

## Rutgers Leadership Academy (RLA) 2019-2020 Fellow Biographies

Nominee Name	Nominee Biography
Diane Ambrose	<p>Diane Ambrose has been active in research administration at a university level for over 20 years. Prior to joining the ranks of administrators, she was a post-doctoral fellow at Fox Chase Cancer Center in the greater Philadelphia area and a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania. However, Diane decided early in her career that she was better suited to facilitating research than conducting it as a bench scientist. At Rutgers and subsequently UMDNJ, Diane was able to grow professionally as a research administrator and was afforded the opportunity to work on a variety of issues and projects, which expanded the breadth of her knowledge as well as the depth. As Director of Research and Sponsored Programs since 2014, Diane has been a key player in the integration of the Rutgers and UMDNJ research administrations. She implemented the pre-award electronic review and submission system (RAPSS) and revised or created many policies and processes to increase the effectiveness of the office. She also restructured the office to provide more efficient, effective service to the Rutgers' research community. Diane also led the development of a research administration training program, which is available to all staff. Her role has recently expanded to include research development at the central office level and expansion of the office's educational programs to include more areas of interest and cooperation with other programs throughout Rutgers.</p>
Azima Ashraf	<p>Azima Ashraf is certified as diplomate in the specialty of Psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and has practiced adult psychiatry in various levels of care over the past 13 years, including outpatient, partial, and inpatient. Two years ago, she was promoted to the position of Unit Chief, Adult Inpatient Unit (AIPU) at UBHC. In that capacity, Azima has developed and implemented a coordinated health services education program in a multidisciplinary environment utilizing several educational modalities such as lecture series on psychopharmacology, clinical case presentations, and case vignettes regarding the treatment of patients diagnosed with severe and persistent mental disorders. The initiatives are geared to students from diverse disciplines including medicine and pharmacy and have been well received including recognition by students with a teaching faculty award. Further, Azima oversees the clinical service delivery of mental health specialists, nurses, physician assistants, social workers, advanced practice nurses, medical students, residents, and attending physicians. Her goal is to create the best academic environment in the acute psychiatric treatment setting. In addition to clinical service, Azima dedicates time to serving the community, including educational sessions for patients and family members to discuss perceptions and treatment regarding mental disorders in general.</p>
Sahar Aziz	<p>Sahar Aziz has over eighteen years of professional experience, of which seven are as a practicing attorney and eight as a law professor. Her experiences are wide ranging from project management, litigation, and legal scholarship, to founding two nonprofits - one of which she current directs at Rutgers Law School. Having worked in the private sector for nearly ten years, Sahar values efficiency and measurable impact in her work. Her strong work ethic and ambition have resulted in twenty three law review articles and book chapters published in less than eight years; as well as nearing completion on her first monograph to be published by Harvard University Press. Sahar has put her scholarly expertise into practice both through teaching and mentoring students as well as the creation of the Rutgers Center for Security, Race and Rights. Her experiences in the legal field and as a faculty member have generated multiple ideas for improving legal education and contributing toward public universities serving as anchor institutions in their cities and states. As a Fellow in the Rutgers Leadership Academy, Sahar hopes to gain the skills to meet the demands and challenges of leadership at one of the nation's largest public universities.</p>
Sanjib Bhuyan	<p>Sanjib Bhuyan has been at RU-NB since July 1997, devoted to research and teaching in food industry competitiveness, cooperatives, and consumer behavior, as well as service to his profession, to the University, and to society in general. Sanjib's professional career highlights include: publishing research articles in top-rated journals in his field; research findings are used in economics textbooks and cited by numerous researchers; being invited to speak at both national and international conferences; being invited regularly to teach abroad; being elected to lead the New Brunswick Faculty Council, representing Cook/SEBS as a Senator since 2004; and leading the Graduate Program in Food and Business Economics for over a decade. Additionally, Sanjib has volunteered and been invited to speak to many associations and groups outside academia. For example, he has aided the National Alpaca Farmers' Cooperative in their marketing strategy development and provided data and analytical support to the U.S. Senate Agricultural Committee on competition in the U.S. food industry. Currently, Sanjib also leads the ASA Foundation, Inc. as its President. With leadership experience at various levels in academia and beyond, Sanjib will provide a unique perspective to the RLA.</p>

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Michael Brown	Michael Brown is the Assistant Dean of Access Programs in the School of Engineering.
