

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

Board on Science Education
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

***Engaging Communities across Diverse Sectors at the Science
Communication Colloquium***

February 7, 2022

Presenter Biographies

Engaging the Broader Science Communication Practitioner Audience

ANN MERCHANT has worked in marketing and communications for more than 20 years and is currently the Deputy Executive Director for Communications at the National Academies in Washington, D.C. Her work at the Academies primarily revolves around planning a variety of science communications events and managing innovative outreach programs that, together, contribute to increased public understanding of science. Merchant also served for many years as marketing director for the Academies' publishing division where she and her staff promoted and marketed more than 175 new titles every year. During that time, she served as an adjunct professor of marketing at George Washington University in the College of Professional Studies. She continues to work with the Academies' publishing group, helping to bring visibility to the core work of the institution. In particular, she maintains relationships with publishers around the world to facilitate foreign language translations of Academies reports. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Writing Seminars from The Johns Hopkins University.

Community Leaders in Environmental Justice

KENT KEY is a Health Disparities Researcher at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Division of Public Health. He is an expert in building equitable relationships between community and academic partners for health research and elevating community-identified health priorities to the research enterprise. As a scholar-practitioner bridging both academia and community together to create equitable collaborative relationships in research, Dr. Key has worked on national, regional, and local levels. Throughout his career, Dr. Key has served in an intermediary role helping to translate the resources of government, research partnerships, and foundations into practical support for communities engaged in research. Immediately after the Flint Water Crisis, Dr. Key and a collaborative partnership of Community, Michigan State University, and the University of Michigan Ann Arbor and Flint founded the Healthy Flint Research Coordinating Center (HFRCC) where he serves as a Core Director. The HFRCC's main objective is to coordinate the research being conducted in Flint post the Water Crisis to eliminate duplication and reduce the burden on the community. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration and Management at the University of Michigan in Flint, MI, and

both a Master of Public Health in Community Health Education and Promotion and a Ph.D. at Walden University in Minneapolis, MN.

CATHERINE COLEMAN FLOWERS is an environmental and climate justice activist bringing attention to the largely invisible problem of inadequate waste and water sanitation infrastructure in rural communities in the United States. As the founding director of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (formerly the Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise), Flowers builds partnerships to identify and implement solutions to the intersecting challenges of water and sanitation infrastructure, public health, and economic development. In addition to leading the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice, Flowers is also the rural development manager for the Equal Justice Initiative, a member of the board of directors of the Climate Reality Project and the Natural Resources Defense Council, and a senior fellow for the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary. Previously, Flowers has worked as a high school teacher in Detroit, Michigan, and Washington, D.C. She earned her B.A. in History at Cameron University and her M.A. in History at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

New Science Communicators: The Education Sector

PAUL GOLDBART is a professor of physics at Stony Brook University, and a scientific leader in the areas of quantum materials and soft condensed matter. He recently served as Executive Vice President and Provost of Stony Brook. Previously, Goldbart was Dean of the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), where he was also the Robert E. Boyer Chair in Natural Sciences and Mary Ann Rankin Leadership Chair for UT Austin's College of Natural Sciences. He has also served in leadership positions at the University of Illinois-Champaign and the Georgia Institute of Technology. In addition to his contributions in physics and academic leadership, Goldbart is a committed advocate for public engagement in science and mathematics, and has held leadership roles with the Frontiers in Science lecture series and Great American Eclipse festivities at Georgia Tech, as well as the Atlanta Science Festival. He earned a diploma in mathematical physics and PhD in physics from Imperial College London, an MS in physics from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a BA in physics and theoretical physics from Cambridge University.

KEISHA SCARLETT is a Chief Academic Officer and Assistant Superintended of Academics at Seattle Public Schools based in Seattle, Washington. She is an Adjunct Instructor at the University Of Washington College Of Education, serving as Co-facilitator of the Culturally Responsive Leadership module on equity-focused instructional and organizational leadership. Her work focuses on engaging and leading networks of stakeholders committed to creating equity and fostering social justice in education and beyond. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Clark Atlanta University, a Master of Education from Heritage University, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Washington.

SUSAN RUNDELL SINGER is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Rollins College. Previously, she was Division Director for Undergraduate Education at NSF and Laurence McKinley Gould Professor, in the Biology and Cognitive Science programs at Carleton College. She pursues a

career that integrates science and education focused on improving undergraduate education at scale. In addition to a Ph.D. in biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, she completed a teacher certification program in New York State. Susan is an AAAS fellow and received both the American Society of Plant Biology teaching award and the Botanical Society of America Charles Bessey award. Currently, Susan is an AAU Senior Scholar for the Undergraduate STEM Education Initiative, chairs the NASEM Board on Science Education, serves on the NASEM Board on Life Sciences, and is a member of the NASEM Roundtable on Systematic Change in Undergraduate STEM Education.

Hardly Reached: Engaging Rural Communities

ABIGAIL ECHO-HAWK an enrolled member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, is the Chief Research Officer for the Seattle Indian Health Board, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving American Indians and Alaska Natives in King County, Washington. She also serves as the Director of the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI), a Tribal Epidemiology Center whose mission is to support the health and well-being of urban Indian communities through information, scientific inquiry, and technology. UIHI assists a national network of Urban Indian Health Programs, which are private nonprofit corporations that provide native people in select cities a range of health and social services, from outreach and referral to full ambulatory care. She received the University of Washington Bothell's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013 for her dedication to eliminating health disparities and was also recognized in the 2015 class of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's (NCAIED) Native American 40 Under 40.

ANNE CAFER serves as Director for the Center for Population Studies and State Data Center for Mississippi. She also co-directs the Community First Research Center for Wellbeing (UM CREW). She holds a BS in both molecular biology and sociology, an MA in anthropology, and a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology. Her research uses a systems approach to examine community resilience and systems integration, with a particular emphasis on food and health systems. She also has an interest in the scholarship of teaching, specifically, the impacts of community-engaged learning on both community and student outcomes. Her research informs her teaching, and she consistently works to bring research experiences and findings into the classroom. Dr. Cafer is a former Borlaug Scholar in Global Food Security and a member of the prestigious Rollins Society at the University of Missouri. She is a 2019 Andrew Carnegie Fellow.