

JED Expert Bios



John MacPhee

Chief Executive Officer

John brings 25 years of leadership and management experience from the business and not-for-profit settings to his role at JED. Passionate about supporting young adults in their transition to adulthood, John advises several organizations including the S. Jay Levy Fellowship for Future Leaders at City College, Trek Medics, Crisis Text Line, the Health Policy and Management Department at the Mailman School of Public Health, and HIV Hero. Earlier in his career, he served in executive positions for Par Pharmaceutical, Inc. and Forest Laboratories, where he oversaw functions such as business development, alliance management, clinical development, regulatory affairs, sales and marketing.

Reflecting his passion for healthcare, John continues to contribute to the development of novel medications for disorders such as Parkinson's disease through board roles with Adamas Pharmaceuticals and Blackthorn Therapeutics. In 2016, John received The Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence in the field of public health from the Joseph L. Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

John earned a BA from Columbia College, an MBA from New York University and an MPH from Columbia University.



Rebecca Benghiat

President & Chief Operating Officer

Rebecca Benghiat has dedicated her career to working in service of the mental health and well-being of children and young adults. Most recently, Rebecca served as the Chief Operating and Advancement Officer at The Quad Preparatory School, a nationally recognized K-12 independent school in New York City that integrates an academically rigorous curriculum with evidence-based social emotional learning, specifically designed to support gifted children with learning differences.

Prior to Quad Prep, Rebecca served as Executive Director of Facing Addiction with NCADD, responsible for all executive management functions for this leading national opioid addiction advocacy organization. Previously, Rebecca supported the rapid scaling of citiesRISE, a multi-million-dollar international youth mental health organization, to ensure the organization's strategic and operational success. Rebecca has also spearheaded the launch of several multi-million-dollar philanthropic organizations, including the Child Mind Institute, the Seleni Institute, and the New Space for Women's Health.

Rebecca is a graduate of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, certified in alternative dispute resolution and she has mediated a wide variety of claims in New York County civil and small claims courts. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Public Policy, with a focus on organizational analysis, from The University of Chicago.





Suzanne Button, Ph.D.

Senior Clinical Director, High School Programming

Suzanne became a member of the JED team after a 20-year career working with adolescents, children, their families, and the systems that serve and educate youth. She is a licensed clinical psychologist in New York State. Before coming to JED, Suzanne was a Policy Fellow with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and supported the implementation, monitoring, and sustaining of large-scale procedural and practice changes in behavioral health, social service, and educational settings.

Throughout her distinguished career, Suzanne has published, presented, and trained nationally on such subjects as effective EBP implementation in public service systems, the infusion of collaborative practice into the treatment and education of disadvantaged youth and families, and the use of technology to transform clinical practice.

Suzanne received a B.S. from Hunter College/CUNY, a M.Ed. from the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia, and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences at the University of Virginia.



John Dunkle, Ph.D.

Senior Clinical Director, Higher Education

John joined the JED team following a 25-year career at the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS at Northwestern University (NU)). He served as the Executive Director (CAPS) for 15 years, and for three years he also supervised the NU Center for Awareness, Response, and Education (CARE), which provides confidential advocacy and support services for students affected by sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking.

John received his B.A. degree in psychology, and his M.A. degree in experimental psychology from the State University of New York College at Cortland. He earned his Ph.D. degree in counseling psychology from the University at Albany, SUNY. He is a licensed psychologist in Illinois and New York and is credentialed by the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology. He is a member of the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and American College Health Association.



Nance Roy, Ed.D.

Chief Clinical Officer

Nance has over 20 years of experience as a psychologist working within the college mental health space. In addition to her work at JED, she is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Yale School of Medicine, Dept. of Psychiatry.

Nance was Director of the Health and Counseling Center at Sarah Lawrence College before becoming the Assistant Dean of Health and Wellness at Sarah Lawrence, and more recently was the Associate Dean of Health and Wellness at Rhode Island School of Design. She is a senior advisor for the National College Depression Partnership and her publications have focused on effective strategies for treatment and management of at-risk students on college campuses.