Helen Brown-Liburd	Helen is an Associate Professor at Rutgers Business School where she teaches in the accounting program and is the Associate Director of the Continuous Auditing and Reporting Lab (CARLab). Her research examines auditors' and investors' judgment and decision making and the impact of advanced technological tools and techniques on the audit process. Before joining Rutgers, Helen was on the faculty at Boston College. Helen earned her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a BBA from Bernard M. Baruch College. She is a Certified Public Accountant, and before pursuing her doctoral studies, she worked for Bristol-Myers Squibb, PepsiCo, Ernst & Young, and KPMG. After several years working in Corporate America, Helen decided that the next phase of her career was better spent doing work that was more meaningful and rewarding. Therefore, presented with the opportunity to become a college professor, she took full advantage. Being a college professor has allowed Helen to help fulfill the mission of the PhD Project, to increase workplace diversity by increasing the diversity of business school faculty who encourage, mentor, support, and enhance the preparation of tomorrow's leaders. Helen is a KPMG Doctoral Scholar and a University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business Advanced Opportunity Fellow. She is a member of the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc., the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the American Accounting Association.
Tynisha Coleman	Tynisha Coleman is a project manager in the Office of Faculty Affairs at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) where she oversees a broad portfolio of process improvement and communication initiatives. She serves as a liaison between the Office of Faculty Affairs and the eight RBHS schools to implement programs initiated by the Provost's and the Vice Chancellor for Faculty Development. Prior to joining RBHS, Tynisha worked in non-profit and government agencies in the field of community development, workforce development, housing, and sustainability. She made the transition to education as manager of operations at Newark Public Schools where she managed finances for several departments, acted as an adviser to school leaders and department heads, and assisted with operational reform. Tynisha is a Rutgers alumna, earning a BA in Urban Studies and Community Development from Douglass College, and a Masters in City in Regional Planning from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.
Adam Day	Adam Day is Assistant Treasurer at Rutgers University, with responsibility for the University's Treasury function including day-to-day Treasury Operations, Cash and Liquidity, Investment of Operating Funds, Debt Management, and the University's Internal Bank. Adam began his career at Deutsche Bank, where he was Assistant Vice President of Cash Management Operations and head of U.S. Messaging Operations. Adam then went on to earn an M.B.A. from NYU's Leonard N. Stern School of Business with concentrations in Finance, Strategy, and Social Innovation and Impact. After business school, Adam was a Senior Management Consultant with Grant Thornton's Not-for-Profit and Higher Education advisory practice, then went on to serve as a Manager in Tyco International's Treasury department, with responsibility for Cash and Liquidity, Foreign Exchange Hedging, Investments, and Intercompany Funding, before coming to Rutgers in 2017. Adam is a Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) and holds a BA in Economics from Rutgers University and the aforementioned MBA from NYU's Stern School of Business.
Mehtap Ferrazzano	Mehtap S. Ferrazzano is the assistant dean for student engagement for the School of Nursing at Rutgers University. She comes to Rutgers with over a decade of higher education experience in student engagement and leadership, student activities, special events, residential life, student conduct, student engagement, student services, multicultural affairs, assessment, and professional development. She has a strong passion for student success and has made a positive impact on numerous institutions. Her current role oversees supporting Ph.D., DNP, Masters, second-degree and traditional undergraduate students on both the Newark and New Brunswick campus along with their satellite program in Blackwood, NJ. She is also a second-year Ph.D. student in the Higher Education Leadership program at Rutgers University. She is also a new mom to her daughter, Zara. She hopes that her leading by example approach to her work and home life will inspire her daughter.

