

Executive Briefing Series
Supporting High Performance Government:
Leading Large Scale Change
Biographies
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Dr. Elizabeth Arons

Chief Executive Officer, Division of Human Resources, New York City Department of Education

Dr. Arons has been the Chief Executive officer at the Division of Human Resources for the New York City Department of Education since 2003. She brings more than two decades of human resources experience to the Department of Education (DOE). Dr. Arons joins the DOE from the Montgomery County (MD) Public School System, where she has served as Associate Superintendent for Human Resources since 1996. In Montgomery, and previously in the Fairfax County (VA) Public School System, she developed a national reputation for excellence, particularly in the area of teacher and principal quality. While in Fairfax, Dr. Arons spent a year working on loan at Coopers & Lybrand, where she was trained in business process re-design and systems integration.

Dr. Arons began her career as an English teacher, serving in Illinois and Virginia. She received her B.A. in English and her teacher certification from the University of California at Berkeley, and an M.A. in English from the University of Illinois. She received her Ed.D. from American University in Washington, D.C., with a major in Educational Administration and a minor in Organizational Effectiveness. She is a member and past President of the American Association of School Personnel Administrators (AASPA).

Peter C. Goldmark Jr.

Director of the Climate and Air Program, Environmental Defense Fund

Peter Goldmark is Director of the Climate and Air Program at Environmental Defense since August 2003. Directs program concerned with scientific, policy and international dimensions of the challenge of global warming.

He served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the International Herald Tribune from March 1998, and left the paper in January, 2003. From June 1988 to December 1997 he was the eleventh President of The Rockefeller Foundation based in New York City. Prior to this appointment, he was Senior Vice President for Eastern Newspapers for the Los Angeles based Times Mirror Company.

Before joining the Times Mirror Company in 1985, Mr. Goldmark served for eight years as Executive Director of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. From 1975 to 1977, he was Director of the Budget for the State of New York and for four years prior to that served as Secretary of Human Services for

the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Goldmark also served in the budget office of New York City for four years, and was Assistant Budget Director for Program Planning and Analysis before becoming Executive Assistant to the Mayor in 1970. Earlier in his career, he was on the staff of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, and taught history at the Putney School in Vermont.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of Lend Lease Corporation and the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. For Fall 2006, as a Visiting Professor of Public and International Affairs at Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, he will teach *Leadership in Transition*, a course he introduced in 2005.

Peter A. Cannito
President, Metropolitan Transit Authority, Metro-North Railroad

Peter A. Cannito is President of MTA Metro-North Railroad. Over a 36-year career, he has managed all aspects of railroad operations, maintenance, engineering and construction. Mr. Cannito joined the New York Central Railroad in 1967 and has been a railroader ever since. He worked for New York Central/Penn Central while putting himself through college and in 1971, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. In 1990 he attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

From 1974 to 1995, Mr. Cannito worked for Amtrak in a variety of operations and engineering positions. During his last eight years at Amtrak, he served as Vice President of Engineering. He joined ABB Traction as Executive Vice President in 1995 and oversaw all new and remanufacturing efforts for passenger rail equipment for the heavy rail and high-speed rail markets in the U.S. In 1997, Mr. Cannito joined Raytheon Engineers and Constructors as Vice President of Rail and Transit Programs, where he was responsible for development and implementation of all public and private rail and transit projects both domestically and internationally. In June 1999, Mr. Cannito was appointed President of MTA Metro-North Railroad. As President, Mr. Cannito is responsible for leading the second largest commuter railroad in the United States.

Barbara Dwyer Gunn
Senior Vice President for Operations and Government Relations, American Museum of Natural History

Barbara Dwyer Gunn is the Senior Vice President for Operations and Government Relations at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. She oversees all Museum operations, visitor relations, capital construction and development, administrative services, and government and community relations. Ms. Gunn began working at the Museum thirteen years ago as the Vice President for Finance. While at the Museum she has overseen a \$55 million bond financing, the final phases of the reconstruction of the famed Fossil Dinosaur Halls, the rebuilding of numerous exhibit halls such as the Hall of Ocean Life, the construction of The Starr Natural Science Building, the commissioning and operation of the new Rose Center for Earth and Space, as well as raising significant funds from City, State and Federal governments.

Prior to her work at the Museum, Ms. Gunn was the Director of Operations for the Mayor's Office of the City of New York during the term of Mayor Edward I. Koch. She was also the first woman to be the First Deputy Commissioner at the New York City Department of Transportation a \$265 million agency and was the Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Management for the \$16 million budget at the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Gunn graduated *cum laude* with a B.A., English in 1970 from the College of St. Rose, Albany, New York. She received an Masters in Public Administration in 1976 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Anne Williams-Isom

Deputy Commissioner and Special Counsel to the Commissioner, New York City Administration for Children's Services

From 1986 through 1988 Anne was employed as a Director in the Office for Community Affairs of the New York City Police Department. She then attended the Columbia Law School and graduated in 1991. After practicing law for five years, she returned to city government and joined the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) as the Director of Community Planning and Development from 1996 to 1998. In 1998, she was appointed as the Assistant Commissioner for the Office of External Affairs and in 2002 she became the Associate Commissioner for Youth Development and Special Counsel to the Commissioner. Presently she is serving as the new Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Community and Government Affairs.

She currently serves on many Boards including, the Board of the Metropolitan Montessori School and Children for Children's Inc. Anne was the 1999 Recipient of the Young Women in Government Award from the Mayor's Commission on Women's Issues.

Anne and her husband Phil Isom, a partner in the law firm of O'Melvney and Meyers LLP reside in Central Harlem along with Anne's mother and their three children, Aiyanna, age 13 Phillip, age 10 and Ande, age 4.