four states where Great Oaks has schools. Last year saw a record number of applications – close to 3,000 – from young people around America looking to become tutors and give back to their country and community.

Everyone recognizes that the presidential election of 2016 was a hard fought campaign that divided the country almost exactly in half. Regardless of whom you supported in the election, people of all political affiliations have been alarmed by the xenophobia and scapegoating that emerged from the dark fringes of American society during the campaign. I worry about the extent to which our world is becoming a less open, more fearful place that is anxious about 'the other'.

I'm proud to say that within the Great Oaks network of schools, our culture and our mission counter these impulses every day. At the Great Oaks Legacy school in Newark, this means that a Muslim girl in a hijab easily takes her place as a member of the student body, fully accepted by her peers. Another way we are embracing our connectedness to the wider world is through a partnership we have established with Kunskapsskolan Education (KED), a network based in Stockholm that supports schools across Sweden, the Netherlands, the UK, India and the Middle East.

Even as the election results were being counted, the Great Oaks School in Wilmington was host to a teacher from Sweden, who was here as part of an exchange that will send a representative of Great Oaks over to Stockholm in the Spring. Through our partnership with KED, students at GO NYC have been Skyping with students in Liverpool, England, working on math problems together, giggling at each other's funny accents but realizing how alike they are despite their differences.

In Bridgeport, as in New York City, Great Oaks gives priority in its admissions lottery to English Language Learners, many of whom are recent immigrants to this country. At a time when people are looking to build walls, metaphorical and real, Great Oaks is instead building bridges.

One of the most dynamic qualities of the charter school movement, including the Great Oaks network, is its capacity to bring together an ideologically diverse group of people—board members, parents, teachers and administrators. At a time when American society feels Balkanized with each of us retreating to our FoxNews, MSNBC or CNN view of the world never to really encounter anyone with a different perspective from our own, we at Great Oaks are united in our belief in the potential that charter schools hold for children. As an old friend and charter school teacher in Massachusetts likes to say, 'The charter school movement is where the right meets the left in American politics.'

Great Oaks is supported by more than a few Trump voters, as well as many Clinton backers, die-hard Democrats and dyed-in-the-wool Republicans. I'm reminded of Martin Luther King's observation that the most segregated hour in America is Sunday morning, when people go to church. The charter school movement, including Great Oaks, is one of the few places in contemporary American culture where people of different faiths, perspectives and politics come together. I know that the school boards alone at Great Oaks include several Mormons, many Roman Catholics, some observant Jews, Protestant Evangelicals, Episcopalians, a Muslim or two and likely a few atheists. This base of support, which also includes incredible racial and ethnic diversity, means that we have the strength to survive and thrive, however the votes have been counted.



GREAT OAKS AT A GLANCE

MISSION

The mission of the Great Oaks Foundation is to launch and support a network of charter schools that prepare students for college success through high-dosage tutoring. By design, our schools contribute to the vitality of the urban neighborhoods where they are located by attracting and creating social, human, and investment capital.

SCHOOL	FOUNDED	SCHOOL LEADERS	# OF STUDENTS	# OF TEACHERS AND TUTORS	RESULTS
GREAT OAKS LEGACY (GOLCS)	2011	Jared Taillefer Kenneth Schultz	1355 (Grades K-12)	110 Teachers 110 Tutors	In 2015-2016, GOLCS 11th Graders outperformed 90% and 84% of all students across New Jersey in Math and ELA, respectively. 100% of seniors are on track to begin college in the fall of 2017. Tutors and staff members made over 10,000 calls to update parents and guardians on their students' progress in 2015-2016.
GREAT OAKS – NEW YORK CITY (GO-NYC)	2013	Antonio Vance	210 (Grades 6-8)	11 Teachers 40 Tutors	Over 85% of GO—NYC parents and guardians attended school community events such as back-to-school and goal-setting nights during the 2016-2017 school year. The 2016-17 School Quality Review by the NYC Dept of Ed showed that GO-NYC outperformed comparison schools in both Math and ELA.
GREAT OAKS – BRIDGEPORT (GO-BPT)	2014	Monica Maccera Filppu	324 (Grades 6-8)	16 Teachers 55 Tutors	GO—BPT students demonstrated 7.5% growth on the state academic assessment, compared to 3.3% across the state and 1.15% in the City of Bridgeport.
GREAT OAKS – WILMINGTON (GO – WIL)	2015	Kia Childs	340 (Grades 6-7)	12 Teachers 59 Tutors	In the school's first year of operation, 89% of GO—WIL students scored higher on the state Math assessment than they did in the previous year. All students improved on the state English Language Arts assessment. Students outperformed their peers in the surrounding school district.



