



OELA
Office of English Language Acquisition

2017 Project Directors Meeting In Pursuit of Higher Education for All

Robert Salley

Program Officer

Office of State Support, U.S. Department of Education

Robert Salley's unwavering commitment and sense of urgency in improving outcomes for students and uplifting communities serve as his guiding light. Mr. Salley has over a decade of experience in helping scale fast-growing nonprofits and leading change in highly dynamic and rapidly evolving organizations. With a keen focus on policy development and implementation, change management, and leadership development, Mr. Salley is deeply passionate about building the capacity of organizations to execute their missions and supporting leaders in reaching their greatest level of impact. He is a program officer at the U.S. Department of Education, overseeing the intergovernmental relationship at the federal level for several states in implementing educational programming and policies. He also focuses on supporting native youth in K–12 educational attainment and in improving postsecondary outcomes.

Prior to his role at the Department, Mr. Salley was the director of Marketing and Business Development at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he worked in the executive education group. He also served as the program director for Education Pioneers—New York City (NYC) Metro Area, where he helped lead expansion efforts into New Jersey and Connecticut. He is an alumnus of Teach For America and Education Pioneers and holds graduate degrees in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University and in Education from the Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Salley's experience spans districts, including the NYC Department of Education and Baltimore City Public Schools, state departments of education, CMOs, and startup charter schools throughout NYC, New Jersey, and Connecticut. He also has experience in the philanthropic and government sectors, serving as a consultant at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and special assistant to the administrator and chief operating officer at the U.S. Agency for International Development.