

MARTIN J. BLANK
President, Institute for Educational Leadership
and
Director, Coalition for Community Schools

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, J.D.
Columbia University, A.B.

EXPERIENCE AT IEL

Institute for Educational Leadership (1985-present)

Martin Blank has been involved with efforts to create more effective relationships between schools and communities for the past 20 years. In the past decade he has served as the Director of the Coalition for Community Schools at IEL, an alliance of 170 national state and local organizations that seeks to deepen partnerships between school and community. The Coalition pursues a research, policy and advocacy agenda intended to integrate the assets and resources of communities and states into our public schools. Among the assets Blank has created for the Coalition is an Urban Community Schools Network of leaders from more than 20 cities. He also organized The Community Agenda for America's Public Schools, a vehicle for make explicit the importance of schools having robust relationships with families and communities.

Leadership development has been a key element of his recent work. He is the co-author of Community and Family Engagement: Principals Share What Works and the co-developer of Leading Change: Resources for Principal Preparation and Professional Development that focuses on family and community engagement.

In 1991 he was the Chairperson of a Study Group on Services Integration convened by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education. The study group issued Together We Can: A Guide to Crafting a ProFamily System of Education and Human Services that was influential in helping drive school and community collaboration and is still used today. He led the Together We Can Initiative that developed training programs and tools to assist schools and community agencies to work across boundaries to implement the Together We Can vision.

Blank also is the joint author of What It Takes: Structuring Interagency Partnerships to Connect Children and Families with Comprehensive Services and Education and Community Building: Connecting Two Worlds. Education and Community Building was one of the first papers to explain the factors that make the relationship between schools and other community agencies and organizations so challenging.

In addition, during this tenure at IEL, Marty was the senior facilitator for the Collaborative Leadership Development Program and participated in the design and implementation of IEL's

School Board Effectiveness Program.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Vice President, A.L. Nellum and Associates, Inc., Washington, D.C., 1970-1973 and 1977-1983

The oldest minority-owned management consulting company (\$5,000,000 annual billings) involved primarily in technical assistance and evaluation of human services, community development and international development programs.

Director of Operations, RJ Associates, Inc., Arlington, Va., 1973-1977

A woman-owned research firm specializing in education, employment and human services issues. Directed and participated in various studies and technical assistance projects:

Director of Program Planning, Peoples Involvement Corporation, Washington, D.C., 1968-1970

Assisted with the early development of this still operating community development corporation.

Prevocational Education Specialist, Institute of Computer Technology, Washington, D.C., 1967-1968. Taught adult education in early U.S. Department of Labor Manpower Program

Deputy Director, Missouri Associated Migrant Opportunity Services, Wardell, Missouri, 1966-1967. Helped to initiate first migrant education and training program in Missouri Bootheel.

VISTA Volunteer, Delmo Housing Corporation, Kennett, Missouri, 1965-1966

Served as community development worker in poor villages in Southeast Missouri

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES

Blank M, Shah B. and Melaville A, Making the Difference: Research and Practice in Community Schools, Institute for Educational Leadership, 2003.

Melaville A and Blank M., Together We Can: A Guide to Crafting a Pro-Family System of Education and Human Services. U.S. Department of Education, 1993

Blank, M. and Jehl, J., Education and Community Building, Connecting Two Worlds, Institute for Educational Leadership, 2000.

Melaville, A. and Blank M., What It Takes: Structuring Interagency Partnerships to Connect Children and Families with Comprehensive Services, Education and Human Services Consortium, 1989

Blank, M. and Shah B., Community Schools: Educators and Community Sharing Responsibility for Student Learning, Infobrief, Associations for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2003.

Blank, M. and Heifetz, O., Community Schools: Engaging Parents and Families The National Parents Teachers Association Magazine-Our Children, [January/February 2004]

Additional articles have been published in the American School Board Journal, Educational Leadership, the School Administrator and other magazines.

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Chair, Board of Directors DC VOICE, Washington DC. DC Voice is a community-based education reform collaborative.
- Chair, Management Team, Early Childhood Collaborative, Washington DC.
- Founding President, YACHAD, the Jewish Housing and Community Development Corporation.

PERSONAL

Marty is married to Helen Blank, Director of Leadership and Public Policy at the National Women's Law Center, and a nationally known early childhood advocate. He has two daughters. Liza is the Director of Family Engagement and Social Work at the DREAM Charter School in New York City. Molly is an independent film maker now living and working in Capetown South Africa.
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