JANUARY

2017

The Great Oaks Tutor Corps is comprised of recent graduates from a diverse array of the nation's colleges and universities. Corps Members dedicate a year of service to our schools, providing two hours of individualized instruction to every Great Oaks student every day. Furthermore, they serve as mentors and academic coaches outside of tutorial, fostering deep connections that augment long-term success. In exchange for their service, they receive a small stipend, housing, and a year that sets the course of their professional and personal trajectories.

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29	30	31				CHARTER SCHOOLS Great caks, from little acorns grow

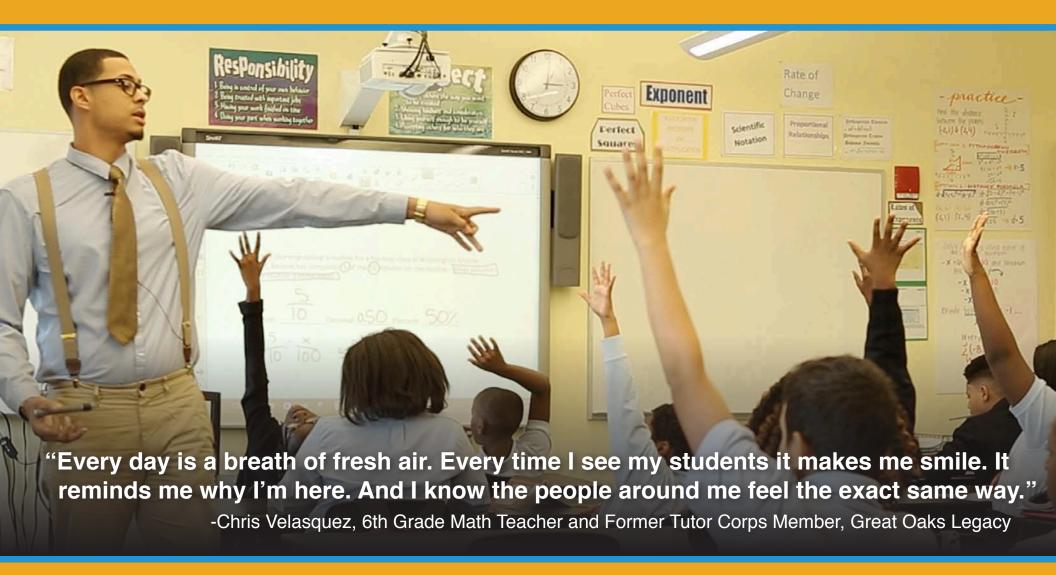


CORPS FACTS:

270 TUTORS
Black: 45%
White: 33%
Latino: 14%
Asian: 5%
Mixed Race: 3%

Among the Corps 21 different languages are spoken

Tutors will provide **1,604 students** nearly **500,000 hours** of tutoring during the 2016-2017 school year



EEBRUARY 2017

Founded in Newark, NJ in 2011, Great Oaks Legacy Charter School (GOLCS) was our network's first school. The school's students have consistently demonstrated some of the greatest year-over-year academic growth in the state of New Jersey. This past school year, Great Oaks—Newark merged with Newark Legacy Charter School, and GOLCS now educates 1355 students on three campuses. The school's 110 tutor corps members live throughout the Newark community, including in Teachers Village, a mixed-use community that serves as the home to hundreds of educators and GOLCS' middle school in the heart of downtown Newark.

