

**Julia B. Keleher, Ed.D., MBA, PMP**  
**Glen Mills, PA 19342 | 202.322.7373 | keleherjb@gmail.com**

***Dynamic leader and executive, committed to creating a more just society.***

*Seasoned policy and business leader with over two decades of experience and proven success in leading teams and solving complex problems. Agile thinker with expert analytical skills and the ability to integrate diverse perspectives and create scalable solutions. Lifelong learner who excels at aligning strategy, operations, and management to achieve sustainable change. Passionate advocate for social justice, diversity, and equity, with personal experience in the criminal justice system. Compassionate human being who inspires and motivates others to work towards eliminating oppressive systems that limit human potential*

Key accomplishments include:

- √ **Expanded workforce development programs three-fold, secured portfolio of Fair Chance employer partnerships, and doubled grant funding in less than 12 months**
- √ **Launched two successful consulting firms that specialize in operationalizing strategy and customizing implementation plans**
- √ **Led an agency with a 3.5b dollar budget and 50,000 employees; transformed operations, policy, and practice in ways that promoted equitable access to high quality public education**

**Chief Operating Officer, First State Educate/First State Action Fund** **August 2023 – Present**

Lead the development and implementation of strategic plans for affiliated (503(c)3 and 503(c)4 organizations with the mission of engaging and mobilizing Delawareans to create a more equitable, accountable, and effective public school system. Oversee family and community engagement, coalition building, and voter education programs; lead advocacy, lobbying, and organizing efforts; and coordinate the recruitment and training of school board members. Author communications that drive public discourse and develop compelling campaigns to attract funders. Build the financial, operational, and compliance infrastructure, manage shared infrastructure to optimize resource utilization, and evaluate mission advancement in a dynamic environment. Manage staff and consultants, creating feedback loops to guide team process and maximize organizational impact.

**Chief Strategy Officer (Consultant), Uplift Solutions, Phila. PA** **July 2022 – Present**

Develop and execute strategic plans, oversee operations, programming, and fundraising. Develop strategy for expanding and enhancing workforce development programs for justice-impacted youth and adults before and after incarceration. Ensure fidelity of program implementation, efficient resource utilization, and KPI reporting. Supervise the development of new grant applications and grant reporting. Design and implement strategies to expand employer partners and align programming with local economic development strategies.

**Smart Justice Ambassador, ACLU of Delaware** **September 2022 - Present**

Advocate supporting the ACLU's issue campaigns focused on Smart Justice Priorities and advocating for legislative changes that reduce the prison population and address racial disparities within the justice system.

**Founder, Solution Partners, Glen Mills, PA 19342** **April 2019 – Present**

Founder and principal consultant of a management consulting firm specializing in helping education and criminal justice reform organizations define and execute strategy. Services include strategic planning, program and project management, organizational assessments, change design, education program development, and program evaluation.

**Education Aide, Alderson Federal Prison Camp, Alderson, WV** **February 2022 – July 2022**

Instructor responsible for providing English language instruction and Adult Basic Education classes and pre-GED programming. Developed new resources and expanded programming. Provided keynote speech at GED graduation in May 2022. Provided training and support to women visiting the Law Library, created Tip Sheets and Navigation guides to generate greater understanding of resources available to inform legal filing and administrative remedies.

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**Chief Restructuring Officer/Sec Dept of Education, San Juan, PR** **Jan 2017 – April 2019**

Leadership position with focus on administrative restructuring, operations management, academic programming, and data driven reform strategies.

**Founder, Keleher and Associates, Washington, DC 20007** **April 2013 – Dec 2016**

Created, and ultimately sold, a consulting firm providing management consulting services in government and non-profit sectors.

**Manager, US Dept of Education, Washington, DC 20007** **Nov 2010 – April 2013**

Team leader responsible for improving Department-wide grants management and data/risk analytics.

**Program Specialist: US Dept of Education Washington, DC** **Oct 2007 – Nov 2010**

Program officer responsible for providing technical assistance to States and Local Districts in the design and implement educational programs.