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Robyn Ginese	<p>Robyn Ginese is the director for leadership and experiential learning at Rutgers where she has worked to advance the vision, strategy, and management of a new office tasked with designing diverse leadership development opportunities community-wide. She is a dynamic leader with expertise in instructional design, organizational change, and student and staff development. With over twelve years of progressive experience in higher education and student affairs, Robyn has experience in multiple functional areas including design and oversight of institutional leadership models, large-scale programming, club and organization management, student government association advisement, Greek Life, recruitment and training, service-learning initiatives, and experience in residence life, multicultural education, and career development. She cultivates leadership through experiential learning and creates structure and procedure to advance newly designed initiatives with a strategic focus on blending ingenuity with implementation. With experience working within a range of institutional types and serving national associations, Robyn has developed a broad range of populations from youth to adult learners, and college to corporate audiences. She graduated with a Master's of Education from the University of Connecticut and a Bachelor's from Brandeis University with a double major in Political Science and History and a Concentration in Legal Studies.</p>
Yvonne Gonzalez	<p>Yvonne Gonzalez, a Rutgers University Alumna, has 12+ years of experience in the development and management of several multi-million dollar education and workforce development projects aimed to increase the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women and minorities in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. Supporting the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Yvonne helps university leadership maximize talents and opportunities for individuals and the institution by developing strategies that build capacity and advance faculty development initiatives university-wide. Most recently, Yvonne has pioneered Rutgers' first Faculty Learning Community, now called Faculty Leading Change, and Rutgers' first faculty-to-faculty mentoring program, called the Rutgers Connection Network Mentoring Program, which has resulted in increased levels of productivity and career satisfaction for faculty. She also oversees the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, which supports postdoctoral researchers and their faculty mentors by providing a central hub for professional development opportunities, knowledge sharing, and community building. Currently pursuing a Masters in Human Resource Management, Yvonne is a strong advocate for investing in people first.</p>
Jeremy Grayson	<p>Jeremy Grayson has served on various hospital, medical school, and departmental committees which have provided the initial framework for working in leadership positions. In addition, he has served as Associate Program Director, and Program Director for the Department of Anesthesia. Jeremy wants to be able to learn how to work in a leadership capacity, effectively, and efficiently to influence change and create the Pediatric center of excellence NJ truly deserves; implementing the numerous ideas and programs that will elevate the hospital and University. Jeremy feels that having grown up locally, and having been involved in local politics - currently as a member of the Montgomery Board of Health for a 3 year term - has afforded him a unique perspective and understanding. With his connections and passion, Jeremy feels that this leadership training will enable him to develop the 3rd leg to his stool, which will allow him to become an effective leader, and possibly one day an executive of the institution which has provided him with his initial growth; this is seemingly his logical next step, and with new leadership, an opportunity to finally make the difference he has been longing for.</p>
Roxanne Huertas	<p>Roxanne Huertas began working at Rutgers University-Camden in 2010, and began her employment as a department secretary providing office support to an academic department. Since that time, she has steadily taken on new challenges, moving from academic support into Camden Human Resources. In HR, Roxanne has been promoted several times in the last five years, and has most recently been appointed as the new manager for the department. This progressive growth allowed for opportunities to move from support positions to becoming a first-line advisor for the leadership of the Camden campus. Prior to her employment at Rutgers, Roxanne spent six years working in student services at Princeton University, providing her with a varied background in higher education. Prior to that, Roxanne spent some time working for an HR consulting firm, providing her with a varied background in HR. Roxanne became a certified PHR (Professional in Human Resources) in 2017, and will finalize her re-certification through professional development credits in the next few months. She has also been an Advisor/Instructor for the HR Professional Certification programs through the RU-Camden Executive Education program for the last two years.</p>

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Myron Jordan	Myron Jordan has an extensive career in serving communities in New Jersey. Upon completing his Bachelor's Degree from Montclair State University, he accepted a position in the Division Child Protective Services. After four years of service with DCPS he gave into his desire to pursue a career in law enforcement and began working with Rutgers University in 2005 as a patrol officer. While in the Academy he distinguished himself and earned honors as a leader for his academy class. By 2009 he became a Field Training Officer, an opportunity that is typically reserved for the more senior patrol officers. In addition to this leadership role, Myron was also selected to as a Range Instructor for the Essex County Police Academy, and frequently served as the Officer in Charge in the absence of a Sergeant while on duty. In 2015 Myron was promoted to Sergeant in the Patrol Division, and in October of 2018 he was selected to serve in the capacity of Acting Lieutenant, and is currently still serving in this role. Myron also holds two Master's Degrees from Fairleigh Dickinson University (MAS) and Rutgers University (MSW) and is a Range Master for the State of New Jersey.
