



PROMISE 54

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK



# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Kasar Abdulla

She/Her/Hers

Valor Collegiate Academies  
Sadness



Brigid Ahern

She/Her/Hers

Turnaround for Children  
I was named after St. Brigid of Kildare, who was the Patron Saint of Healing and renowned religious leader in Ireland.



Katie Aholt

She/Her/Hers

Understood for All  
I'm a connector of people.



Ibiolatiwa Akomolafe

Diversity Talks



Dionne Aminata Samb

She/Her/Hers

Illustrative Mathematics  
Divine



Kim Anderson

She/Her/Hers

redefinED  
Peace and balance

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Maria Arellano

She/Her/Hers

Downtown College Prep

Mary in Spanish



Abby Attias

She/Her/Hers

Center for Supportive Schools

My name means "gives joy," which I never knew till I looked it up for this question. For me, the meaning has been that when my mother was a little girl, she left Brooklyn NY for a funded week of summer camp in the country, and she met a little girl there named Abby. She never forgot her, and that helped her to choose my name.



Tapsuru Ba

He/Him/His

African Leadership Group

Translator of Knowledge



Ela Bajus

She/Her/Hers

New Profit

I'm named after my dad's cousin!



Tracey Benson

He/Him/His

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

I'm named after my mother's favorite actress.



Vanessa Bertone

She/Her/Hers

Understood.org

Vanessa means butterfly. I've always been attracted to butterflies even before knowing the meaning of my name.

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Gloria Bigelow

She/Her/Hers

Citizens of the World Charter School  
Highest Angel



Adam Black

Summit Public Schools



Ernest Blackwell

He/Him/His

Urban Teachers  
Serious



Quincy Boyd

She/Her/Hers

Families Empowered  
Quincy is a French name meaning "fifth born."



laura brewer

She/Her/Hers

Mean Well. Speak Well. Do Well., Inc.

You may have noticed I spell my name with lower case letters. I have a learning disability which affects/affected learning to write. I wasn't diagnosed until I was an adult and, by then, I had a lot of built up shame about feeling "stupid," struggling to write, and struggling with my differences in how I learn. The lower case letters now are a proud re-claiming of that part of my identity, without shame, and the parts of me that \*I\* misunderstood for so long.



Maria Bridge

She/Her/Hers

Understood  
My name is my grandmother's name.

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Veronique Briscoe Beuoy

TNTP



Seon Britton

Diverse Charter Schools Coalition



Tequilla Brownie

She/Her/Hers

TNTP

Unique

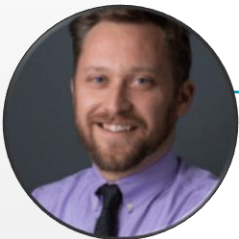


Samantha Brumley

She/Her/Hers

The Learning Accelerator

Apparently it means "listener" in Aramaic, but I admittedly had to Google it! I was named this by a cousin because "it sounded nice," in all honesty!



Dave Bryson

He/Him/His

Diverse Charter Schools Coalition

Champion of the Underdog! (from bible story)



Garrett Bucks

He/Him/His

The Barnraisers Project

N/A

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Kiara Butler

She/Her/Hers

Diversity Talks



Rachel Carreon

IDEA Public Schools



Courtney Castle

She/Her/Hers

Woodrow Wilson Academy of Teaching and Learning

The name has never been meaningful to me or my family, but in French Courtney means "From the court." (Castle is hopefully obvious.)



Marques Celestine

Leading Educators



Tamecca Chester

TNTP



Tania Clerisme

She/Her/Hers

Independent Consultant

My great-grandfather's name was Clérismé Rocher. An administrative error on a Haitian government document reversed his name and he became Rocher Clérismé. We are the only Clérismé family in the world. If you ever meet a Clérismé, you'll know they're related to me!



# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Darryl Cobb

Charter School Growth Fund



Justin Cohen

Wayfinder Foundation

He/Him/His



Kyle Cole

Noble Network of Charter Schools

Partner, Son, Brother, Uncle

He/Him/His



Inga Cotton

San Antonio Charter Moms

Scandinavian heritage

She/Her/Hers



Kristin Cummings

Turnaround for Children

My name means Christian or follower of Christ. It really means that my dad liked Katherine and my mom liked Caitlin and they agreed on Kristin.

