

Blue Ribbon Review Committee Members

Chairing the Blue Ribbon Committee on Education Review will be Carole Ames, dean and professor emerita at the College of Education at Michigan State University.

Ames, who stepped down after 18 years as education dean at Michigan State University in 2014, is a respected voice among her peers. She is credited for strengthening the school through periods of school reforms, shifting priorities and a revolution in technological development.

Under her leadership, the school developed programs that today continue to prepare scholars and practitioners for challenges facing students, in specialties such as school psychology and exercise physiology and across more than 15 academic areas.

Joining Ames on the committee will be:

- David Harris, founder and CEO, The Mind Trust
- Diana Hess, senior vice president of the Spencer Foundation and a professor of curriculum and instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Alex Molnar, research professor and publications director of the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado Boulder
- Wendy Robinson, superintendent, Fort Wayne Community Schools
- Linda Tillman, Professor Emerita, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Harris launched The Mind Trust in 2006 with former Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson. The organization has impacted more than 113,000 students through its network of 19 education organizations. It advances innovation in education and creates great schools through its three incubators: the Charter School Incubator, the Education Entrepreneur Fellowship and the Innovation School Fellowship.

Before starting The Mind Trust, Harris spent five years as Peterson's charter schools director, where he built a charter school office that received Harvard University's Innovations in American Government Award. In 2007, he was among 25 education leaders selected for the Aspen Institute and NewSchools Venture Fund's inaugural Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Program.

Hess is the senior vice president of the Spencer Foundation and a professor of curriculum and instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also is a former high school teacher and associate executive director of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. She is the author of several books on how teachers engage their students in discussions of controversial issues.

Molnar has published numerous articles on social and educational policy and practice. For the past several years, he has studied and written about commercial activities in the schools and market-based school reforms such as private school vouchers, charter schools and for-profit schools.

Robinson has more than three decades of experience in public education. She was one of the members of the inaugural class of Broad Center Fellows, a program designed to prepare and challenge urban school leaders and today is a national expert on the topic. She received the

National Alliance of Black School Educators' Joseph E. Hill Superintendent of the Year Award in 2009.

Tillman is a former public school educator with teaching and administrative experience. She is nationally recognized scholar and leader in higher education. Her research and scholarship is focused in three primary areas: school leadership, the education of all children and particularly African Americans in K-12 education, and culturally appropriate research approaches. Her work has been featured in top tier educational leadership and education policy publications including *Educational Administration Quarterly*, *Journal of School Leadership*, *Educational Researcher and Review of Educational Research*. Most recently she served as editor in chief of the *SAGE Handbook of African American Education*, co-editor of the *Handbook of research on educational leadership for diversity and equity* (with J.J. Scheurich) and co-editor of *Identities and the educational leadership of Black women in the USA* (with S.D. Horsford).

Overall, she has published four books, 22 refereed articles, 19 refereed chapters, among many other research publications. Additionally, her Culturally Sensitive Research Framework has been cited and used across disciplines including educational leadership, teacher education and in medical/health care research. In 2004 Dr. Tillman was recognized for her research and scholarship when she received the Early Career Contribution Award from the Committee on Scholars of Color in Education (American Educational Research Association). Dr. Tillman has served in numerous leadership positions in the American Educational Research Association (AERA), including Vice President of Division A (Administration, Organization and Leadership) (2006-2010), Social Justice Action Committee (2002-2006), and is currently chair designate of the Journal Editors Publication Committee. She also served as Associate Director for Graduate Student Development and Director of the Barbara L. Jackson Scholars for the University Council for Educational Administration from 2006-2009. In 2009 she received the Jay D. Scribner Mentoring Award from the University Council for Educational Administration. Dr. Tillman has worked at both a “flagship research institution” (UNC, choose term) as well as urban focused institutions (Wayne State University and U of New Orleans) and thus brings valuable perspective given the core campus arrangement which features both types of institutions.