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26	27	28				CHARTER SCHOOLS Great caks, from little acorns grow



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jared Taillefer

PRESIDENT OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Kenneth Schultz

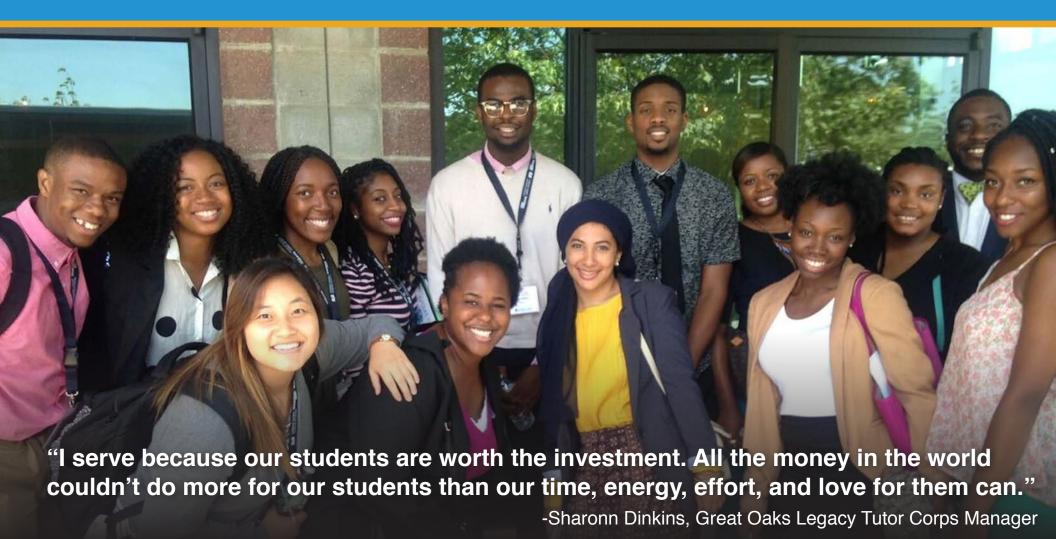
1355 Students110 Teachers110 Tutore

RESULTS

n 2015-2016, GOLCS 11th Graders
utperformed 90% and 84% of all students

100% of seniors are on track to begin

Tutors and staff members made over 10,000 calls to update parents and guardians on their students' progress in 2015-2016.



MARCH

2017

In the spring of 2016, the Great Oaks Foundation was awarded a \$10 million federal AmeriCorps grant to expand its Tutor Corps. Thanks to this grant, we deployed 270 tutors across four schools in the 2016-2017 school year, and we intend to recruit additional tutors as our schools continue to grow. We're proud to be part of a national program that engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service in nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and faith-based groups each year. Since the program's founding in 1994, almost 1 million AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.4 billion hours of service across America.

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26	27	28	29	30	31	CHARTER SCHOOLS Great oaks, from little acorns grow

Great Oaks Tutors come from

43 different states and represent over 150 universities.

2,953 applicants applied for Tutor Corps positions this year.





APRI 2017

Great Oaks engages in numerous partnerships to further its mission, including one with Kunskapsskolan Education (KED), a Swedish education organization that supports schools in Sweden, the UK, India, and the Middle East. KED emphasizes the importance of student agency through goal setting and the use of an online portal of curriculum that allows individualized academic progression. The collaboration between Great Oaks and KED has involved teacher exchanges and the implementation of KED programming in Great Oaks schools.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
CHARTER SCHOOLS Great oaks, from little acorns grow						1
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23 /30	24	25	26	27	28	29



Founded: 1999 as part of market-based reforms in Sweden to empower parents

CEO and President: Cecilia Carnefeldt Over 80 schools in Sweden, UK, India, US, and the Netherlands



Chelsea Ringen, 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Great Oaks - Wilmington

MAY 2017

Established in 2015, Great Oaks-Wilmington (GO-WIL) is our network's fourth school. The school began its second year with 340 6th and 7th graders and is located in the Community Education Building (CEB), an 11-story, 281,000 sf facility donated by Bank of America to house schools in downtown Wilmington. GO—WIL strives to cultivate a joyful learning atmosphere, and its students enjoy a variety of extracurricular activities, including a theater program and a championship basketball team.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			CHARTER SCHOOLS Great oaks, from little acorns grow



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORKia Childs

340 Students

12 Teachers

59 Tutor

RESULTS

In the school's first year of operation, 89% of GO—WIL students scored higher on the state Math assessment than they did in the previous year.

