



POSITION SPECIFICATION

<u>POSITION TITLE:</u>	Community Organizer
<u>REPORTING TO:</u>	Director of Community Engagement & Organizing
<u>LOCATION:</u>	Los Angeles
<u>THE ORGANIZATION:</u>	Communities for Teaching Excellence

BACKGROUND

Communities for Teaching Excellence is a new non-partisan organization working with local communities to build a broad-based network of stakeholders (parents, students, teachers, business, civic and community groups) to advocate for effective teachers for all students, in particular, low-income students and students of color. Over its first two years, Communities for Teaching Excellence will focus on building support for effective teaching reforms in the local communities where The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has made intensive partnership grants to improve teacher effectiveness (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Hillsborough County, Florida; Memphis, Tennessee; and Los Angeles, California). Communities for Teaching Excellence seeks to elevate voices from each of these communities to be included in local and national policy and media discussions. By leveraging a range of tactics—from policy research, to strategic communications, to community organizing—Communities for Teaching Excellence will bolster public demand and political will to ensure that all students are taught by an effective teacher in every classroom, every year.

During its start up period, Communities for Teaching Excellence will operate as a special project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) that serves as a reputable fiscal sponsor until Communities for Teaching Excellence establishes independent 501(c)3 status.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Communities for Teaching Excellence will launch in 2011 with an ambitious mission and aggressive short- and long-term goals. Communities for Teaching Excellence seeks to hire an empowering, accomplished and entrepreneurial Community Organizer to be based in Los Angeles, California. The Organizer will work with local partners to build durable and influential community-based coalitions advocating for smart public school policy changes and practices that support teaching effectiveness (advocacy may also seek to promote favorable statutes, administrative priorities, contracts, etc.). The Organizer will work closely with partners in Los Angeles to develop an organizing plan with specific goals. The Community Organizer will interact effectively with a wide-range of stakeholders, including community-based organizations, business and civic leaders, funders, teachers and our primary audience of parents and students. The Organizer will be part of Communities for Teaching Excellence's Community Engagement & Organizing team that works in a number of sites across the nation. Some travel is required to meet program goals, to attend conferences and for team meetings.

SCOPE & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Community Organizer's key responsibilities include the following:

- Serve as the primary Teaching First liaison to the district and partners in each region
- Manage and lead Communities for Teaching Excellence's Los Angeles efforts
- Work with partners to develop and implement a regional organizing plan with specific goals, timeline and outcomes
- Build partnerships and coalitions that support Communities for Teaching Excellence and regional goals
- Develop stakeholder leadership capacity through rigorous, ongoing training and coaching
- Communicate progress and strategize regularly with partners, supervisor and team members
- Collaborate with Communities for Teaching Excellence's Communication and Research & Policy teams to develop materials suitable for a wide variety of audiences; to support local and national media efforts; and to identify, develop, support, win the passage of and effective implementation of smart policies
- Contribute to organizational fund development and reporting efforts
- Report to the Director of Community Engagement & Organizing
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KEY QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge of the local public education (Pre-K – 12) policy and current local, state, and national reform movements, particularly around effective teaching
- Experience managing volunteers and building/leading coalitions for change
- Familiarity with the communities of Los Angeles, CA
- Ability to interact with a wide range of audiences
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Knowledge of and experience working on or with legislative bodies
- Ability to work under pressure/tight deadlines in a fast-paced environment
- Strong project management skills: independently manage time, multi-task, and prioritize
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work on a virtual team environment
- Flexibility in schedule due to national nature of work, geographically disbursed team and occasional evening and weekend work
- Ability to work virtually
- Strong commitment to the organization's core values, mission, and strategies

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree required, advanced degree beneficial
- Minimum of three years of political, electoral or community organizing experience
- Experience in education and/or public policy highly desirable
- Experience producing short videos and slide shows desirable
- Experience with social media desirable

COMPENSATION

A competitive salary and benefits package will be offered.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit resume and cover letter to:

Decker Ngongang
Director of Community Engagement and Organizing
jobs@4teachingexcellence.org

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors is an equal opportunity employer

The Communities for Teaching Excellence Management Team

Yolie Flores, Chief Executive Officer



Yolie serves as CEO of Communities for Teaching Excellence and is a member of the board of education at the Los Angeles Unified School District. In her tenure at the school board, Yolie has championed some of the most significant educational reforms, including Public School Choice and Teacher Effectiveness.

Over two decades, Yolie has served in leadership and management capacities that promote policies and strategies to improve the lives of children and families. She served in leadership roles with the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council, Center for Community Economic Development, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the City of Los Angeles.

