

Alison Harris

Principal, Ranson Middle School

Alison Harris is a member of the first New Leaders cohort in Charlotte. She is currently in her second year as principal of Ranson Middle School. Alison completed her residency at Bishop Spaugh Community Academy. Along with strategic staffing principal Denise Watts, Alison led a turnaround process at Bishop Spaugh, which was once known as one of the lowest-performing schools in the state. Prior to joining New Leaders, Alison was a Teach for America Corps Member in Charlotte, teaching 9th grade English at Philip O. Berry High School. While at Berry, 99% of her students passed the NC English I End-of-Course test with a level 3 or 4, and she was promoted to English I Lead Teacher after her first year of teaching.

Alison is a native of Kernersville, North Carolina and a graduate of Harvard University (EdM) and Spelman College (BA), and spent a year studying Urban Educational Research at Stanford University through Spelman's domestic exchange program. Alison received a masters in education in Risk and Prevention in Adolescents at Harvard while conducting research on alternative Early College High School reform models.

Angela Grant

Principal, Shamrock Gardens Elementary

Angela Grant is a member of the first New Leaders cohort in Charlotte. She is currently in her second year as principal of Shamrock Gardens Elementary School. Angela completed her Residency at Albemarle Road Middle under the leadership of mentor principal Avery Mitchell, now Executive Director for the Central Secondary Zone. During her year at Albemarle Road, student reading proficiency grew from 52.8% to 67.1%, an increase of 14.3 and student math proficiency grew from 74.5% to 85.2%, an increase of 10.7.

Before launching her career in public education, Angela was a leader in museum education at several prestigious museums across the country. She served as the Director of Education and Public Programming at African American Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and later became the Lead Educator for School Programs at the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte. She entered the ranks of teaching as a lateral entry social studies teacher at Marie G Davis Middle School in Charlotte and had established herself as one of the leading social studies educators in CMS. Angela is a native of Camden, New Jersey and a graduate of Rutgers University where she earned a bachelor of arts in African American Studies in 1996 and master of arts in Museum Education in 1998.

Erik Turner

Assistant Principal, Bruns Avenue Elementary

Erik Turner is a member of the second New Leaders cohort in Charlotte. Erik currently serves as the Assistant Principal at Bruns Avenue Elementary under the leadership of New Leaders trained principal Jordy Sparks. Prior to joining New Leaders, Erik was a Program Director with Citizen Schools of North Carolina. During his four years at Citizen Schools Erik launched a successful career exploration and academic support program at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School and provided hands on learning and application based experiences to over 1,500 students in Charlotte, Durham and Henderson, North Carolina.

Erik is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina and a graduate of Gonzaga University (MA Organizational Leadership) and North Carolina Central University (BA). Erik has worked with educators and community organizations throughout the Southeastern United States as well as Cape Town, South Africa and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to share best practices in providing educational excellence for all students.

Michele Mason

New Leaders Managing Director of Programs, Former High School Principal

Michele Mason, a native of Sumter, South Carolina, currently serves as Managing Director of Programs, supporting the three New Leaders flagships – Emerging Leaders Program, Aspiring Principals Program and Principals Institute to increase student achievement within Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

Michele previously served as principal and instructional leader of an urban high school in Memphis, TN where the graduation rate increased by 20%, math proficiency by 30%, increased college scholarship offers from \$400,000 to over \$3 million, among other areas of improvement. In her last graduating class, over 80% of the senior class was accepted into college. Under her tenure, the school moved from high priority to good standing for the first time since No Child Left Behind. In addition to serving as an urban high school principal, Michele has also served as a school improvement/testing coordinator and teacher in Virginia. Michele received urban school principal training through

New Leaders, a high-quality urban principal program. She is also a graduate of Wake Forest University and Old Dominion University.

Malcolm Brooks

Resident Principal, Thomasboro Elementary

Malcolm Brooks is a Resident Principal at Thomasboro Academy under the leadership of Mentor Principal Janette McIver. Malcolm is a native of Pittsburgh, PA and graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. His personal experience growing up in a low-income community fueled his passion to increase student achievement for ALL students and to close the achievement gap.

Prior to joining New Leaders, Malcolm spent three years as a 5th and 6th grade math teacher at KIPP Academy Charlotte. Prior to Malcolm's arrival at KIPP in 2007-2008, only 60% of the students were passing their End of Grade Tests in math. At the end of the 2011-2012 school year, 90% passing of his students were passing; 33% of whom passed with a level four. Prior to joining KIPP Charlotte, Malcolm was a Teach for America Corps Member in Atlanta, GA where he taught 5th grade at J.W. Dobbs Elementary School, staying an additional four years after his two-year commitment. While at Dobbs, his students grew an average of 1.5 years or more in math and reading levels. Malcolm was elected the "Teacher of the Year" for Dobbs Elementary in 2006 (his first year of eligibility), and was appointed to grade level chair after his first year.

Shana Oliver

Resident Principal, Allenbrook Elementary

Shana Oliver is currently the Resident Principal at Allenbrook Elementary School under the mentorship of Celeste Spears-Ellis. Prior to joining New Leaders, Shana held the position of instructional facilitator at Cochrane Collegiate Academy in Charlotte, serving students in grades six through nine. Shana led Cochrane's staff in defining what quality instruction meant for their students and how to develop teachers into master facilitators of learning equipped to dramatically increase achievement. This model has gained national recognition from Edutopia's "Schools that Work", supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation as a turnaround school making significant progress based on continuous professional development. Under her leadership, the number of students passing state math and reading standards more than double from 21% to 43% within 3 years.

Shana, a native of Fayetteville, North Carolina earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Grades Education from Fayetteville State University. She obtained a Master's in Education with a focus on Literacy from the National Institute of Teaching Excellence at Cambridge College in Massachusetts.

Altovese Simmons

Teacher, West Charlotte High School

Altovese Simmons, a native of Kinston, North Carolina, currently serves as an English teacher at West Charlotte High School. She has been at West Charlotte since 2008 and was recently recognized as an "Irreplaceable" teacher by the school's administration and Project LIFT Zone Superintendent Denise Watts.

Altovese joined the New Leaders 2012 Emerging Leaders Program cohort to develop as an instructional leader and share best practices with other teachers on her team to impact student achievement. According to Altovese, "Emerging Leaders came at the right time for West Charlotte and the families that we serve, as it is providing a much needed entry point for change...and [reminds] me of the importance of making decisions based on facts and not feelings."

Altovese is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University (BA in English) and University of North Carolina Charlotte (MA in secondary education). Altovese is certified in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate studies and is also a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, the National Council of English Teachers and North Carolina Association of Educators.

Amy Lister

Teacher, Shamrock Gardens Elementary

Amy Lister is a 2nd grade teacher at Shamrock Gardens Elementary School under the leadership of New Leaders trained Principal Angela Grant. Amy has been a teacher in Charlotte Mecklenburg since 2003. She joined the New Leaders 2012 Emerging Leaders Program cohort to grow more effective as a classroom teacher and to share those key learnings with other teachers on her team.

Amy graduated from Clemson University in 2003 with a bachelor of arts in Elementary Education and became a National Board Certified Teacher in 2009. Amy is currently pursuing a master's degree from The University of North Carolina Charlotte with a focus on Curriculum and Supervision.