

THE EPI TEAM

F. James Hoffman

Jim Hoffman, CEO of Education Partnerships, Inc has been the executive director of four award-winning, nationally recognized business/education partnerships. Jim has extensive experience in management and education including director of The Principals' Leadership Institute, a principal for 12 years in Connecticut and an advisory council member of the National Association of Partners in Education. He also served as vice president of The Principals' Center at Cooperative Educational Services, chairman of the program committee, chairman of the Business-Education Partnership, and a member of the executive boards of several education and community organizations.

Lisa DePatie

DePatie joined Education Partnerships in 2002 and is currently its operations manager. Prior to EPI she worked for Hanover Insurance Company as a commercial lines underwriter. DePatie earned her degree in psychology from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut and worked at the Hartford Institute of Living with autistic and severely emotionally disturbed children. Her psychology background also was of great use when she worked in the Key Wife Program, a spousal support effort for wives of deployed military members.

James P. Garvin

Dr. Garvin, senior consultant to Education Partnerships, Inc, has worked with four Fortune 500 business/education partnerships for more than 15 years. He has served as chairman of the education department at Gordon College in Massachusetts, been invited by the US Department of Education to participate in the Blue Ribbon Recognition Program (for which he was honored at the White House by President Ronald Reagan) and invited to join the Carnegie Corporation to study transition issues in high schools. Jim also chaired the professional advisory committee that established standards in a variety of teaching fields for the state of Massachusetts.

J. Howard Johnston

Dr. Johnson is a professor of secondary education at the University of South Florida where he prepares teachers and administrators for work in the urban environment. He is the author of more than 150 published works and presented more than 2,000 papers, lectures, workshop and keynote addresses throughout the United States and abroad. His prior positions include professor at the University of Cincinnati, dean of the Graduate School of Education, dean of the College of Education, teaching and administrator positions in New York and Wyoming. Howard has received numerous teaching and research awards and is a recipient of NASSP's Distinguished Service and the Gruhn-Long-Melton awards as well as the John Lounsbury Award from the National Middle School Association.

Jerome O. Lynch

Jerry Lynch brings more than 30 years of experience in education as a teacher, coach, substance abuse counselor and program director, assistant principal, principal, and a special consultant to the Maine Commissioner of Education to his role as team leader at Education Partnerships, Inc. He has served on the board of directors of organizations committed to improving education and has shared his learnings at conferences in Canada, the Virgin Islands and throughout the United States. Jerry also has served as a visiting professor/lecturer at numerous universities including the University of Maine where he is a member of the graduate school faculty.

Eileen McSweeney

With a diverse background in many aspects of business management, McSweeney brings to EPI a wealth of experience. In 1986, after owning a small business on Cape Cod for several years, she joined Champion International Corporation as assistant corporate secretary, responsible for shareholder relations and stock transfer and exchange activities. In 1991 she became Champion's manager of education and contribution programs, and was appointed to director in 1996. With the merger of Champion and International Paper in 2000, she became associate director for the International Paper Company Foundation, working closely with employees nationwide who had responsibility for the foundation's local budget allocations. McSweeney has been EPI's Director of Operations since its inception in 2002 and is responsible for the management and oversight of all aspects of the business, which includes serving as assistant corporate secretary. She received her bachelor of arts in modern languages from Fordham University in New York and her master of arts in philosophy from Hunter College, also in New York.

Ronald Williamson

Dr. Williamson is professor of Leadership and Counseling at Eastern Michigan University. Previously he taught at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, was a teacher, principal, Executive Director of Instruction, and Deputy Superintendent for Instructional Services in the Ann Arbor (MI) Public Schools, served as Executive Director of the National Middle School Association, a member of NASSP's Middle Level Council and President of the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, a coalition of all the major professional organizations serving middle schools. Ron has published more than 100 books, chapters, papers and articles in major educational journals including a monthly column in *Principal Leadership* magazine. Ron worked with the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation on principal development in Louisville and Corpus Christi and with the Galef Foundation on their project to improve middle schools in New York City, Houston, Louisville and Los Angeles. Ron conducts assessment and evaluation projects for school districts and school/business partnerships including the MBNA Middle School Partnership and The Principals' Partnership sponsored by the Union Pacific Foundation. Ron is the recipient of the Gruhn-Long-Melton award from NASSP and numerous teaching excellence awards from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro and Eastern Michigan University.