



Academy for Urban School Leadership
3400 North Austin Avenue | Chicago, Illinois | 60634
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Governance

For partner organizations, AUSL works directly with leadership including principals and superintendents. Meetings would occur before, during, and after the process of assessing the needs of the organization, as to keep all parties abreast of proposed changes. We work in collaboration with these leaders to tease out areas of improvement and priorities. AUSL operates with a highly experienced and successful management team, responsible for the effective implementation of transforming failing schools into schools of excellence. Some of these individuals include:

Donald Feinstein, Ph.D., Executive Director. Dr. Feinstein earned a Ph.D. in Foundations of Education from Loyola University. In 2001, he stepped down as Principal of R. Nathaniel Dett Elementary School after seventeen years to become Principal of The Chicago Academy, AUSL's first teacher training academy. Prior to serving in the role of Principal, Dr. Feinstein worked in Chicago Public Schools' central office as the City-wide Administrator of Programs for Emotionally Disturbed Students. Since 2003, he has served as AUSL's Executive Director.

Jarvis Sanford, Ed.D. Managing Director of AUSL Network Schools. Dr. Sanford's professional career began in 1993 as a Student Development Coordinator for the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. In 2003, Dr. Sanford became Principal at Dodge Renaissance Academy. By the end of 2004-05 school year, Dodge was recognized locally and nationally for the highest academic achievement gains in the state of Illinois. In 2007, Dr. Sanford was appointed as Managing Director, and now oversees all 32 AUSL network schools. Dr. Sanford earned his Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from Northern Illinois University.

Michael Whitmore, Managing Director of Teaching and Learning. Currently, Mr. Whitmore is responsible for the management and oversight of network wide Professional Learning and Support, Coaching, the CTR, and Performance Management. While in his previous role as the Director of the CTR, he led the pre-service and clinical experience of residents, managed university partnerships, and supervised a team of mentor coaches who provide professional support to teachers and residents. Prior to joining AUSL, Mr. Whitmore taught for fourteen years and received a Golden Apple award for teaching. Mr. Whitmore is currently pursuing his doctorate in education.

AUSL recently restructured the management of schools and principals to better support and develop school leaders. Five Directors of School Leadership (DSLs) oversee a portfolio 5-8 schools each. DSLs are responsible for managing school leaders to deliver truly excellent student outcomes. The DSL coaches, develops and supports school leaders in achieving AUSL's goals, and partners with the entire DSL team to ensure consistent, high quality operations and teaching and learning across the network.

AUSL brings a myriad of areas of expertise to partnering organizations including coaching, recruiting, human resources, climate & culture, and safety & security. AUSL has created codified systems for best practices across all areas, creating frameworks to standardize practices and share these systems with partnering organizations.

Reference: North Chicago Community High School
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