

## Cami Anderson

Cami Anderson was appointed Senior Superintendent of District 79, Alternative Schools and Programs for the New York City Department of Education in 2006. The district is a unique citywide network of over 300 alternative schools and programs serving disengaged over-age, under-credited youth whose schooling has been interrupted. The district serves 30,000 youth and 40,000 adults far off-track from a high school diploma for a range of life circumstances – from pregnancy to incarceration to immigration to previous school failure. Her wide-scale, bold changes were termed “revolutionary” by one newspaper and Chancellor Joel I. Klein of New York City’s Department of Education has labeled her an “exceptional leader in education.”

In the summer of 2007, Anderson negotiated a major reorganization of seven failing programs into one, GED Plus, an integrated city-wide system that gives students and families better access to GED programs and serves all students including those performing at the lowest levels of reading and math. Since the reorganization, the number of students leaving GED Plus who earned a GED has nearly tripled. More recently Anderson has collaborated with the writers of the GED test, American Council on Education, the State Department of Education in New York and U.S. Department of Education to jumpstart GED 2014 – an integral component for planning the new test, curriculum, and interim assessment design.

Anderson led experienced educators within the district to redesign the entry point to alternative programs. Today, Referral Centers for High School Alternatives provide “one stop” counseling and enrollment centers that serve as a single point of entry for over-age, under-credited students looking to connect or reconnect to secondary options within the Department of Education. She also redesigned NYC instructional programs for incarcerated youth to ensure successful transition back to school after time served. Over 40% of eligible students passed the NY State Regents exam last year.

Anderson’s commitment to education began early, with time spent teaching theater and in Montessori schools. After college, Anderson became a public school teacher. She founded a district-wide committee on parent and community involvement, received grants to create conflict resolution, literacy, diversity, and theater programs, and facilitated professional development workshops for parents and teachers.

Anderson went on to serve as Executive Director of Teach For America at a critical time in its growth. She founded a board of business and education leaders, represented the organization at policy forums, increased funding by over 300%, and launched Teach For America Week (an event which brings influential people from all walks of life to teach for a day). She managed the professional development and evaluation of more than 500 teachers in over 90 schools. She also sat on the national policy team and helped the organization more than double in size.

As Chief Program Officer for New Leaders for New Schools (a national initiative to help shape extraordinary principals), Cami managed the design and implementation of recruiting, admissions, curriculum, coaching, new principal support, and evaluation – in addition to sitting on the three-person executive team. As a business, the organization was recognized as one of the most innovative and effective non-profits in the country by *Fast Company Magazine* and Harvard Business School. And, as a training program, it was recognized by *Education Week*, WestEd, the US Department of Education, numerous school districts, and *The Teaching Commission* as one of the most effective principal preparation programs in the country.

In addition to serving as a management consultant to both national and international non-profits and political organizations, Anderson was the Director of Policy on Cory Booker's mayoral campaign. Anderson attended the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard University possessing degrees in education, anthropology and public policy. Anderson is an Aspen Global Leader Fellow and the recipient of both the Sallie Mae National Teacher of the Year Award and Teach For America’s Peter Jennings Award for Civic Leadership.

*“Closing of 11 Schools Called Revolutionary”* - New York Sun, May 25, 2007

*“Success and Failure on the GED”* – New York Times, December 31, 2010