She/Her/Hers



Cristina de Jesus

Green Dot Public Schools

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Jean De la Mata

She/Her/Hers

Charter School Growth Fund

Named in honor of grandmother and a WWII story



Fiorella Del Carpio

She/Her/Hers

California Charter Schools Association

Little Flower



Papa Dia

He/Him/His

African Leadership Group

Father



Todd Dickson

He/Him/His

Valor Collegiate Academies

Robert, my first name, evidently means "bright fame." Todd, my middle name, which I go by, means "fox."



Yoni Dobie-Geffen

He/Him/His

Climb Higher Colorado

Hebrew for Jonathan, means "G-d has given."



Dominique Donette

She/Her/Hers

Citizens of the World – Los Angeles

One who serves; of the lord



# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Ola Duru

She/Her/Hers

Explore Schools



Tirzah Enumah

She/Her/Hers

New Teacher Center

Tirzah: she is my delight (Hebrew) / Enumah: Heaven Knows (Igbo)



Michael Espinoza

He/Him/His

GO Public Schools - Fresno

Michael- "Who is like God?" Chosen by my grandmother; Espinoza- "Hawthorn" or diminutive of "Thorny Rose."



Liz Firestone

She/Her/Hers

Camp Kesem

The actual meaning is from the Hebrew Elisheba, meaning oath of God. I am named after two matriarchs of the family- Great Grandmothers Lena and Bessie. Unofficially I am also named after Elizabeth Montgomery due to my Mom's obsession with the TV show "Bewitched."



Kerry Flanagan

California Charter Schools Association



Dalia Flores Contreras

City Education Partners



Amy Fowler

She/Her/Hers

Downtown College Prep

"Much loved"

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Charlotte Freeman

She/Her/Hers

Rocketship Public Schools

Charlotte means "little and womanly." I am fairly small and used to push back on the label of "womanly." However, strong courageous women in my life have redefined the concept of what it means to be "womanly" so I now embrace the full meaning. :)



Christina Froeb

She/Her/Hers

Explore Schools

No meaning



Kelly Garcia

Summit Learning



Lyzette Garza

She/Her/Hers

Valor Collegiate Academies

Of God



Phillip Garza

IDEA Public Schools



Michael Gilligan

Seek Common Ground

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Andy Goldin

Summit Learning



Dawn Gunderson Taylor

Hiawatha Academies



Cynthia Gutierrez

California Charter Schools Association



Christine Harris

She/Her/Hers

Center for Supportive Schools

Believer in Christ



Joel Harris

He/Him/His

City Education Partners

Jehovah is God.



Gloria Hassel

She/Her/Hers

Alder Graduate School of Education

Gloria means "glory" in Latin.

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Ashley Heard

She/Her/Hers

Diverse Charter Schools Coalition  
Of the meadow or glen



Michelle Heard

She/Her/Hers

Deans for Impact

I had to look this up! From a quick Google search I've discovered that Michelle is a feminine form of the Hebrew name Michael, which means "Who is like God?"



Tami Hill-Washington

Turnaround for Children



Jaime Hoard

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Lydia Hoffman

She/Her/Hers

Charter School Growth Fund

It stood out to my parents in a baby name book!



Tonya Horton

She/Her/Hers

TNTP

My name means Praiseworthy.

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Iván Ibarra Mora

He/Him/His

Alder Graduate School of Education

Gracious Gift



Rupal Jain

She/Her/Hers

Woodrow Wilson Academy of Teaching and Learning

In Sanskrit my name means "beautiful."



Liz John

She/Her/Hers

PowerMyLearning

I was named after my mom's cousin Betty and Italian great grandmother Elisabetta.



Ashley Jones

She/Her/Hers

iNACOL

"An ash tree in the meadow"



Sukh Kaur

She/Her/Hers

City Education Partners

"Happy Princess"



Colleen Klages

She/Her/Hers

Camp Kesem

Girl or young woman

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Mark Kleger-Heine

Citizens of the World – Los Angeles



Jonathan Klein

GO Public Schools



Daniel Knoll

He/Him/His

Momentous Institute

I'm named in honor of my Great Grandmother.