**Compliance Manager: State Dept of Education, Washington, DC** **July 2008 – Nov 2008**

Consultant responsible for transformation of state agency responsible for oversight of public and charter schools into compliance.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

<b>Assistant to the Superintendent</b> , Red Clay Consolidated District, Wilmington, DE	06/05 – 09/07
<b>Assistant Principal</b> : AI High School, Red Clay Consolidated District, Wilmington, DE	07/04 – 07/05
<b>Guidance Counselor</b> : AI Middle School: Red Clay Consolidated District, Wilmington, DE	08/00 – 07/04
<b>Family and Community Liaison</b> : Sylvan Learning, Philadelphia, PA	08/97 – 07/00
<b>Research Assistant</b> : Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia: Philadelphia, PA	08/98 – 07/99

**ACADEMIC & BOARD EXPERIENCE**

<b>Adjunct Faculty: George Washington University</b>	
Sociology/Criminal Justice	October 2023 – Present
Decision Science/Project Management	April 2012 – July 2019
<b>Adjunct Faculty: Strayer University</b>	
Education, Psychology, and Social Sciences Courses	January 2009 – December 2011
<b>Board Member: National Assessment Governing Board</b>	October 2018 – July 2019

**EDUCATION**

Temple University	2023	Inside Out Educator
Blackstone Career Institute	2023	Paralegal Certificate
Widener Law School	2022	Paralegal Courses
Strayer University, Washington, DC	2013	MBA, Project Management (4.0)
University of Delaware, Newark, DE	2007	Ed. D.; Leadership/Policy (3.92)
University of Pennsylvania, Phila., PA	1998	M.S. Ed; Psychological Services (3.84)
University of Pennsylvania, Phila., PA	1996	BA; Political Science (3.36)

**ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

IELTS Exam Preparation (2020)  
CELTA Certification (A+, 2020)  
Certified Project Management Professional (PMP), Project Management Institute (2009)  
Certified Contract Officer's Representative (COR), Defense Acquisition University (2010)  
Strategic Decision Making and Risk Management, Stanford University (2012)  
Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt (2012)

**LANGUAGES**

English – Native Speaker  
Spanish – Fluent (C2)  
Italian – Upper Intermediate (B2)

**VOLUNTEER**

Mentor, Pennsylvania Prison Society	December 2022 – Present
Volunteer, Prisoners Legal Advocacy Network	September 2022 – September 2023
Volunteer, Nationalities Service Center	June 2021 – Present
Mentor, University of Delaware	September 2022 – Present

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Leadership Award for Valor in Crisis, Council Great City Schools, 2018  
Extraordinary Changemaker, The 74, 2017  
Outstanding Professor of Project Management, George Washington University 2014  
Government: Excellence Fellow: October 2010 – August 2011, Executive Institute Candidate: 2012  
Performance Awards/Outstanding: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

**WRITING SAMPLES**

Humanitarian Issues: <https://www.juliakeleher.com/blog/>  
Criminal Justice Issues: <https://jkbdefense.org/blog/>  
Micro-Biographies: <https://portraitsofcourage.org/portraits/>

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#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Keleher, J.B. (May 2019) <https://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/us/2019/05/29/puerto-rico-julia-keleherschools-poverty/>

Keleher, J.B. (April 2019). <https://www.the74million.org/article/keleher-as-puerto-ricos-educationsecretary-i-fought-for-the-islands-students-now-my-successors-must-take-up-the-battle/>

Keleher, J. B. (April 2019). <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2019/04/04/puerto-ricos-outgoingeducation-secretary-we-need.html>

Orengo-Aguayo, R., Stewart, R., Pastrana, F., de Arellano, M., Suarez-Kindy, J.L., & Keleher, J. (2018, July). Responding to traumatic stress post hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico: Brief ACT-informed group intervention with school personnel. Symposium presented at the Association for Contextual and Behavioral Sciences (ACBS), Montreal, CA.

Building State Capacity Productivity Center. Systemic Improvement in the State Education Agency. December 2014.

[http://www.elabs10.com/content/2010000862/Systemic Improvement in the SEA.pdf](http://www.elabs10.com/content/2010000862/Systemic%20Improvement%20in%20the%20SEA.pdf)

Julia Keleher and Young Kwak. Risk Analytics to Improve Grants Management and Organizational Performance in Federal Agencies. IBM Center for Business of Government. January 2015

Sam Redding, Ed.D. and Julia Keleher, Ed. D. Evaluation of Parent Involvement Programs. Promising Practices to Support Family Involvement in Schools. Information Age Publishing: Chicago, IL. January 2010.

Julia Keleher, Ed. D. The Case for Nonprofits' Use of Project Management & Ten Reasons Nonprofits Should Manage Project Risk. The Performance Institute. November 2010.

Julia Keleher, Ed. D. Data Driven Decision Making Among School Level Administrators and School Level Educators. Dissertation. University of Delaware. August 2007.

Douglas Archbald, Ph. D and Julia Keleher, Ed.D. Building Advanced Analytical Capacity for Monitoring Equity and Performance in the High School Curriculum. American Secondary Education April 2007.