All students improved on the state English Language Arts assessment.

Students outperformed their peers in the surrounding school district.



"The Community Education Building is about more than just providing a premier school facility for students. It's about creating an environment for our children to receive a world-class education."

- There duPont, Board Chair, Community Education Building

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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Great Oaks – Wilmington is located within the Community Education Building (CEB) in the heart of Wilmington, DE. Previously owned by Bank of America, the eleven-story building was converted into a world-class education facility through the generosity of Bank of America and the Longwood Foundation. It currently serves as home to GO – Wilmington and another local charter school. The 281,000 sf facility has a cafeteria, library, music and dance rooms, an indoor play area, and health and wellness services that are used by our school community on a regular basis. Great Oaks' occupancy of space in the CEB is yet another realization of the part of our mission that calls for catalyzing the investment of resources in the urban neighborhoods where our schools operate.





Christopher Rodriguez and Nick Westbrooks graduating from the Great Oaks Teacher Residency program, which allowed them to earn a Master of Arts in Teaching from NYU's Steinhardt School of Education.

JULY 2017

Great Oaks offers a pathway to a Master's degree and teacher certification through our Teacher Residency program. Now in its fifth year, our partnership with New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Humanities has been expanded to provide access to participants across the Great Oaks network of schools. Led by NYU faculty, the program blends expertise in pedagogy, educational theory and real-world classroom training.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
CHARTER SCHOOLS Great calcs, from little acorns grow						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

15 tutors will enroll in the Great Oaks Teacher Residency for the 2017-2018 school year and commit to teaching in a public school for three years.

Close to **50 teachers** have completed the residency since its inception. More than half are African American and close to half are men.





AUGUST

2017

"The work of repairing decades and even centuries of invidious discrimination won't end with your 10 months of service but most certainly will be lessened by it."

-Michael Duffy, President of the Great Oaks Foundation, in an address to AmeriCorps Tutor Corps Members at the second annual Tutorpalooza

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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28	29	30	31			CHARTER SCHOOLS Great calcs, from little acorns grow

In August 2016, The Great Oaks Foundation gathered 270 idealistic recent college graduates for three days of training and inspiration in Wilmington. Sessions at the second annual Tutorpalooza ranged in purpose from instilling an awareness of how to educate other people's children to stressing the necessity of developing a professional brand early in one's career. Tutors departed equipped with the skills and inspiration needed to fuel a successful, life-changing year.





SEPTEMBER 2017

Great Oaks – New York City (GO – NYC) opened its doors on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in 2013. The school currently serves grades 6-8, and it will expand to high school in the 2018-2019 school year. In addition to striving to provide a high quality education option to the families of Lower Manhattan and across the city, GO – NYC gives English Language Learner and Special Education students preference in its admissions lottery. Furthermore, the school has partnered with the Swedish educational company Kunskapsskolan to implement academic programming that encourages student self-agency and initiative.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
CHARTER SCHOOLS Great oaks, from little acorns grow					1	2
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Antonio Vance