Jacqueline Kozloski	Jacqueline Kozloski has over 25 years of community and academic health care marketing, public relations and communications experience; successfully raising awareness, promoting the brand and protecting the image of several health care institutions. In December 2016 she joined Rutgers as Director of Health Communications and Marketing. In this newly created role, Jackie provides direction on strategic initiatives in establishing Rutgers Health, the most comprehensive academic health care provider organization in New Jersey. Her responsibilities include positioning the brand, delivering targeted internal and external messaging, developing and executing marketing planning including web, multimedia content, advertising and collateral materials. Since 2017, she has served as the key point of contact for RWJBarnabas Health's strategic marketing and communications department during the recent master affiliation agreement, announcing the formation of the largest health care system in NJ.
Eldo Kuzhikandathil	Eldo Kuzhikandathil has a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters and PhD in Biological Sciences. He developed an interest in neuroscience during his graduate and post-doctoral work, and went on to establish a successful molecular neuropharmacology lab as a faculty member in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience at Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School in Newark. Following the merger of UMDNJ with Rutgers, the identification of neuroscience as a Signature Area and the formation of the new Brain Health Institute, Eldo saw an opportunity to employ his multidisciplinary background and first-hand experience as a faculty member to help grow neuroscience and brain health research at Rutgers. Eldo joined the Brain Health Institute in 2015 as its Managing Director and, over the last 4 years, has helped establish this new institute at Rutgers.
Rick Lee	Rick has been a long-standing member of the Rutgers community for over two decades. In that time, he has been recognized by the university for his leadership, teaching, and dedication to community-building: in 2013, Rick received the School of Arts and Sciences Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education, and, in 2014, the university honored him with the Clement A. Price Human Dignity Award. For the past four years, Rick has been active in the field of international education, serving in leadership roles in several professional organizations. In these capacities, he has participated in discussions addressing the challenges affecting international education and has helped develop forward-looking strategies for cultivating the field's next generation of leaders. For the past two years, Rick has also been an active participant in several interconnected conversations at Rutgers, including how to promote language engagement, advance study abroad, rethink area and regional studies, and transform the minor in international and global studies into a major. With these conversations in mind, Rick would like to develop a project for the Rutgers Leadership Academy that would harness his knowledge of the benefits of comprehensive internationalization to address the vital need to enhance global engagement opportunities for Rutgers undergraduate students.
Mingwei Liu	Mingwei Liu is an Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Ph.D. program at the School of Management and Labor Relations of Rutgers University, and Director of the Rutgers-Renmin Center for Global Work and Employment. He received a Ph.D. degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University. His research interests fall into three broad areas. The first is comparative employment relations and human resource management with a focus on Chinese employment relations, labor movement, human resource management, and labor and human resource issues in overseas Chinese multinational companies. The second is high performance work practices in different industries and national contexts. The third is labor standards and corporate social responsibility in global value chains. His publications appear in top industrial relations journals and numerous edited books. His research has won several prestigious national and international awards. In 2015 Professor Liu was selected as Chancellor's Scholar at Rutgers. Professor Liu provides consultation to a number of international organizations, governments, and multinational corporations. He is a founding trustee of Electronics Watch, an innovative organization focusing on labor rights in the global electronics value chains.

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Nell Maloney Patel	Nell Maloney Patel is the Program Director for General Surgery Residency, Faculty Secretary at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Treasurer for the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Medical Staff, and Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.