Kristina Kyles-Smith

She/Her/Hers

EL Education

To follow Christ or to be a Christian



Peter Laipson

He/Him/His

Woodrow Wilson Academy of Teaching and Learning

First name is from the Greek, meaning 'rock' (though I'm actually named for my great-grandmother Malka); last name is an Eastern European Jewish mystery (all the Laipsons in the country are close relatives).



Alison Lee

EL Education



# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Yejin Lee

Civic Hall Labs, Inc.



Ciara Lepanto

She/Her/Hers

Camp Kesem

Ciara is the feminine version of the Irish name Ciaran, meaning "dark," "black," or "dark haired." Interestingly, my second first name (which was a birth certificate accident) is Niamh. Niamh is an Irish name that means "bright" or "radiant."



Lynn Liao

Rocketship Public Schools

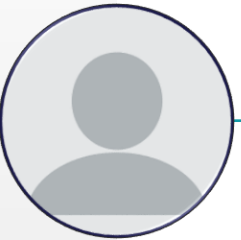


Christine Lintz

She/Her/Hers

New Tech Network

The origin of my middle name, Kibu, is actually somewhat of a mystery.



Maria Lopez de la Cruz

Alder Graduate School of Education



Marshall Lott

College Track

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Staci Lynch

She/Her/Hers

redefinED atlanta  
Resurrection from (Anastasia)



Mark Malaspina

He/Him/His

PowerMyLearning  
Consecrated to the god Mars!



Samantha Matamoros

She/Her/Hers

Green Dot Public Schools  
Not sure. When my parents came to the US they watched A LOT of American TV and fell in love with Bewitched-and the main character's name is Samantha. Coincidentally, my father's name is Samuel, but I'm not named because of/after him! In Hebrew history-God heard; in Aramaic it means 'listener,' in Greek it means 'flower.'



Carrie Mauer

Explore Schools



Brittany Mauney

Summit Learning



Jennifer Mayer-Sandoval

She/Her/Hers

Becoming Better Together, LLC  
Fairness, loyalty, passionate

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Brittney McGinley

She/Her/Hers

Kansas City Teacher Residency

"From Britain"



Leslie McTighe

She/Her/Hers

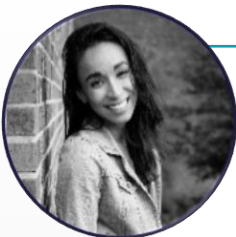
Kansas City Teacher Residency

Perhaps "Holly garden" in Scottish



Reeba Monachan

Summit Public Schools



Altagracia Montilla

She/Her/Hers

Center for Supportive Schools

Altagracia means to "high grace" or "highest grace."



Cynthia Moore-Hollinshed

She/Her/Hers

Kansas City Teacher Residency

Cynthia means "goddess of the moon or night."



Danielle Christina Mullings

She/Her/Hers

IDEA Public Schools

My name represents my family: my sister gave me my middle name, my mom gave me my first name, and I have my dad's last name. I always introduce my full name to give honor to my family.

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Dara Murray

She/Her/Hers

Urban Teachers

In Hebrew my name means compassion.



Opokua Oduro

She/Her/Hers

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Kelvey Oeser

She/Her/Hers

Leading Educators

My actual first name is McKelvey, which was my great grandmother's maiden name. It is a surname that comes from northern Ireland.



Kimberly Osagie

She/Her/Hers

Independent Consultant



Colette Owens

She/Her/Hers

Hiawatha Academies

Depends on who you ask and where you look. My mother picked "Colette" because it is a French name and she thought it would sound special.



Megan Pacheco

She/Her/Hers

New Tech Network

Strong and capable



Susan Patrick

iNACOL

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Mary Kelly Persyn

She/Her/Hers

New Teacher Center

"Bright-headed," but I prefer "troublesome."



Jason Peternina

Diversity Talks



Stephen Pham

He/Him/His

The Learning Accelerator

Stephen originates from Stephanos, meaning "crown." My mother named me Stephen because she liked "Steven" but thought the "ph" was more sophisticated. My Vietnamese first name is Duy, which the web says means "to save" or "the only."



Reilly Pharo Carter

She/Her/Hers

Climb Higher Colorado

Valiant, Courageous



Alina Ponce

She/Her/Hers

Momentous Institute

German/Arabic: Noble & Greek: Light



Jessica Quinn

She/Her/Hers

Civic Hall Labs, Inc.

