NEW TECH NETWORK
COLLEGE ACCESS TEAM

Liz Bergeron serves as the Senior Director of Research for NTN. Liz has over 10 years of experience in teaching, research, and program management. She was previously an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin La-Crosse where she taught undergraduate courses in assessment, curriculum & instruction, research methods, and instructional technology. Prior to work at the university level, she was the Global Research Manager for the International Baccalaureate (IB) organization where she provided management and oversight for the Program Impact Department. Liz earned a PhD with a concentration in Science Education from George Mason University in 2011.

In partnership with the College Access Team, Liz will collaborate with the research consultant in the design of the research methods and oversee the consultant hired to collect and analyze data.

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.” – Zora Neale Hurston

LIZ BERGERON  | SENIOR DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
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Prior to joining NTN, Jennifer Bernicky served as Program Analyst for Ascendium Education Group where she managed grant dollars awarded to Tribal Colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the United States primarily serving first generation and students of color. The grant initiative funded math reform, emergency aid, and internship programs aimed to assist students to persist and graduate from college. In addition, Jennifer has worked as a Project Manager for Waukesha County Technical College managing multiple grants targeted to increasing course offerings for students to achieve their academic goals. She has also worked as a Career Advisor pairing students and graduates with local businesses for internship and employment opportunities. Jennifer holds a B.S. in Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

As the College Access Project Coordinator, Jennifer will maintain and regularly adjust detailed project schedules, coordinate activities and resources for the project, and regularly communicate with school teams.

“We don’t have to do all of it alone. We were never meant to.” – Brené Brown

JENNIFER BERNICKY | COLLEGE ACCESS COORDINATOR
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Lydia Dobyns is the President and CEO of New Tech Network, a leading design partner for comprehensive school change. During her career, she has been a technology entrepreneur and executive and also worked in education policy and in the nonprofit sector. Dobyns and CEO of Getting Smart, Tom Vander Ark, are co-authors of Better Together: How to Leverage School Networks For Smarter Personalized and Project Based Learning. Her entrepreneurial and executive career features work in the high tech, online services, consumer products and health care industries. She graduated with a B.A. in English from the University of California, Berkeley.

Lydia will provide organizational support for the NSI, including ensuring alignment to strategic priorities and building district partnerships.

“The arc of the moral universe may bend towards justice, but it doesn’t bend on its own.” - Barack Obama

LYDIA DOBYNS | PRESIDENT AND CEO
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MJ Martin has extensive work experience in a broad spectrum of professions. Prior to joining NTN, MJ spent time serving her childhood neighborhood in Emergency Medical Services. MJ felt the urge to do more and decided to join the U.S. Army, where she could use her experience in the emergency medical sector and apply it to a clinical environment that served thousands of soldiers. She was honorably discharged after serving her contractual obligation. This opportunity opened the door to the field of education.

MJ began to work at a local school district to help at-risk youth. She was a part of translating counseling services and running groups such as Anger Management and Tobacco and Drug Cessation. MJ holds a B.A. in Psychology from Brandman University.

As College Access Data Coordinator, MJ is responsible for supporting the data needs of the project evaluation team and the involved schools as they engage in the project. MJ will support the project team in collecting, storing, and reporting all the required high school college access data

“Be the person you needed when you were younger.” – Ayesha Siddiqi
As Chief Schools Officer, Jim May focuses on supporting the implementation efforts of over 175 schools in 29 states and Australia that make up the New Tech Network (NTN). Working to ensure that every NTN school has the support it needs to become a great school, he supports NTN’s school coaches, assessment initiatives, leadership development work, and national events. Prior to joining the New Tech Network in 2011, he was a founding staff member of Two River Public Charter School (an Expeditionary Learning School) in Washington, DC and served as the school’s Principal until 2010. In addition to his work at NTN, Jim teaches as an adjunct faculty member at the High Tech High Graduate School of Education and serves as a member of the graduate school’s advisory board. He has also served as a Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar, an education policy fellow at the Institute for Educational Leadership, and a fellow at the National Center for Leadership. Jim holds a bachelor’s degree from Presbyterian College and a master’s degree from The George Washington University.