Jenna Marcus	Jenna Marcus has always been a natural leader. During her Obstetrics and Gynecology residency, Jenna was awarded the Honor Resident Award: given to one resident for excellence in teaching, teamwork, research and patient care. Following that, Jenna was chief administrative fellow in ger Gynecologic Oncology fellowship and was responsible for organization of didactics as well as fellow clinical and call schedules in addition her clinical activities. When Jenna began as a faculty member at Rutgers NJMS, she quickly rose up the ranks in leadership roles within her department and the hospital. Within her department, Jenna serves as Director of Robotic Surgery and is the physician lead on all measures of quality metrics. Recently, Jenna was voted as Chair of the Robotics Steering Committee for the hospital. In her clinical practice, Jenna has recently become the PI on a large, industry sponsored trial and is the lead recruiter for clinical studies. Jenna has the qualifications and skill set to progress in her leadership path, motivated by the fact that without good leadership, the whole system suffers.
Francesca Maresca	In her higher education career, Francesca Maresca has developed a wide-ranging 20 years' of experience with increasing leadership responsibilities. She currently co-chairs Division-wide committees/initiatives and expects her responsibilities to expand in the upcoming academic year. Francesca has extensive experience addressing health, wellness and well-being with expertise in mental health/suicide prevention, alcohol and other drugs, and sexual and reproductive health, including training, message development, information dissemination, media campaigns, and assessment. She is a collaborative community partner, working with a broad range of colleagues in Residence Life, Student Life, Cultural Centers, Recreation, Dining Services, and Athletics. In the upcoming year, Francesca will be directly supervising Nourish: The Wellness Living & Learning Community, as well as developing and implementing a peer coaching initiative. Within Health Outreach, Promotion and Education, Francesca is responsible for providing leadership and vision, guiding and implementing the strategic planning process, and collaborating with colleagues across the University. Currently, Francesca has four direct reports, oversees two peer education programs, and coordinates and supervises the rapid-result HIV testing program. Finally, she has been an adjunct instructor for the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy for seventeen years and for the Graduate School of Education for seven years.
Theresa McCutcheon	Theresa McCutcheon's career has included success developing and managing programs across the state that effectively strengthen vulnerable children and families and build the capacity of the professionals who support them. As a leader commanding practical knowledge of human service systems and the needs of professionals within them, Theresa has led organizations in the prevention, early learning, education, and child welfare sectors. Theresa joined the Rutgers School of Social Work's Institute for Families seven years ago after leadership roles for statewide child abuse prevention efforts, training nationally for several parenting models, overseeing a school-based program for at-risk youth, managing volunteer centers, and mobilizing support for a statewide home visitation network. She earned a Master in Social Work with a concentration in Administration, Policy and Planning from Rutgers in 1992 and has served as a board member for several volunteer organizations. Theresa is currently working toward an MBA and serves as a part-time lecturer for the School of Social Work.
Scott Mellender	Scott Mellender is currently serving as the Vice Chairman of Academic Affairs in the Department of Anesthesia and Per-Operative Medicine at Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Additionally, Scott is the Anesthesia Residency Program Director for the past 4 years. When he took over, the program had been placed on probation and within 8 months of taking over, the program was taken off probation. Scott, also, is currently one of the Anesthesia Officers of the Day, who are responsible for coordinating the daily operating room assignments and running the OR for the day. 6 years ago Scott started working with Rutgers Athletics serving as there interventional pain management physician and is currently the Director of the New Jersey Pain Institute. Scott earned his medical degree from Health Science Center of New York-Syracuse and went on to complete residency training in surgery, anesthesiology with additional training in interventional pain management.