Gift

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Beth Rabbitt

She/Her/Hers

The Learning Accelerator

"Rabbitt" comes from the Irish gaelic "Coinin" meaning rabbit.



Thomas Rains

Seek Common Ground



Jessica Ramos

Seek Common Ground



Jennifer Reid

She/Her/Hers

Noble Network of Charter Schools

Honest, benevolent, brilliant and often inventive, full of high inspirations



Caitlin Reilly

Summit Public Schools



Rafael Reyes Orona

He/Him/His

Climb Higher Colorado

G-d heals



# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Paul Richman

He/Him/His

Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation

Small, humble in origin



Kori Ricketts

She/Her/Hers

Rocketship Public Schools

Proof my parents wanted a boy



Benjamin Riley

He/Him/His

Deans for Impact

Biblically, Benjamin means "son of the right hand." The Riley clan, on the other hand (get it?), was the money lending clan in Ireland in times of yore, and the Riley Family Crest is a hand cut off -- and bleeding. So, in a sense, my name means Son of a Bleeding Right Hand That's Been Cut Off. Super friendly!



Tomas Rodriguez

He/Him/His /They/Them/Their

College Track

I was named after my father's favorite uncle Tomás.



Jillian Roth

She/Her/Hers

Lighthouse Community Public Schools / Mama J Love Consulting



Lisa Samuel

She/Her/Hers

New Tech Network

honest, fair, leader, restless spirit

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Darcel Sanders

She/Her/Hers

GO Public Schools

Unknown. My mother chose uncommon names that she heard on TV because she didn't want my brothers and me to have common names.



Angira Sceusi

She/Her/Hers

redefinED atlanta

"The sparks that come out of fire" in Sanskrit



Juliet Sebold

She/Her/Hers

African Leadership Group

Youthful



Trabian Shorters

He/Him/His

BMe Community



Peter Shulman

He/Him/His

Urban Teachers

Stone



Maya Simpson

She/Her/Hers

College Track

Unclear! My mom named me Maya so that my brother, who has cerebral palsy, could pronounce my name.

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Glenn Singleton

He/Him/His

Courageous Conversations about Race



Natalie Smith

She/Her/Hers

Turnaround for Children

Not sure what the meaning of "Natalie Marie" is, but I do know that I was named after my Grandmother (and that means a lot to me)!



Abigail Smith

She/Her/Hers

BlueSky Education

Joy of my Father.



Joyce Smith

She/Her/Hers

New Teacher Center

Cheerful. Merry.



Mayra Soares

Diversity Talks



Candace Staniel

New Profit

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Ingrid Stegemoeller

She/Her/Hers

Partner for Learning/Ready WA

My mom's family is Norwegian and my dad's family is German. Ingrid is a common name in Norway that both of my parents really liked, and it added some Norwegian to my name since my last name is German.



Grace Tan

She/Her/Hers

TNTP

An unmerited favor



Lisa Taylor

New Profit



Fiona Teng (鄧穎恆)

She/Her/Hers

Civic Hall Labs, Inc.

Fiona is a pretty arbitrary named picked out of a book that means "fair complexion." My Chinese name is much more complex, one character meaning "bright" and another meaning "perseverance." Both are names I was born with.



Tripti Thapa

She/Her/Hers

Deans for Impact

Satisfaction



Orissa Thompson

She/Her/Hers

Illustrative Mathematics

God/Goddess & beauty. I like to say inner beauty.

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



James Troupis

He/Him/His

**Noble Network of Charter Schools**

I am the second "James Troupis" in a line of three that now includes my son. But my wife thought naming our son after me was antiquated and narcissistic, so my son goes by his middle name "Patrick." That's not really my name's meaning, but it's the significance of it for me as a son, father, and lineage.



Jessica Trudeau

She/Her/Hers

**Momentous Institute**

Meaning of Jess = abundance.



Unique Tucker

They

**PowerMyLearning**

One and only; different, unmatched



Rochelle Van Dijk

**Hiawatha Academies**



Kiera Vinson

She/Her/Hers

**Independent Consultant**

My first name is Gaelic, but has nothing to do with the fact that my mom heard it while watching a soap opera at a beauty salon. The salon reminds me of how and why I had so many formative experiences about my hair and natural beauty that sit with me to this day.