210 Students

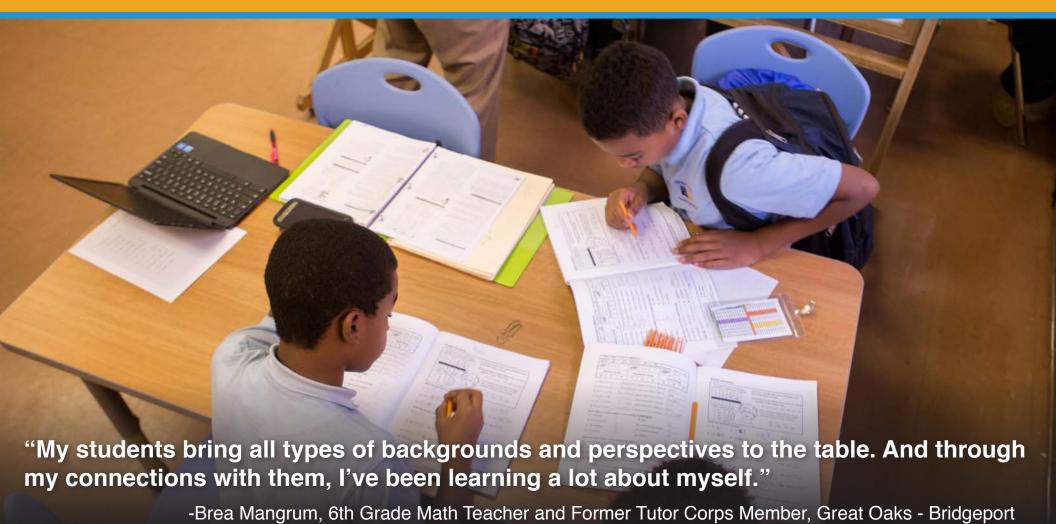
11 Teachers

40 Tutors

RESULTS

Over 85% of parents and guardians attended school community events such as back-to-school and goal-setting nights during the 2016-2017 school year.

The 2016-17 School Quality Review by the NYC Dept of Ed showed that GO-NYC outperformed comparison schools in both Math and ELA.



OCTOBER 2017

Great Oaks Bridgeport (GO-BPT) launched in 2014 with 125 sixth grade students. The school has grown steadily, educating 324 students in grades 6-8 during the 2016-2017 school year. At scale, GO-BPT will enroll 750 students in grades 6-12. On their most recent state assessments, GO-BPT scholars demonstrated growth rates well about the state and district averages. In 2016, Great Oaks was excited to break ground on a new facility on Cherry Street that will revitalize a Bridgeport neighborhood, create a custom space for our school, and provide housing for our 55 tutors.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				GREAT OAKS CHARTER SCHOOLS Great caks, from little acorns grow



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORMonica Maccera Filppu

324 Students 16 Teachers 55 Tutors

RESULTS

GO—BPT students demonstrated 7.5% growth on the state academic assessment, compared to 3.3% across the state and 1.15% in the City of Bridgeport



NOVEMBER

"This is how you build a community: with housing and great schools."

-Connecticut Governor Daniel Malloy

2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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26	27	28	29	30		CHARTER SCHOOLS Great calcs, from little acorns grow

Great Oaks – Bridgeport and the Great Oaks Foundation have partnered with real estate developer Corvus Capital to construct a new 65,000 sf facility and adjacent housing that will provide a home for the school and its tutors beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. The project is part of Cherry Street Lofts, a \$120 million development effort to convert warehouses that have to sat abandoned for decades (see photo, right) to productive use, including over 300 units of mixed-income housing for the Bridgeport workforce. It promises to revitalize the city's West End.





DECEMBER

"Great Oaks from little acorns grow."

-Geoffrey Chaucer, 14th Century English poet and author of The Canterbury Tales

2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
CHARTER SCHOOLS Great oaks, from little acorns grow					1	2
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24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Great Oaks Charter Schools have an unwavering belief in the ability of all of our students to succeed in college and life beyond. In 2011, we opened our doors to our first cohort of several dozen students in Newark. In the 2016-2017 school year, over 2200 students learned and grew in four schools across the Northeast, and Great Oaks Legacy seniors received numerous college acceptance letters. What success our growing network has accomplished has come thanks to the tremendous effort and dedication of countless students, families, teachers, tutors, staff and community and national partners. While we take pride in how far we've come, we know our work has just begun. In the years to come, we will undoubtedly face challenges, celebrate triumphs, and strive to multiply our impact on the lives of the families and communities we serve.



