

**Senate Democratic Policy Committee and  
House Budget Committee Democratic Caucus  
Joint Hearing**

**“Have the President and Congressional Republicans Kept Their Promise  
to Support the *No Child Left Behind Act*?”**

**Witness Biographies**

**WENDY PURIEFOY**  
Public Education Network

Wendy Puriefoy has been president of Public Education Network (PEN), the nation's largest network of community-based school reform organizations, since PEN was founded in 1991. Under her leadership, PEN has grown into a national network of local education funds reaching more than 10.6 million children in 1,200 school districts and 16,000 schools nationwide.

Ms. Puriefoy has been involved in school reform since the 1970's when she served as a special monitor of the court-ordered desegregation plan for Boston's public schools. As president of PEN, Ms. Puriefoy has successfully advocated and implemented systemic reform initiatives in school finance and governance, curriculum and assessment, parent involvement, school libraries and school health. With support from leading national foundations, PEN recently launched multi-million dollar initiatives on teacher quality, standards and accountability, and schools and community services.

Prior to joining PEN, Ms. Puriefoy was executive vice president and chief operating officer of The Boston Foundation, a community foundation with an endowment of over \$750 million supporting public health/welfare, educational, cultural, environmental, and housing programs in Boston, Massachusetts. Ms. Puriefoy serves on the boards of numerous high-profile national organizations including DEMOS, Hasbro Children's Foundation, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the National Center for Family Philanthropy.

Ms. Puriefoy received a Bachelor of Arts degree from William Smith College and holds Master of Arts degrees in African American Studies, American Studies, and American Colonial History, all from Boston University.

**KRISTA KAFER**  
The Heritage Foundation

Krista Kafer joined The Heritage Foundation in 2001 as Senior Policy Analyst for Education. Ms. Kafer produced two papers to help define the lines of debate over what was to become the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Her analysis of the Senate and House versions of the bill were the

first analyses published on either proposal. An advocate of providing children consigned to “non-performing” public schools with meaningful education options, Ms. Kafer lectures and debates widely on school voucher initiatives, charter school programs and other school-choice topics.

Prior to joining Heritage, Ms. Kafer served as Legislative Director and Senior Legislative Assistant to Congressman David McIntosh (R-IN). She advised him on health care, environment and Social Security issues. Earlier, she served as Legislative Assistant to Congressman Bob Schaffer (R-CO), a member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Ms. Kafer graduated from the University of Colorado-Denver in 1994 with a Bachelor’s degree in history.

### **JOHN PORTER**

T.C. Williams High School

This fall, John Porter will begin his 19th year as principal of T.C. Williams High School (T.C.), a school located in Alexandria, VA, with a student body of over 2,000 students and a total staff of more than 230. With a student population that is 43 percent African American, 25 percent Hispanic, 25 percent white, and 7 percent Asian Pacific, T.C. Williams is a diverse and thriving urban high school. Through its innovative curriculum, strong faculty, and excellent student achievement, T.C. Williams has become one of the most respected high schools in the nation.

Mr. Porter began his career at Parker-Gray Middle School as a seventh-grade social studies teacher. He transitioned into school administration when he became principal of Ramsay Elementary School. His career includes experiences as a teacher, a high school assistant principal, and a principal at the elementary, middle and high school levels. He has turned down opportunities to move into the central office in order to continue doing what he loves: working with students.