Ruth Wamuyu Schriver

She/Her/Hers

**Downtown College Prep**

Companion, Friend

# 2019 DEI ACCELERATOR LOOK BOOK

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Kris Welch

She/Her/Hers

Illustrative Mathematics

Follower of Christ



Mikelle Willis

She/Her/Hers

Leading Educators

Feminine of Michael: gift from God.



Jen Wood

She/Her/Hers

EL Education

There is not a special significance to my name. My mother just liked the name.



Maria Worthen

She/Her/Hers

iNACOL

I was named after my Grandma Mary but in Italian (I was born in Italy).



Patricia Wu

She/Her/Hers

Green Dot Public Schools

It is the English name that sounds most like my Chinese name.



Brandon Zeigler

Walton Family Foundation



# PROMISE54 TEAM

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Dawn Albert

She/Her/Hers

Promise54

When the sun comes up :) (No pressure!)



Latricia Barksdale

She/Her/Hers

Promise54

Not sure, though my Dad came up with it and my Mom is convinced it's the name of one of his old girlfriends...it will forever be a mystery.



Courtney Broun

She/Her/Hers

Promise54

There's no rhyme or reason behind my first name, and funny enough, my husband and I took the same approach when we named our daughter. My parents just liked the name Courtney!



Rebecca Knicely Cagle

She/Her/Hers

Promise54

Rebecca means captivating. My middle name, Shell, is probably the most meaningful, as it's my grandmother's maiden name and her life experiences have shaped my understanding of myself and who I want to be in the world.



Danielle Ceribo

They/Them/Their

Promise54

My first name means "God is my judge." However, my parents chose it only because it sounds good with my middle name, which is my maternal grandmother's name.

# PROMISE54 TEAM

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Lora Cover

She/Her/Hers

### Promise54

I was named after my great grandfather, Louie. He was an inventor, an immigrant and impeccable dresser, but most importantly, someone with a deep, unrelenting love of family. I like to think I carry that last piece (if not the fashion sense) from him.



Vanessa Douyon

She/Her/Hers

### Promise54

Vanessa - was a name familiar across cultures (Francophone, Kreyol-Speaking, English-Speaking, Spanish-Speaking). Named after Vanessa Williams for her grace through the muck. Douyon - Haitian Family name.



Louis Gorton

He/Him/His

### Promise54

My name is in part a tribute to Lou Sullivan, who was a gay transgender activist.



Andrew Greenia

He/Him/His

### Promise54

"Greenia" is derived from the Old French word "grenier," an occupational name for a worker at a mill or granary. I received this name from my ancestors who immigrated to Detroit, a French settlement, where my family has been for three generations.



Lyle Hurst

He/Him/His

### Data Specialist

Forest (German)

# PROMISE54 TEAM

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Atalie Jacobs

She/Her/Hers

Promise54

The Lord is exalted



Cornelius Lee

He/Him/His

Promise54

Cornelius a biblical name. He was a Roman Warrior known for being a steward of fairness, love, and justice.



Leslye Louie

She/Her/Hers

Data Specialist



Monisha Lozier

She/Her/Hers

Promise54

I was named after a character in Scott Joplin's opera, TreeMonisha; she was an emancipated slave who taught her community to read.



Alison Brock McGill

She/Her/Hers

Promise54

Originally a man's name, meaning "son of Alice." I'm named after my father's mother--Mary Alice.

# PROMISE54 TEAM

## "What is the meaning of your name?"



Leslie Nair

She/Her/Hers

**Promise54**

I'm named after my maternal grandmother. My name means Holly Garden, which doesn't necessarily resonate with my identity. I did a better job of naming my kids!



Lucerito Ortiz

She/Her/Hers

**Promise54**

Little star/Little light



Xiomara Padamsee

She/Her/Hers

**Promise54**

Pronounced "See-Oh-Mada." Literally my name means "ready for battle" and it was once the name of an Aztec princess.



Tiffany Williams-Virden

She/Her/Hers

**Promise54**

Manifestation of God



UnSuk Zucker

She/Her/Hers

**Promise54**

Grace/mercy and dignity