Yolie earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Redlands and her Masters in Social Welfare from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Veronica Melvin, Chief Operating Officer



Veronica Melvin serves as the Chief Operating Officer for Communities for Teaching Excellence. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the Alliance for a Better Community (ABC), an organization that promotes equity for Latinos in the areas of education, health, economic development and civic participation for the betterment of the Los Angeles region.

As its first Executive Director, Veronica led the organization for nearly a decade in various community based advocacy campaigns such as promoting the college preparatory curriculum for all LAUSD high school students, seeking greater access to quality preschool, working at the district and state level to ban junk food and sodas in schools, and alleviating extreme student overcrowding through the construction of new schools. ABC achieved its goals through policy advocacy and facilitating the development of model programs that demonstrate innovation and excellence.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy from UC Berkeley and a Masters of Public Policy from UCLA's School of Public Affairs.

Jeanne K. Bliss, Director of Communications



Jeanne Bliss serves as the Director of Communications for Communities for Teaching Excellence. Jeanne has more than 15 years of experience in public relations, public policy, education, and education advocacy, working to ensure that all students are taught to the highest levels, from kindergarten to college.

Most recently, Jeanne spent three years teaching middle school English in a diverse secondary school in Fairfax County, Virginia. Prior to teaching, Jeanne served as Vice President for K-12 education clients at Lipman Hearne – one of the largest marketing and communications firms exclusively serving non-profits. Before that, Jeanne was the Communications Director for the Education Trust in Washington, D.C., where she oversaw the organization’s strategic communications and media relations operations.

Prior to the Education Trust, Jeanne served as an editorial assistant for *The New York Times* and as a correspondence director and writer for U.S. Representative David E. Skaggs. Jeanne earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Kansas, and is certified to teach secondary-level English in the state of Virginia.

Charmaine Mercer, Ph.D., Director of Policy & Research



Prior to joining Communities for Teaching Excellence Charmaine Mercer worked for U.S. Congressman George Miller as the co-lead for the House Education and Labor Committee’s K-12 education team. She previously served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education where she supported the Assistant Secretary in attaining the Department’s legislative and budgetary priorities from Members of the Appropriations Committees. Prior to that she worked with the House Committee on Appropriations, Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee, handling appropriations for the Department of Education. Charmaine was also an education policy analyst for the Congressional Research Service where she worked on issues surrounding Pell Grants, minority-serving institutions, and Veterans’ education benefits among other things.

She has a doctorate in Political Science and Education Policy from the Claremont Graduate University (CA), as well as a Masters in American Government. She graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science.

Decker Ngongang, Director of Community Engagement & Organizing



Prior to joining Communities for Teaching Excellence as its Director of Community Engagement & Organizing, Decker Ngongang was Vice President for Programs at Mobilize.org, where he was responsible for managing program operations and development. Mobilize.org is a non-partisan network dedicated to educating, empowering, and energizing the millennial generation to increase their level of civic engagement and political participation. Mobilize.org informed millennials of how public policy impacts lives and, more importantly, how individuals and groups can impact public policy. Before joining Mobilize.org, Decker was the Executive Director of Generation Engage, a Charlotte North Carolina not-for-profit that worked with local organizations to foster greater youth and adult civic

participation.

Decker also previously worked for Bank of America in a variety of positions, the last of which was as Vice President - Operational Risk Manager for Bank of America Corporate Investments Trading group.

Decker received his B.A. from North Carolina State University, where he studied political science and legal philosophy and served as 2003 Senior Class President. Born in Charlotte, NC he now resides in Washington, D.C.

Sarah Brown, Director of Development



Sarah Brown is the Director of Development at Teaching First. She has been involved in non-profit development for more than 12 years, and has concentrated on education, specifically for under-represented and underserved communities, for much of this time.

Sarah most recently served as the Director of Development at Park Century School, a school for students with above average intelligence levels who have severe learning disabilities. For the six years prior, Sarah focused exclusively on directing major comprehensive campaigns. She served as an Executive Campaign Director at CCS Fundraising, an international consulting firm headquartered in New York City, where she led campaigns for organizations such as the Fresh Air Fund. Following her work with CCS, Sarah went on to direct the Southern California portion of a nationwide campaign for the American Civil Liberties Union. During these six years, Sarah raised close to \$30 million in new funds for the organizations. She started her career in development at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine, where she raised funds for medical education and research. Sarah attended UCLA, where she majored in Political Science with an emphasis on International Relations.