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Lisa Mulé	<p>Lisa is the Senior Executive Associate for Administration in the Dean's Office in the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. Lisa is in her twentieth year at Rutgers University and oversees all of the administrative functions at the School of Pharmacy which include Computer Operations, Continuing Education, and the Rutgers Industry Fellowship Program which is the top program in the nation. Lisa oversees all financials for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program and provides confidential support to the Dean and advises on personnel issues, etc. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature/Language and Elementary Education and has completed several post graduate programs at Rutgers such as the Rutgers Mini MBA program, the Rutgers Strategic Human Resources Certificate and the Master's Certificate in Leadership for the 21st Century.</p>
Brian Murphy	<p>Brian Murphy joined Rutgers University-Newark in 2016 to become the director of the Honors College after having taught at Baruch College for eight years in the history department, where he was tenured a year before coming to RU-Newark. This is Brian's first full time administrative appointment. His charge was to reinvigorate the program - now 47 years old, and a 'college' since 1999 - and integrate it with a new residential honors initiative on campus. Brian has since led a redesign of the curriculum that centers project-based learning in the liberal arts and creates pathways for students in different disciplinary areas. He strengthened the senior thesis capstone and launched both a cohort-building freshman colloquium and a study abroad program in Malta. Brian has worked with a development team to form an alumni advisory board that has already offered mentoring and internships to students. He has collaborated with lab directors, faculty, staff, and administrators to relaunch the Newark campus's annual Research Week with more events and better visibility for an undergraduate research exhibition. Last fall he launched an in-house fellowships and scholarships advising office that serves all RU-Newark undergraduates and promotes joint degree and summer research opportunities within the Honors College. He has a B.A. from Haverford College, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia, and authored a prize-winning first book "Building the Empire State: Political Economy in Early America" (Penn Press, 2015). He was a journalist prior to graduate school and has extensively covered New Jersey politics as both a print writer and an official on-air contributor at MSNBC. Brian grew up in Clifton and was a first-generation college student.</p>
Danielle Myricks	<p>Danielle Myricks is the director of compliance for Rutgers Athletics. She works with the Scarlet Knights' women's basketball, women's soccer, men's track and field/cross country, women's gymnastics, and women's volleyball programs. Prior to her arrival "On the Banks", Myricks spent a year and a half at the University of Connecticut, where she served in the office of athletic compliance. There, Myricks provided oversight of financial aid operations for all institutional sports and was the primary compliance contact for the Huskies' football, swimming and diving, women's track and field/cross country and volleyball teams. Myricks arrived in Storrs from the University of Texas, where she worked in the athletics risk management and compliance services office from 2013-16. Myricks was promoted to compliance coordinator during her time in Austin, as she operated as the primary recruiting contact for men's basketball and football. Myricks began her compliance career at Bethune-Cookman University as a compliance intern in 2013. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Baylor University in 2006 and her Juris Doctorate from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College of Law in 2013. At Baylor, Myricks was a four-year letterwinner and All-American for the track and field program.</p>
Holly Nelson	<p>As Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Rutgers, Holly Grace Nelson combines her professional design career with teaching and scholarship opportunities. She maintains an award-winning studio practice in Princeton, participates in American Society of Landscape Architecture (ASLA) activities nationally and at the state chapter level (NJASLA), and mentors students to win professional awards and to present at academic and professional conferences. Because she continues her design work, she extends student learning with educational opportunities to develop a project for a client from concept through installation. Her studios have installed several campus gardens, and twelve of her students received student design awards from the NJASLA and others. Collaborative, people-oriented design is a teaching theme. Collaboration starts in the educational setting with design studios that foster interactive learning amongst students and create a supportive and inspirational learning environment. Collaboration continues to the faculty level (co-teaching with colleagues inside and outside the discipline of Landscape Architecture), the institutional level (co-directing the undergraduate Environmental Planning and Design programs), and the community level (for instance, four studio collaborations with the National Park Service where the work of designing a landscape engages the public through the process of community-based design).</p>

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Stephen Nolan	Steve Nolan, a Cook College alumna, currently serves as Deputy General Counsel of the Legal Department's Health Care Practice Group. Steve has worked as an attorney in multiple settings over the past 27 years. He has served as a litigation partner with a large Philadelphia-based law firm; in-house counsel for Hackensack University Medical Center; General Counsel for the Devereux Foundation, a national behavioral health care provider; acting director of the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs; and in-house counsel for several higher education institutions. Steve also taught as an adjunct professor for the graduate program in health care management at Kean University. Finally, he has leadership and administration experience with several levels of municipal government, including as an elected Mayor, elected Council representative, and a member of the Planning Board.
