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## **Jason Altenbern**

Mr. Altenbern is the Community Relations Coordinator with Indian Prairie School District 204. He works closely with many local businesses, local governmental agencies, and civic organizations to design and facilitate business/community partnerships to provide support to students/staff and advance the mission of District 204. He is a member of the district's communications team where he serves as staff liaison with the Indian Prairie Parents' Council and the Indian Prairie Educational Foundation. Previously, Mr. Altenbern was the Director of Community Development at North Central College and Associate Director of Student Life at DePaul University.

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## **Stephen Garlington**

Mr. Garlington serves as the Equity and Excellence Consultant for DuPage Regional Office of Education, in which he works collaboratively with the county's academic community to promote academic achievement initiatives. Previously, Mr. Garlington was the Interim Director for Psychology Services/Air National Guard and Regional Director for U.S. Department of Labor, Job Corps and Youth Services Division. He recently coauthored the ROE sponsored book, VOICES, African American and Latino Students' Perceptions Regarding the Academic Achievement Gap.

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## **Kathleen Panagopoulos**

Ms. Panagopoulos is a vice-president of the Indian Prairie Special Needs PTA, one of Illinois' oldest and largest special needs PTAs. In this role, she helps plan events for special needs families with an emphasis on helping the parents and caregivers of the children. Previously, she handled the public relations and community outreach for the Early Childhood Community Resource Fair, a free family event sponsored by Naperville Community School District #203 and Indian Prairie for three years.

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## **Brandon Pettigrew**

Mr. Pettigrew is the Communications Specialist for the Northern Illinois Food Bank, working with local and regional organizations and coalitions to help solve hunger throughout northern Illinois. He works in depth with state and federal programs dedicated to those living in poverty, as well as works to educate local officials, community organizations, and the public on poverty, economic inequality, and culture, as well as the effects they can have on food security. Previously, Mr. Pettigrew worked as a policy researcher to Senator Chuck Hagel, researching and developing bills on social and economic policy, including but not limited to the Farm Bill. Mr. Pettigrew has also played an active role in his local PTA, helping develop programs devoted to children on the National School Lunch program.

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## **Amit Thaker**

Mr. Thaker is the Director of Business Development at Linden Oaks, a part of Edward-Elmhurst Healthcare. Linden Oaks is a regional behavioral health organization focusing on treating patients for depression, anxiety, substance abuse, eating disorders and more. Prior to joining Linden Oaks, Mr. Thaker worked in management consulting focusing on operational efficiencies and strategic planning within the hospital setting. His primary goals include increasing awareness of mental health treatment options, increase access to that treatment, and decreasing the stigma associated with mental health.