



### Marjorie Sims | Managing Director, Ascend, Aspen Institute

Marjorie Sims is the managing director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute. In her role, Marjorie works closely with the executive director on the strategic direction of the program's vision, leads convent development related to Ascend's areas of expertise, and oversees the development and implementation of all operations in support of achieving team goals.

Marjorie has more than 20 years of experience in advancing the status of women and families at local, state, national, and international levels, as well as in expanding women's roles in leadership positions within philanthropy. Before joining Ascend in 2018, she served as program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation with a specific focus on family economic security programs and managed a \$65M grant portfolio. Prior to joining the Kellogg Foundation, Marjorie held the positions of chief operating officer, interim president, and vice president of programs and operations at the Washington Area Women's Foundation, where she helped launch Stepping Stones, a \$5 million, multi-year, regional initiative to increase the income and assets of women-headed families. In addition, Marjorie served as the executive director of the California Women's Law Center and as a policy analyst with the International Center for Research on Women. She is a co-founder of Women's Policy, Inc., an organization that emerged from the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to provide unbiased analyses and educational briefings about federal legislation affecting women and families.

Marjorie lends her insights and expertise through a number of roles with external partners:

- Chair on the board of directors for Springboard to Opportunities
- Chair on the board of directors for All Our Kin
- Advisor to the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) National Advisory Committee on State and Federal Systems Alignment to Improve Whole Family Approaches to Economic Mobility
- Advisor to the Transformative Consumer Research Executive Leadership and Social Impact Council
- Advisor to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Ready to Learn initiative
- Advisor to the Measuring SUCCESS Project: Technical Working Group



## Samuel González | President, United Way of Puerto Rico

Samuel González Cardona has been president of United Way of Puerto Rico since 2005. His arrival marked the beginning of an organizational transition in the process of achieving greater community impact by advancing the common good to create opportunities of better life for all in Puerto Rico.

The evolution of United Way of Puerto Rico centers its principles on the fact that in order to achieve a fulfilling life, every human being deserves a quality education that leads them to have a stable job, with sufficient income to support their family until their retirement, and enjoy good health. It is a change of focus towards the causes of the problems, using prevention as a mechanism to obtain long-lasting changes.

González has over 30 years of experience in business management, sales and marketing in multinational companies such as: Unilever, Quaker Oats and Monsanto. On the other hand, his high sense of social responsibility is evidenced in the work he carried out as president of the Board of Directors of the Diabetes Association of Puerto Rico, member of the Board of the American Red Cross, presided the Puerto Rico Volunteers State Commission and served as Director of the Board of the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce. Also, together with the San Jorge Children's Hospital, he supported the founding process of the Pediatric Diabetes Center in Puerto Rico and offered his voluntary support to the Gosen Orphanage in the Dominican Republic. He was also a volunteer of the Chapel of the Holy Christ of Health in Old San Juan.

González Cardona holds a bachelor's degree in Public Communications from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, and finance courses from the University of Chicago. In addition, he has participated in leadership seminars and market research management at the National Eagle Leadership Institute, in Washington, D.C. In 2003, said Institute recognized his contribution to the development of Hispanic leadership in the United States. From 2007 to 2019, he was member of United Way Worldwide's National Professional Council and Coach CEO of the LatinoHispanic Leaders Inclusion Council. He has also supported and represented the position of the Organization within the scope of legislators at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. Currently, he presides the Tina Hills Award Advisory Board of the Ángel Ramos Foundation.



### Ayeola Fortune | Vice President, Impact Team, United Way Worldwide

Ayeola Fortune is the Interim Senior Vice President of the Impact Team at United Way Worldwide. She provides oversight, strategic guidance, and support to team members managing key initiatives in education, economic mobility, and health. She leads UWW's efforts to support local United Ways to integrate equity into their impact work by developing frameworks, strategies, peer learning and training opportunities, and developing resources and tools. She also leads UWW's efforts to collect and aggregate data from local United Ways' to demonstrate collective impact across communities via the Global Results Framework.

Previously, as Senior Director of Global Impact and Results, Ayeola led the initial development of the Global Results Framework, and efforts to build United Way Network capacity to advance impact in their communities. This includes the development of United Way's Equity Framework which articulates the levers United Ways can implement to advance their work in community focused on closing persistent gaps and disparities, and related learning opportunities. As Director of Youth Success, Ayeola developed strategies, resources, and tools and led major initiatives to build network capacity to improve the number of students that graduate high school prepared for college and career. This included grants focused on out-of-school time, middle grades success, and post-secondary completion, as well as United Way Worldwide's Ready by 21 National Partnership. She also helped lead the development of United Way's education roadmaps which outlined the critical strategies, implementation approaches and potential roles that United Ways can play to improve educational outcomes, especially for at-risk youth, in their communities.

Before joining UWW, Ayeola served as the director of extended learning opportunities and development Project at the Council of Chief State School Officers from 2001-2009. In this role, she developed proposals to support Council activities based on identified state education agency needs relative to implementing federal policy initiatives. Preceding this role, Ayeola was a high school teacher at The Ellis School in Pittsburgh, PA.

Ayeola earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government from Lehigh University, as well as a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh.



### Josh Dickson | Vice President, Public Policy at United Way Worldwide

Josh Dickson currently serves as Vice President of Public Policy at United Way Worldwide. Before joining United Way, Josh was White House Senior Advisor for Public Engagement, where he led outreach for President Biden on healthcare, faith, and American Rescue Plan implementation.

Prior to joining the administration, Josh was the National Faith Engagement Director for Biden for President, where he oversaw President Biden's religious voter mobilization program across the country and in 15 battleground states. Before the campaign, Josh worked in Vice President roles with Teach For America and Points of Light, both AmeriCorps affiliates focused on national service. He also served as the Director of the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the US Department of Commerce, where he focused on economic mobility and job creation in economically disadvantaged communities. Josh began his career as a teacher on Chicago's South Side, where he taught kindergarten and led an afterschool newspaper club.



[Dr. Shayla Guy Kolheim | Director, Driving the Dream, United Way Mid-South](#)

Dr. Shayla Guy Kolheim, Director of United Way of the Mid-South's Driving The Dream™ (DTD), is deeply committed to the Memphis community and, in particular, promoting strategies that advance economic mobility for persons experiencing poverty. She brings to her role as DTD Director over 25 years of experience supporting programs and initiatives in the post-secondary education and career advancement sectors. She has a nuanced understanding of how to design high impact person-centered programs while simultaneously meeting federal and state funding compliance. She is able to leverage that knowledge and expertise to support the successful network management of over 130 nonprofits that participated in the DTD network, delivering targeted technical support and quality improvement support.

Dr. Kolheim brings to this work a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience gained through the active pursuit of educational and learning opportunities. In her previous role as the Director of Grant Development and Management at Southwest Tennessee Community College, Dr. Kolheim was named a Tennessee Board of Regents' Maxine Smith Fellow. A graduate of Clark Atlanta University, she holds master's degrees in Counseling and Public Administration, and a Doctorate of Education in Leadership & Policy Studies from the University of Memphis.