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Great oaks, from little acorns grow

FINANCIALS

2016 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues

Contributions 1,089,518 Government Grants 2,829,633 Management Fee Income 1,040,493

Total Revenues 4,959,644

Expenses

Program Services

School Programs 4,624,222

Supporting Services

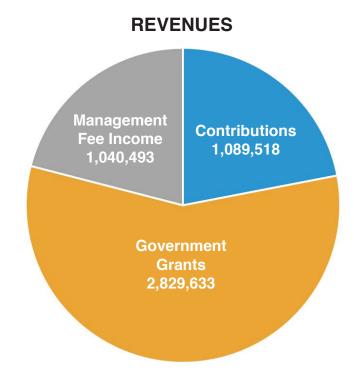
Management and General	408,098
Fundraising	136,706

Total Supporting Services 544,804

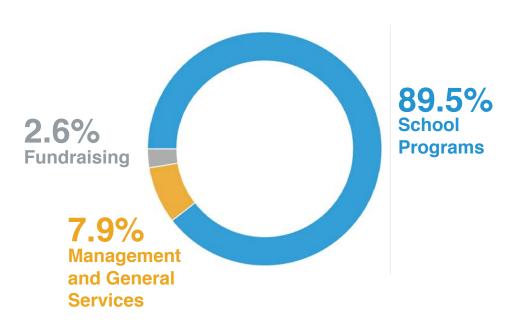
Total Expenses 5,169,026

Change in Net Assets (209,382)

Net Assets - Beginning of Year 613,390 Net Assets - End of Year 404,008



EXPENSES



GOF BOARD



STEVE KLINSKY, CHAIRMAN

Steven Klinsky is the Founder and CEO of New Mountain Capital, a growth-focused private equity firm. He also led the creation of New York State's first ever charter school (the Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem), and is active in a range of philanthropies, particularly in the fields of children, education and health.



ADAM WEINSTEIN, TREASURER

Adam Weinstein is a Managing Director of New Mountain Capital and is the treasurer of the Great Oaks Foundation board. Adam previously worked at Deloitte & Touche in the merger and acquisition and private equity investor services area.



MARY M. BRABECK

Mary M. Brabeck, Ph.D., is Professor of Applied Psychology and Dean Emerita of the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development. She is the elected chair of the Board of Directors of the Council on Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).



JAY CROSS

Jay Cross is President of Related Hudson Yards, leading development efforts of the 26-acre Hudson Yards site on the west side of Manhattan. Jay previously served as the President of the New York Jets.



DERRICK DIGGS

Derrick serves as the Vice President and Director of Business Development of Diggs Construction. Derrick has a wealth of experience in real estate development and construction. He earned both an MBA and a Law Degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Derrick is a LEED Accredited Professional.



ODD EIKEN

Odd is the founder and co-owner of NordicEd AB, a K12 school operator and education services provider focusing on emerging economies. Odd is also a Senior Advisor in Halvarsson & Hallvarson and his own company Eikendo, providing high level advice for corporate management and Governments. Odd has held several positions in business, government, and politics, and he formerly served as State Secretary for Schools in the Ministry of Science and Education in Sweden.



GREGORIO MAYERS

Gregorio Mayers is a consultant and professor of Government and Public Policy at the City University of New York (CUNY). He previously served in the administration of New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg as a senior policy advisor on education and community development.



PEGGY SHAUGHNESSY

Peggy Shaughnessy is a Director at Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, a global investment firm. Peggy previously served as a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs.



MAUREEN SHERRY

Maureen Sherry is an author of children's literature, and was named to the list of "Best New Voices" by the American Booksellers Association. Her latest novel, *Opening Belle*, is being turned into a movie.



BILL STEPHNEY

Bill Stephney is a principal for Broad Market Media LLC. Bill was the founding president of Def Jam Records and Stepsun Music. He is a current member and former chairman of United States Commission of Civil Rights' advisory committee for the state of New Jersey.



MICHAEL DUFFY, PRESIDENT

Michael Thomas Duffy is the President of the Great Oaks Foundation and was the Chair and Commissioner of the civil rights enforcement agency for Massachusetts. Michael previously served as the Director of the Charter School Office for the NYC Department of Education. He was one of the founding board members of the Match Charter Public School in Boston.

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GREAT OAKS



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