Ajeenah Nurridin-Little	Ajeenah Nuriddin-Little is the Director of the Learning Center at Rutgers-University Camden. She joined the Rutgers-Camden community in October of 2016. Prior to serving in this role, Ajeenah served for thirteen years supporting traditional and nontraditional students at Peirce College with a focus on leading student success initiatives including state and federal grant programs and retention management initiatives. In addition, Ajeenah managed student affairs and lead a cross-functional committee responsible for the implementation of the strategic plan initiative under Guidance and Support to improve institutional outcomes related to first-year students. Although Ajeenah has only been with the university for a short three years she has instituted new initiatives supporting students academically including Supplemental Instruction and the use of online tutoring via Smarthinking. From an educational lens, Ajeenah earned her M.S. in Human Resource Counseling and her B. A. in Psychology from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Ajeenah is currently enrolled in Rowan University's Ed.D. in Educational Leadership program and is at the final stages of her dissertation. When not working on her dissertation or a new student success initiative, Ajeenah enjoys spending quality time with her husband and two beautiful children.
Maria Pellerano	For 11 years, Maria Pellerano has been teaching learners in medicine, health-related professions, and public health, developing new perspectives on community health, public health, upstream medicine, patient-centered care, social determinants of health, and health systems management, and working in teams that include community stakeholders and patient advocates. She engages community stakeholders in her research, particularly in the development of health and wellness metrics, resources, and programs that are truly useful to communities. Maria also engages a broad range of stakeholders to assist other investigators at Rutgers and at other institutions. Currently, Maria is working with other RWJMS faculty, staff and medical students to assess the impact and value of the School's service learning programs. Maria's work engaging community stakeholders, combined with her expertise in public health and business administration, has given her a rare combination of skills and knowledge. In her teaching and scholarship, Maria builds programs based on the social and community determinants of health. These programs have proven to be uniquely valuable to learners, colleagues, and community stakeholders. The RLA will help Maria resolve some of the challenges facing higher health profession education by taking a leadership role in building capacity for the health professions service learning environment.
Ines Rauschenbach	Ines Rauschenbach has been a non-tenure track faculty member in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology since July 2012. During the past few years, she has participated in various school and university-wide committees, such as the Assessment CimmtNB Faculty Council, the SEBS Strategic Planning Committee, and as Co-Chair for the Academic Integrity Task Force. Ines enjoys collaborating with other colleagues to advance the missions of educators and support student success. In addition, Ines is also working on building collaborations with other colleagues at Rutgers to establish successful research projects and demonstrate effectiveness of teaching. She believes that with the skills and competences learned during the leadership program will allow her to become a more productive member of the greater community of Rutgers University.
Emily Sabato	Emily Sabato joined Rutgers School of Dental Medicine in 2011 as Registrar, and is now Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and an Assistant Professor in Community Health. Emily holds a BS in Biological Systems Engineering from Texas A&M, and completed a MEd in Higher Education in 2007 and an EdD in Higher Education in 2014, both at the University of Pennsylvania. Since transitioning to a career in higher education, Emily has worked primarily at health science schools in roles ranging from student registration to clinical quality assurance and institutional assessment. Currently, she oversees curriculum management for RSDM and is co-chair for the school's accreditation self-study. Emily works extensively with faculty, the clinical dean, and IT staff for both curricular and accreditation matters, and has been the PI on a HRSA faculty development grant. Emily has published several articles related to student success, interprofessional education, and faculty development, and is currently chair-elect for the Academic Affairs section of the American Dental Education Association.

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Huzaifa Shakir	As a native of New Jersey, Huzaifa Shakir is proud to serve the communities in which he was raised. His education was a product of the hard work and commitment his parents had towards his future. Huzaifa attended boarding school at The Hill School in Pennsylvania and attended the Accelerated BA/MD Seven year program at Boston University School of Medicine. Huzaifa completed his General Surgery residency training at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, NY now known as Northwell Health. Huzaifa returned in 2004 to New Jersey to be close to family and friends. While living in his current home in East Brunswick, NJ, Huzaifa was fortunate to have completed a competitive fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. After completion, he joined St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, NJ which was one of the earliest and most prominent heart programs in the state known as the Eastern Heart Institute. During his career, Huzaifa has had the opportunity to hold various leadership and community service positions, most notably as Chief of Cardiac Surgery at St. Mary's Hospital in 2014 and more recently he was appointed to the East Brunswick Health Committee.
