



## **Tony Walker – Professional Biography**

Tony Walker has been a practicing attorney since 1995. He is the Chairman of The Walker Law Group, P.C. with offices in Chicago, Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Gary, Indiana. Attorney Walker's practice includes representing churches, schools, and government agencies with focuses on real estate and litigation.

He is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Thought and Political Economy. Attorney Walker continued his post-baccalaureate education studying political science at Clark Atlanta University and then law at DePaul University where he received a Doctor of Jurisprudence.

After completing law school, Attorney Walker clerked for Indiana Supreme Court Justice Robert D. Rucker, then of the Indiana Court of Appeals, and later entered private practice with the firm Meyer, Lyles & Godshalk. Attorney Walker served as Legislative Counsel to the late Congresswoman Julia Carson on Capitol Hill.

He has previously been Chief of Staff of Radio One, Inc., a national broadcasting company targeting urban listeners, and Chief Operating Officer and Vice-President of Business and Legal Affairs for its gospel recording label, Music One. Attorney Walker executive produced more than ten radio shows on WLTH Radio in Northwest Indiana where he also hosted a weekly public affairs talk show for seven years.

In 2009, the Indiana Supreme Court appointed Attorney Walker as a Commissioner of the Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Commission where he was elected Chairman and continues to serve until 2019. In 2011, Governor Mitch Daniels appointed him to represent the First Congressional District on the State Board of Education. He served on the SBOE until 2015. Attorney Walker has also served as president of the board of trustees of the Gary Public Library and is a past chairman of the board for the Urban League of Northwest Indiana.

Attorney Walker is licensed to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, as well as the highest courts in New York, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania and in federal courts throughout the country.

## EARL MARTIN PHALEN

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**George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academies  
Founder and CEO**

**2011-present  
Indianapolis, IN**

In the spring of 2012, the George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academies were approved by the Indiana Charter School Board to open 10 Academies throughout Indiana. Referred to as PLA (Phalen Leadership Academies), this network of high-performing schools will provide a high quality education to nearly 10,000 children in Indiana. The mission of PLA is to ensure that each of our scholars meet high academic and social standards, and thrive as leaders at home, in their communities, and in the world. Our ultimate goal is that our scholars master key academic skills, and demonstrate strong character, as exhibited by honesty, service to others, a superior work ethic, and a strong vision for and belief in their futures.

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Approved to operate 10 charter schools for nearly 10,000 children, the largest number of charters approved in the history of Indiana.
- Approval constitutes a \$60.5M annual contract from the state of Indiana.
- Won the \$1M Mind Trust Charter School Incubator award, a highly competitive national competition to bring the nation's best charter schools to Indianapolis.
- Awarded a \$200k grant from the Charter School Growth Fund, a fund that invests only in the nation's highest performing charter schools.
- Built an exceptional leadership team including a COO, Founding Principal, and a team of exceptional teachers.
- To ensure the success of our scholars, innovatively using technology (a blended-learning model) to complement our exceptional teachers.
- Developed a business model to ensure long-term sustainability by operating only on the public reimbursement dollars we receive from the state of Indiana.
- Innovative program model that includes: a longer school day (8 hours per day vs. 6.5); a longer school year (200 days vs. 180); innovative use of technology; afternoon enrichment courses; collaboration with parents; and more.
- Attracted visibility including Fox59 news; Indianapolis Star; Indiana Business Journal; The Recorder; Amos Brown radio talk show and more.
- Established several key partnerships that will enhance our scholar experience including: Summer Advantage (25 additional learning days during the summer); IU Health (eye, dental and health screenings for our scholars); Kaboom! (playground for our scholars); AYS (before and after school care); and more.
- Preparing to launch a \$25M capital campaign to support our schools.
- Goal is to ensure that over 90% of our scholars pass state test (ISTEP); currently approximately 40% of children in our demographic profile pass ISTEP.
- By the end of the second school year, 100% of scholars passed the IREAD state exam, demonstrating reading proficiency by third grade.
- Across all grade levels, scholars increased from 49% to 76% proficient in reading, and from 66% to 77% proficient in math, based on STAR Reading, a nationally-normed assessment.
- Based on these strong results, PLA was selected to take leadership of the worst-

performing district school in Indianapolis Public Schools and transform it into the state's first-ever "Innovation Network School" beginning in the fall of 2015.

**Summer Advantage USA**  
**Founder and CEO**

**2008-present**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

The mission of Summer Advantage USA is to harness the power of summer to help all children maximize their tremendous innate potential. Summer Advantage is a full-day, 5-week educational program that includes a healthy breakfast and lunch; rigorous morning academic instruction in reading, writing and math; and afternoon enrichment in areas including art, music, drama, physical education and science. "Fun Fridays" include guest speakers, field trips and community service projects. Summer Advantage will one day provide high quality summer learning programs to over 100,000 children (grades K-8) throughout the U.S.

**KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Secured a \$1M grant and served nearly 1,000 scholars in the pilot (2009) summer.
- Ensured strong academic progress and superior program quality – scholars gained an average of 3 months reading, writing and math skills; and parent and teacher satisfaction rates were 97% and 98% respectively.
- Expanded the program by over 400% in 2010 – serving 5,000 scholars – while maintaining exceptionally high outcomes.
- Built an exceptional leadership team including a COO, Regional Director, and Director of Development. Team also included 435 certified teachers and college students.
- Became an approved professional development provider for the state of Indiana – Summer Advantage teachers get professional development points for participating in our 30-hour pre-program training.
- Attracted national visibility including TIME magazine (cover story), BET Awards, MSNBC, Wall Street Journal, Essence, the Chronicle of Philanthropy and several others.
- Plan to expand the program to over 5,000 scholars next summer.
- Have already secured commitments of \$3.5M over the coming three years and are included in a campaign to raise \$10M for our work.

**Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL)**  
**Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer**

**1993-2008**  
**Dorchester, MA**

BELL is a \$25M non-profit organization whose mission is to increase the educational and life opportunities of elementary school children living in low-income urban communities. BELL educates nearly 12,000 scholars in 75 public and charter school sites throughout Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, New York City, and Springfield, MA. BELL's corps of educators includes more than 1,000 teachers and tutors.

**VISION & ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES**

- Built a community based, national organization which today is among the top 1% of non-profit organizations in the country.
- Grew BELL from a local community service project with 10 volunteers serving 20

children to a national non-profit with 100+ full-time and 1,000+ part-time employees educating over 12,000 students annually.

- Developed a best-in-field evaluation and assessment team that measures BELL's effect on scholars' academic achievement, self-esteem and social skills, demonstrating scientific proof of the program's impact through an independent evaluation conducted by Urban Institute and Mathematica Policy Research.

## **FINANCE & OPERATIONS**

- Increased annual revenues from \$12,000 to \$25.5M and raised over \$51M cumulatively since 2003.
- Led fundraising efforts and built a development team to grow BELL's philanthropic base annually.
- Diversified revenue base to include a variety of sources including foundations, corporate, government, and individual donors.
- Developed strong banking relationships, helped negotiate creative financing deals, and built a sustainable business model utilizing government funding through the *No Child Left Behind* Act (NCLB).

## **STRATEGIC GROWTH & EXPANSION**

- Expanded BELL's leadership team to include over 12 senior managers and directors in teams spread across five geographic areas. Replicated BELL's model in four states.
- Reconstituted BELL's board of directors and established a strong, active, eleven-member governing board with active subcommittees.
- Worked with senior school administrators to develop new school districts and new school partnerships.
- Grew BELL's second region to scale (from 250 to 5,000+ scholars) in less than three years.

## **RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Established long-term and innovative corporate partnerships in the legal, publishing, sports, and banking industries. Partners include the New England Patriots, the Boston Red Sox, Houghton Mifflin Company, WilmerHale, the Monitor Group, Reebok, Fidelity, and Sovereign Bank. Each partner has played a key strategic role in advancing BELL's mission and service to scholars.
- Established a unique public-private partnership between the Baltimore City Public School System and BELL to be the exclusive outside provider for the district's summer school program.

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

- Served on the education policy group for Senator Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign (ongoing).
- Co-chair of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's education task force to help shape the Commonwealth's education policy, pre-Kindergarten through higher education (Spring 2007).

- Contributed to “The STEP UP Act of 2007,” United States Bill S.116 sponsored by Senators Barack Obama (D-IL) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), which highlights BELL as a model educational provider for elementary school students.
- Influenced practice and policy through knowledge dissemination and information sharing in research journals, news publications, and local and national educational forums. Publications include “Summertime: Confronting Risks, Explaining Solutions” (*New Directions in Youth Development*, Summer 2007) and “Inspiring Future Social Entrepreneurs” (*The Boston Globe*, July 2004).

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- Panelist for the National Urban League annual conference (July 2007), Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Summer Learning annual conference (April 2007), New Profit, Inc.’s “Gathering of Leaders” (February 2007), and an international forum hosted in Ireland by Atlantic Philanthropies, One Foundation and Ireland’s National Education and Welfare Board (May 2005).
- Featured panelist on MSNBC, BET’s “Meet the Faith,” New England Cable News’ “Wired,” WGBH-TV’s “Greater Boston with Emily Rooney,” and Fox’s national special, “Keeping America’s Promise” with General Colin Powell

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- Won 2010 BET Shine A Light for years of extraordinary service to Black children and families nationwide.
- Recipient, 1997 President’s Service Award from President Clinton, honoring the nation’s leading community service organizations.
- Three-time recipient of the Social Capitalist Award from *Fast Company*, recognizing BELL as “one of the top 25 organizations and entrepreneurs changing the world.”
- Recipient of *The Network Journal*’s “Top 40 Under 40” award, profiling the country’s top Black business owners and professionals.