Nance earned a B.S. degree from the University of Rhode Island, an M.S. from the University of North Carolina and an Ed.D. from Harvard University.





Janis Whitlock, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Senior Advisor

Janis Whitlock has worked in the area of adolescent and young adult mental health, resilience, and wellbeing for over 30 years. She is dedicated to bridging science, practice, and lived experience wisdom in ways that inform, enhance and support the human capacity to thrive. She has experience as a frontline provider and program developer and, for the past two decades, as a researcher, educator, author, and public speaker in these and related areas.

As the founder and director of the Cornell Research Program on Self-Injury and Recovery, and the co-founder of the International Society for the Study of Self-Injury, she has deep expertise in areas of self-injury and related mental health challenges, including suicide, depression, and anxiety. She has also studied and written about connectedness, resilience, the role of social media in mental health and prevention, and sexual health.

Janis earned a doctorate in Developmental Psychology from Cornell University, a Master of Public Health from UNC Chapel Hill, and a BA from the University of California at Berkeley.



Keisha-Gaye Anderson

Senior Director, Communications

Keisha joined JED in 2020 with over 15 years of experience in higher education marketing and communications. Previously, she was the Director of News and Information at Brooklyn College, CUNY for seven years, where she oversaw editorial, public relations, executive communications, and served as the editor-in-chief of the alumni magazine. Prior to her work in higher education, Keisha was a print and television journalist at CBS, PBS, and various national consumer magazines. She is also an author whose poetry, fiction, and essays have been published widely in magazines and anthologies.

Keisha holds a B.A. in journalism and African American studies from the Syracuse University Newhouse School and College of Arts & Science respectively, and an M.F.A. in fiction from The City College, CUNY.



Katie Cunningham

Chief Programs & Operations Officer

Katie joined JED with nearly 15 years of management experience in the non-profit sector. Previously, she spent over three years serving as the Chief Operating Officer at Families for Excellent Schools and 11 years on the staff of Teach For America, where she served in various capacities including development, human resources, and teacher recruitment.

Before her transition to the non-profit sector in 2003, Katie worked in strategic planning and new product development at American Express. She holds a bachelor's degree in finance and management from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Harvard Business School.





Kamla Modi, Ph.D.

Director, Learning & Evaluation

Kamla joined JED in 2019 with 15 years of experience in non-profit, academic, community-based, and clinical settings focused on promoting the well-being of diverse groups of youth. In a previous role with the Girl Scout Research Institute, she led national studies with girls and adults to inform Girl Scouts' programming, policy and advocacy work, strategic direction, as well as to contribute to the body of knowledge on girls' health and well-being.

Kamla holds a PhD in applied developmental psychology from Fordham University and a BA from Rutgers University.



Wenimo Okoya, Ed.D., MPH

Director

Wenimo joined JED after 11 years of working in and with schools in communities of color. She started her career as a middle school teacher and after seeing the health disparities that affected her students and their families, she decided to pursue her Master of Public Health at the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health and later an Ed.D. in Health Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, where her research focus was the adoption of trauma sensitive practices in NYC schools. Most recently, she left the Children's Health Fund where for six years she helped build and run a school-based health program. She has also trained over 1000s of school professionals, presented at various national conferences, and teaches at CUNY Lehman College and Columbia Mailman School of Public Health.



Adee Shepen

Chief Development Officer

Adee brings more than 20 years of experience in development, community organization, programming, and board development to JED. Most recently, she served as the Northeast Director of Community Engagement for BBYO, the leading teen movement aspiring to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences.

Adee has also served as Director of Annual Giving at Yeshiva University, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations at Weill Cornell Medical College and Chief Development Officer at the Jewish Community Center of MetroWest. Adele attended Clark University.