Eric Singer	Eric A. Singer, MD, MA, MS, FACS is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Radiology. He joined the faculty of the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in 2012 after completing a clinical and research fellowship in the Urologic Oncology Branch of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). He received his medical degree (MD) with Honors in Research from Georgetown University along with a master's degree (MA) in bioethics. Dr. Singer performed his general surgery and urologic surgery training at the University of Rochester Medical Center where he also did a fellowship in clinical ethics. Dr. Singer has completed certificates in Clinical Research from the National Institutes of Health and the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and a master's degree (MS) in Clinical and Translational Science at Rutgers University in May 2019. Dr. Singer has authored or co-authored more than one hundred published manuscripts and book chapters and has been invited to present his work at local, regional, national, and international meetings. He serves as a reviewer for several dozen journals and is on the editorial board of Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations, Translational Cancer Research, Disease Markers, and The Journal of Hospital Ethics. Dr. Singer is Director of the Kidney Cancer Program at Rutgers CINJ and Director of the Distinction in Bioethics Program at Rutgers RWJMS.
Sharon Stoerger	Sharon Stoerger (Ph.D.) is the Assistant Dean of Instructional Support and Assessment, which includes Instructional Design and Technology Services, in the School of Communication and Information (SC&I) at Rutgers University. She possesses a Master's in Business Administration (M.B.A.), a Master's in Information Science, and a Ph.D. in Information Science with a focus on pedagogical practices, emerging technology, and social informatics. Investigating ways to integrate technology into the educational experience in pedagogically sound ways is at the heart of much of Sharon's work. At the same time, addressing the needs and interests of a diverse population of learners in ways that lead to their success is a goal, as well. For example, in her former role as the Director of the Information Technology and Informatics (ITI) program, Sharon was a co-founder of the Women in ITI (WITI) student organization. Her research interests are very much aligned with this trajectory and include topics related to gender and computerization, instructional technologies, management in information organizations, and entrepreneurship.
Bianca Thompson-Owen	Currently, Bianca Thompson-Owen serves as the assistant dean for enrollment management and student success and the director of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program at the Rutgers School of Health Professions. She has over 15 years of experience in higher education severing in a variety of leadership and academic roles. Prior to working for higher education, Bianca counseled "at-risk" adolescents with career and educational guidance. As a foster child and "at-risk" youth, she understands the value of leadership and higher education, and has committed herself to philanthropy, educational excellence, and guided leadership. Bianca's mantra is "if not now, then when? If not me, then who?". This has served her well, as she continues her pursuit of crafting unique leadership principles. Bianca has been fortunate to represent Rutgers University in a variety of leadership roles for enrollment management on a national and regional level. She currently serves as the Chair for the Student Success task force for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Officers of Admissions, and as the Chair of the Scholarship Committee for the Black Caucus. Additionally, Bianca is the Vice President for Admissions for the Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.



## Rutgers Leadership Academy (RLA) 2019-2020 Fellow Biographies

Marc Weiner	<p>Marc Weiner (Ph.D., J.D.) is Associate Research Professor and Executive Director of Undergraduate Programs at the Bloustein School (EJB); he previously served as EJB's Director of Programmatic Assessment and Accreditation Support as well as EJB's Conflict of Interest Monitor. Marc sits on the UAALC's Working Group on Registration Holds and the New Brunswick Scheduling Working Group, both of which align with his intended RLA project: to improve undergraduate time-to-graduation rates. Marc was Associate Director of the Bloustein Center for Survey Research, Project Director for the Office of Population Research and Assistant Director for the Survey Research Center, both at Princeton University. He was the founding President of the New Jersey-Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research and served on the Executive Council of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations. Prior to returning to higher education, Marc spent ten years practicing law, where he honed several skills key to success in higher education administration including conflict resolution, regulatory interpretation, and collaborative policy drafting and implementation. Marc's research interests include quantitative and qualitative research methodologies; he has extensive teaching experience and has won two teaching awards, one from EJB for undergraduate teaching, and one from SGS for graduate teaching.</p>
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