



Panelist Biographies

Author Talk with Jay Mathews, January 28, 2009

Richard Barth joined the Knowledge Is Power Program in December 2005. As president and CEO of the KIPP Foundation, Barth led the organization through the process of identifying five organizational imperatives to ensure the sustainability of the KIPP network as it grows to over 100 schools in the next five years. In the past two years, he has overseen the expansion of KIPP's leadership development programs, put in place a disciplined approach to managing growth, recruited three new outside directors to the KIPP Foundation board, and secured over \$30 million in new, long-term funding commitments. He also serves as president of the KIPP Foundation board of directors. Barth came to KIPP from Edison Schools, where he served as president of District Partnerships and managed Edison Schools' partnership in Philadelphia. Prior to joining Edison, Barth was one of the founding staff members at Teach for America. He earned a bachelor's in American history from Harvard University. Barth is an Aspen Institute-NewSchools fellow and currently sits on the board of directors of The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems and Be the Change, Inc.

Jonah Martin Edelman is the co-founder and executive director of Stand for Children, a grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to helping all children get the excellent public education and strong support they need to thrive. Since 1999, Stand for Children members in Oregon, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Washington have achieved a number of important education reforms, leveraging more than \$2.3 billion in public funding for education programs for children.

Edelman's personal stand for children began when he taught a six-year-old bilingual child in New Haven, Conn., to read. More volunteer efforts followed. He ran a teen pregnancy prevention speakers bureau, founded a mentorship program for middle school students, and served as an administrator of an enrichment program for children living in public housing—Leadership Education and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP).

Edelman is a graduate of Yale University and attended Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship, earning his masters and doctor of philosophy degrees in politics in three years. Edelman, who was born and raised in Washington, D.C., is also an Ashoka fellow and a Hunt Alternatives Fund Prime Mover.

Jay Mathews covers education for the *Washington Post* and is the creator of *Newsweek's* annual Best High Schools rankings. He has won the Benjamin Fine Award for Outstanding Education Reporting for both features and column writing and is the author of six previous books, including *Escalante: The Best Teacher in America*, about the teacher who was immortalized in the movie "Stand and Deliver," and most recently, *Work Hard. Be Nice: How*

Two Inspired Teachers Created the Most Promising Schools in America, which chronicles the founding of the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP).

Andrew J. Rotherham is co-founder and co-director of Education Sector, a national education policy think tank. He also writes the award-winning blog Eduwonk.com, which an *Education Week* study cited as among the most influential information sources in education today, as well as a regular column for *U.S. News & World Report*. In addition, Rotherham serves on the nine-member Virginia Board of Education, a position he was appointed to by Governor Mark Warner in 2005. Previously, Rotherham served at The White House as special assistant to the president for domestic policy during the Clinton administration. Rotherham is the author of more than 100 articles, book chapters, papers, and op-eds about education policy and politics and is the author or co-editor of four influential books on educational policy. He serves on advisory boards and committees for a variety of organizations including The Broad Foundation, Harvard University, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and the National Governors Association. Rotherham is also a trustee of the César Chávez Public Charter High School for Public Policy and a member of the board of directors for the Indianapolis Mind Trust and Democrats for Education Reform.