Jim will serve as the primary contact to the districts participating in the NSI, including working with district teams to ensure that the work is moving forward, addressing system implications, planning for sustainability beyond the grant and identifying schools for participation in the network.

“Stillness is what creates love. Movement is what creates life. To be still and still moving - this is everything.” - Do Hyun Cho

JIM MAY | CHIEF SCHOOLS OFFICER
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Prior to joining NTN, Alana Mbanza has devoted herself to increasing college enrollment and graduation rates for historically underrepresented student populations. Alana has served as a key member on postsecondary leadership teams and has been instrumental in developing and implementing processes and systems at the school and network level. In this capacity, she has also worked closely with counselors and administrators to set postsecondary goals, manage and analyze data, and implement high impact strategies to support student success. Alana has contributed key ideas, lessons, and resources to a variety of publications including National Public Radio (NPR) and Money Magazine. The highlight of her career was winning the White House Reach Higher FAFSA Completion Challenge and meeting First Lady Michelle Obama. Alana Mbanza graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in Psychology and an M.A in African American Studies and Higher Education from the University of California, Los Angeles.

As College Access Coach, Alana is responsible for supporting the design and implementation of the College Access Network for School Improvement (NSI) that aims to yield improved student outcomes in college matriculation, enrollment, and persistence for students. Alana will partner with and support school teams on-site, during in-person convenings, and virtually.

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” - Maya Angelou

ALANA MBANZA | COLLEGE ACCESS COACH
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Ryan McBride’s work experience has included positions that span across the K-12, higher education, philanthropic, and government sectors. Prior to joining NTN, Ryan served as College Planning Manager with the New York City Department of Education where he helped manage the College Access for All Middle School Initiative, one of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Equity and Excellence Reform Initiatives. This initiative was aimed to build stronger college going cultures across all 520 NYC middle schools and impacted 70,000+ students. In addition, Ryan has worked as an Assistant Program Officer for the College Success Foundation in their Washington, D.C. office where he provided academic and scholarship support to college students. Ryan has also worked at the University of Michigan as an Academic Advisor, Community Outreach Coordinator, and College Adviser. Ryan holds a B.A. in English and M.A. in Higher Education, both from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

As College Access Coach, Ryan is responsible for supporting the design and implementation of the College Access Network for School Improvement (NSI) that aims to yield improved student outcomes in college matriculation, enrollment, and persistence for students. Ryan will partner with and support school teams on-site, during convenings, and virtually.

“There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.” - Nelson Mandela

RYAN MCBRIDE | COLLEGE ACCESS COACH
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As Chief Learning Officer, Megan Pacheco leads NTN’s innovation and improvement efforts. Megan joined NTN in 2005 and has served in a variety of roles, including school development coach and Senior Director of School Design. Prior to joining NTN, Megan was a lead teacher at the flagship school, Napa New Technology High School. In her current role, she has led key initiatives, including NTN’s elementary design work, improvement cohorts, research and measurement, literacy, math, and assessment. Megan graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1999 with a B.S. in mathematics and an M.A. in Mathematics Education from Sonoma State University.

Megan will oversee the College Access Network for School Improvement (NSI) activity, including working with the project team to ensure delivery of network services, monitoring network progress, providing budget oversight, and leading strategic planning.

“Through learning we extend our capacity to create, to be part of the generative process of life.” - Peter Senge

MEGAN PACHECO  |  CHIEF LEARNING OFFICER  
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Prior to joining NTN, Matthew Swenson served as the principal of Blytheville High School, A New Tech School. In 2014, he designed and led C^3 (College x Career x Choice) at Cross County High School, A New Tech School with the vision of ensuring that all students had meaningful choices at graduation and beyond. In 2017, he co-designed and co-led the Delta College Attainment Network (DCAN), a network of schools tasked with collaboratively building systems to ensure postsecondary success for all students. Matthew holds a B.S. in philosophy and political science from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Arkansas Tech University.

As College Access Director, Matthew is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the design and implementation of the College Access Network for School Improvement (NSI) with the aim of yielding improved student outcomes in college matriculation, enrollment, and persistence for students.

“Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets.”
- Attribution disputed

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