

## MEET OUR TEAM

### **Jared Henderson:**

Jared Henderson is a fourth generation Arkansan and a product of Arkansas' public schools. Jared has fierce pride for his home state and fully believes that it can ultimately be one of the first in the nation to provide all its children with the opportunity to attain an excellent education.



Jared started his career as an operations manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. He later joined McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm, where he served as an advisor to two mayors, a governor, a state superintendent of education and numerous Fortune 100 executives. For the last four years, he has worked for Teach For America as a senior vice president and executive director of the Arkansas Region. Since 2014, he has served on the Board of AR Kids Read.

Jared holds undergraduate degrees in computer science and physics from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and was a Dean's Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government where he received a Master's Degree in public administration.



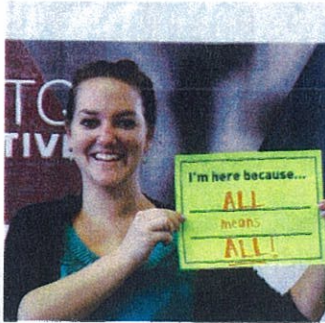
### **Mia Meadows:**

Mia Meadows has been in education for over eleven years. She began teaching English, Communications, and AVID at Shekinah Radiance Academy and Sharpstown High School in Houston, Texas. During her three years as a high school teacher, Mia Meadows was the debate coach, which was had been nob-existent for over 20 years and received the ASPIRE Teacher Award.

As she finished up her Master's in counseling, Mia decided that she really wanted to stay in education, but had a deep desire to take on more leadership roles which lead her to apply and was accepted into New Leaders for New Schools-Chicago. Through this opportunity, Mia obtained her Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership and has continued to serve in various educational leadership capacities that include, Assistant Principal, Principal, and District Level Administration in Illinois, Minnesota, and Arkansas.

She currently serves as an Managing Director, Teacher Leadership Developement for the Arkansas region of TFA and truly enjoys developing first year teachers and instructional coaches. Mia is married to Lee A. Meadows and has two children, Josiah (5) and Elaina (2).





### **Hannah McColleston:**

Hannah McColleston is originally from South Bend, Indiana and attended the University of Virginia, where she studied English and Spanish. She joined the Teach For America – Mississippi Delta corps in 2009 and taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Park Avenue Elementary in Stuttgart, Arkansas. She led her students to an average growth of 84.5 points in math against a goal of 39.2 points and 175 points in literacy against a goal of 54.6 points on the Benchmark exam. She also served as the grade-level chairperson and founded a Young Women Leaders Program at the school. Hannah joined TFA staff in 2011 as a teacher leadership coach, became a certified Real-Time Teacher Coach in 2013, and currently serves as a managing director of program for the region. She graduated with a Masters in Educational Leadership in summer 2014 and plans to complete the Rural School Leaders Academy in spring 2016.

### **Kaitlin Parker:**



After growing up and attending college in Tucson, Arizona, Kaitlin moved to Arkansas to teach 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts in Pine Bluff. Before coming to Arkansas, Kaitlin was teaching swim lessons and water safety to students in South Tucson and across the world in India where she led a group of five volunteers to teach over 1,000 students over a three-month period about how to survive during the treacherous monsoons each year. During her two years teaching Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Kaitlin participated in the Arkansas Student Leadership Initiative, co-designed the English curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers in the Pine Bluff School District, and taught a course on designing a strong novel unit plan to fellow Teach For America Corps Members. After her two year commitment with Teach For America in the classroom, Kaitlin joined the regional Arkansas staff as a Manager of Teacher Leadership Development. In her second year on the regional team, she became a certified Real-Time Teacher Coach through the Center for Transformative Teacher Training,

### **Bethany Hargis**

Bethany moved to her new home of Pine Bluff, Arkansas in 2012 after graduating from the University of North Carolina. Having studied Political Science and Gender Studies, Bethany brought her passion for social justice to her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom at Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School as a Teach for America Corps Member. In her second year of teaching, Bethany taught kindergarten at Pine Bluff Lighthouse and was a finalist for the Sue Lehmann Award for Excellence in Teaching. Bethany has also taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at eStem Public Charter School in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she gained experience with many research-based pedagogical styles that have been designed for a 21<sup>st</sup> century education. She joined Teach for America's regional staff in Arkansas this year to support first and second-year teachers in their development of culturally responsive classrooms and their passion for teaching.

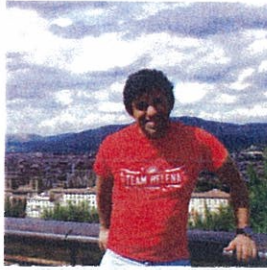


### **Melissa Walsh:**

A DC Native, Melissa Walsh moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas after graduating from Union College in Upstate New York. While at Union, Melissa played Lacrosse, was an active member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, Vice President of Campus, and was Greek Woman of the Year. Upon joining Teach For America, Melissa taught 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra at Jack Robey Junior High in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. While at Jack Robey, Melissa was an assistant cheerleading coach, started The Booster Club (a school spirit club to increase positive school culture at her school) tutored and participated in the Arkansas Student Leadership Initiative. She headed up the Math Department her second year in the classroom and that year all but 1 of her eighth grade students finished proficient or advanced on their state Math test. After her two year commitment with Teach For America in the classroom, Melissa joined the organization to work for the regional chapter here in Arkansas. Melissa also received a Walton Fellowship to earn her Masters in Educational Leadership from Arkansas Tech and is projected to graduate this spring.







### **Chintan Desai:**

Chintan Desai grew up in San Luis Obispo, California and attended UC Davis, where he majored in Political Science. He joined Teach For America in 2010 and taught for two years at KIPP Delta as a social studies teacher. After teaching, he worked as Scott Shirey's assistant in the KIPP Delta Central Office. For the past year, he has been working on staff with Teach For America – Arkansas, where he helps lead the operations of the Hunt Education Center, a community hub in downtown Helena and Teach For America's first purchased building in its twenty-four year history.



### **Austin Warren**

Originally a native of Idaho, Austin Warren first came to Arkansas as a TFA corps member back in 2011. Holding degrees in both Psychology and International Studies from the University of Idaho, Austin leveraged his passion for the social sciences to serve as the lead science teacher at the First Ward Learning Center in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Over the next two years, Austin worked closely with his peers, the community, and leaders across the state to ensure that every student at First Ward had access to the same educational opportunities as his/her peers.

After completing his corps commitment in 2013 Austin sought to broaden his impact in education by joining Teach For America staff as a leader of its recruitment efforts across the northwest, including in his home state of Idaho, as well as in Oregon, Montana, Utah, and Washington.

Between 2013 – 2015 Austin successfully recruited over 300 future leaders to apply to Teach For America, many of whom were accepted into the program and ultimately served in locations across the country, including Arkansas.

In mid-2015, Austin joined the TFA-Arkansas team as its first Manager of Data Analytics. In this newly established role, Austin has the privilege to work with leaders across the team (and teachers throughout the state) to evaluate TFA's various initiatives and programs, track our successes and areas for growth, and accelerate our progress toward the vision of ensuring that every child in Arkansas has access to an education that will allow them to reach their fullest human and academic potential.