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## **PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE**

1993-1994      **PAIGE ACADEMY**      Roxbury, MA  
*Teacher*

Elementary school teacher of History and Mathematics at Paige Academy.

Summer 1992      **ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE**      San Francisco, CA  
*Summer Associate*

Worked as a summer associate included, writing memos, writing briefs, and attending depositions. Special brief assignment for Disability Rights Education Fund was argued in front of the 9th Circuit.

Summer 1991      **JAMAICA COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**      Kingston, Jamaica  
*Legal Intern*

Assisted indigent clients in police brutality disputes, employment discrimination cases, and a

range of other issues. Wrote a policy paper which was used as a foundation for the legal aid reform movement in Jamaica.

1989-1990            **LUTHER PLACE NIGHT SHELTER**            Washington, DC

*Assistant Coordinator*

Involved in all daily tasks required to run a shelter for homeless women. Acted as counselor, co-leader of AIDS support group, and fund-raiser. Founder and director of the African-American Cultural Pride project. Wrote a policy paper on homelessness which was used by Washington D.C. Congressional candidate Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Summer 1988        **UNITED STATES CONGRESS**            Washington, DC

*Congressional Intern*

Served as an intern for Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA).

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## **EDUCATION**

**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL** J.D., 1993            Cambridge, MA

*Honors:*        Gary Bellow Public Service Award  
                  Muhammad Kenyatta Young Alumni Award  
                  Earl Warren Legal Scholar

*Activities:*   Co-Founder of Positive Images Mentoring Program  
                  Member of BLSA Executive Board

**YALE UNIVERSITY** B.A. Political Science, 1989            New Haven, CT

*Honors:*        Goodspeed Scholar  
                  Panelist, Black Entertainment Television's "Our Voices"

*Activities:*   Founder, Project Shelter  
                  Member, Yale University Men's Varsity Basketball Team  
                  Captain, Yale University J.V. Men's Basketball Team

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**PERSONAL**        Godfather to seven of 35 nephews and nieces; former 5 handicap in golf. Advisor and mentor to the young leaders of several start-up non-profit organizations.

March 21, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Eve Gomez. I was raised in Gary In and lived there for 21 years. I attended public schools up until middle school. Throughout the years, I have seen a decline in not only structurally but in our educational system, as a result of that I was enrolled in a parochial High School. I graduated from Andean High School in 1987. I am pleased and blessed that my parents made that decision for me. I was able to experience diversity and a higher quality of education. I will also add that I helped pay for my tuition because I felt that it was important for me to stay there. There was a huge lay off in US Still in 1985 so I had to make a decision and so I did, I started to work to pay for my tuition. This has helped me, at a very young age understand and know the importance of the quality in our education. I am a single mother of two children. My oldest went to private schools up until 8<sup>th</sup> grade, graduated from a public school, Morton Senior High School in Hammond In. My daughter went to private school from pre-k to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and then to a public school. She is now a Junior at Morton Senior High School waiting to graduate with an Academics Honor Diploma as a Junior with 57 credits. This shows how important education is to me. I have been involved in the community as an advocate for our youth, mentor, role model, public speaker, motivational speaker, Community Leader/activist and as the voice of many. I believe in diversity, equality and also to have the freedom to chose a better education for our children.

I am saying all this to say that I would be an asset to any organization or Board. I am very much interested in being part of your board, and being part of a team that puts students first!

My heart goes out to the youth of Gary and the surrounding cities. As an Advocate, it is important to help improve the quality of their lives and their educational life.

I am available for any meeting that is needed in order to help make the decision of having me come on board with you. I have been residing in Hammond In since 1996.

In choosing me, you will not only have someone that is compassionate but someone that truly loves children.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Sincerely,

Eve Gomez

**MICHAEL L. SUGGS**  
**1872 EAST 87TH AVENUE**  
**MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA 46410**  

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**TELEPHONE: 219-765-5857**

## **EDUCATION**

CORNELL UNIVERSITY ILR, NEW YORK CITY  
DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE, SCHOOL OF DIVERSITY  
MANAGEMENT  
2011-2012

INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA  

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B.S. Degree in Education, 1980  
Political Science, Minor.

