

# Meet the Panelists



## Professor Natalie Thomas

Natalie Thomas is a professor/lecturer in the College of Education, Special Education Department at Towson University. She supervises interns during their senior year of student teaching, and teaches the course, Classroom Management and Collaboration. She retired from the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in June 2012, after 37 years of tenure. She serves on several community groups that are dedicated to ensuring academic and career success for African American students in MCPS. She is an advocate for families of students who are receiving special education services in public schools in the state of Maryland and Washington, DC. She also helps and supports new teachers when they enter the work force in MCPS. She is currently serving on the MCPS Recovery Plan Committee.

## Dr. Daman Harris

Dr. Daman Harris is currently an assistant principal in Montgomery County Public Schools and a BOND Project Leadership Team member. He is a certified reading specialist and special educator with experience in academic support, student discipline, community outreach, technical assistance, and program evaluation. Dr. Harris is also an adjunct instructor for McDaniel College and the University of Maryland at College Park, where he teaches courses related to effective teaching methods, conducting research, and cultural proficiency.



## Dr. Joshua Starr

Dr. Joshua Starr served as the superintendent of schools in Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland for nearly four years. Prior to that, he was superintendent of schools for Stamford, Conn., for six years. Dr. Starr began his career teaching special education in Brooklyn, N.Y. He then became a central office leader in school districts in the NY metropolitan area and then served in the New York City Department of Education. Dr. Starr has a bachelor's degree in English and History from the University of Wisconsin, a master's degree in special education from Brooklyn College, and a doctorate in education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.