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY**

#### **DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS INTEGRATION & STRATEGY 03-02-11 – PRESENT**

Reports to Chief Operations Officer for NIPSCO, in this role I am responsible for the Inclusion & Diversity efforts of the company, I manage the High Potential Employee program. I'm responsible for establishing and maintaining the image of the "Premier" energy provider in Indiana. My duties include managing charitable contributions, being the company spokesperson, as well as creating an inclusive environment for Federal, State and Local Elected Officials as well as Community Leaders to communicate with NIPSCO.

### **NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY**

#### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER 12-30-05 – 03-01-2011**

I'm NIPSCO's presence in Lake and Porter County Indiana. I'm responsible for establishing and maintaining the image of the "Premier" energy provider in Indiana. My duties include managing charitable contributions, being the company spokesperson, as well as creating an inclusive environment for Federal, State and Local Elected Officials as well as Community Leaders to communicate with NIPSCO.

### **WORK & RESOURCE PLANNER 05-01-2004 THRU 12-29-2005**

Manage and monitor work projects to ensure manpower availability to meet customer requirements. I manage the work schedules for Nipsco outside contractors along with Construction Department for the West Region.

### **ENERGY SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE 03-01-02 THRU 05-01-2004**

I performed Residential and Commercial, energy design and installation

responsibilities for the South Bend LOA. I was responsible for daily customer communications to insure timely installation of gas systems. I had responsibility for emergency maintenance and repair of gas distribution system.

**SHIFT SUPERVISOR CENTRAL OPERATIONS 06-01-01 THRU 03-01-02**

To assist and direct bargaining union work dispatchers

**TEAM LEADER CUSTOMER SERVICES SLC 01-09-95 THRU 05-31-01**

Plan, direct and administer the functions and activities of the Customer Care Center in a responsive and professional manner. Position was responsible for the integrity of our customer's perception of the effectiveness of Nipsco. I had to be responsive twenty-four (24) hours a day to all internal and external customers on a company wide basis. In the 3.5 years that I held this position. I received four (4) "Spot-Awards." This award is given to an employee who has demonstrated his/her ability to go beyond the scope of the position with results that net the department and the company either cost savings or revenue generation.

**ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN, ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR and ENERGY SERVICES ENGINEER, Various Districts, 11-16-1981 - 10-31-1991**

Commercial and Industrial account management, efforts toward being the single customer contact. I worked with Nipsco Energy Services Inc. (NESI) as a Gas Broker. I was responsible for acquiring new gas transportation customers. I personally added eleven (11) new transportation customers in my first six (6) months with NESI. The East Region led Nipsco, with 29 customers. I was required to monthly nominate, balance, store gas supply for the transportation customers. I also did the daily adjustments and balancing of their accounts. I performed energy audits for the commercial and residential business segment.

**BOARD AFFILIATES**

**American Association of Blacks in Energy, National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**  
**Legacy Foundation Board of Directors**  
**United Negro College Fund – Northwest Indiana Regional Council**  
**Indiana University Northwest School of Business Advisory Board**  
**Indiana University Northwest, Chancellor Advisory Board**  
**Purdue University Calumet Chancellor's Advisory Board**  
**Northwest Indiana Urban League**  
**Indiana Blacks in Philanthropy**

**ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATES**

**Indiana Electric Association**  
**Indiana Black Expo**  
**Lake Area United Way**

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

**Cadre Facilitation - Certification**

**Crisis Media Training**

**Contract Claims & Litigation Avoidance – The Condor Group**

**Excel Training**

**Management “MARC” Training**

**Manual “N” Load Calculation and System Design of HVAC Systems**

**Phone Pro Skills Training**

**Basic Skills Training**

**Mutual Gains Bargaining**

**NIPSCO Leadership Program - Instructed by the Center for Creative Leadership**

**TCS Tele-center Training ACD Call Management**

**Auto Cad**

Mr. James Harris  
State Farm Insurance  
3685 Grant St. Gary, IN 46408  
P: 219-884-1001 F: 219-985-6157  
Byqg@statefarm.com

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy Board Support Interest Request:

Attention: James Harris

My name is Michael L. Suggs, Director of Operations Integration at NIPSCO (Northern Indiana Public Service Company), it has been a personal passion of mine to support the education of youth. I have spent the majority of my professional career supporting causes that enrich the educational experience and opportunities of education to today's youth.

With this letter I'm formally agreeing if you so choose to use my skills and talents to support the TBL Academy in Gary, Indiana. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Best Regards,

Michael L. Suggs  
Director Operations, Integration & Strategy  
NIPSCO  
[msuggs@nisource.com](mailto:msuggs@nisource.com)  
Office: 219-647-4004  
Cell: 219-765-5857