

Chris Stewart



CEO of Brightbeam; member of the 8 Black Hands podcast

- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/citizenstewart/>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-parents-union/>
- Book author: *Read or Die* <https://www.facebook.com/events/d41d8cd9/read-or-die/981658705990565/>
- Bush \$100K Fellow <https://www.bushfoundation.org/bush-fellowship>
- Worked with Students for Ed Reform...think Democrats for Education Reform
- Acquaintance of Indy's Shwanta S. Barnes *IndyK12* Editor in Chief <https://indy.education/>

Christopher Stewart

Activist fighting for every child to have the freedom to learn, grow, and reach their God-given potential.
St Cloud, Minnesota, United States [Contact info](#)



[brightbeam](#)

About Chris Stewart

For nearly 20 years I have worked in service of families in poverty through direct services, program development, ministry, and activism. During that time I focused on developing public-private partnerships that improve child welfare and family economic security.

I am proud to have been elected as a member of the Minneapolis Board of Education and to have been selected as a 2014 Bush Foundation Fellow.

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Experience



Company Name [brightbeam](#)

Total Duration [7 yrs 2 mos](#)

Brightbeam is a nonprofit network of education activists demanding a better education and a brighter future for every child. It is the umbrella organization for the platform known as Education Post. Don't worry, Education Post is not going anywhere. Today it's one of many digital platforms including Citizen Education, Project Forever Free, and more than 20 other local and regional sites that spotlight education issues nationally. When Chris Stewart joined as CEO in May of 2019, we had an opportunity to broaden and deepen the impact we sought to make when we first launched Education Post in 2014. We've been exploring new

ways to make a difference in the lives of families and children, and while we've seen the futures of millions of children dimmed by our current education system, there is hope. We've seen what's possible when communities come together around a shared purpose. And across all of brightbeam's platforms and programs we will continue to amplify the voices of those who demand better — so that every child can get an education that leads to a brighter future.

Title Chief Executive Officer

Dates Employed Apr 2019 – Present

Employment Duration 2 yrs 6 mos

Location United States

Title Director of External Affairs

Dates Employed Aug 2014 – Apr 2019

Employment Duration 4 yrs 9 mos

We are a non-partisan communications organization dedicated to building support for student-focused improvements in public education from preschool to high school graduation.



Board Member

Company Name **EdNavigator**

Dates Employed Jun 2015 – Present

Employment Duration 6 yrs 4 mos

We're a nonprofit organization working to help families give their kids the best education possible.

President and CEO

Company Name **Wayfinder Foundation for The Least of These**

Dates Employed Apr 2017 – Apr 2019

Employment Duration 2 yrs 1 mo

Location Minnesota and Washington, D.C.

2014 - 2016 Fellow

Company Name **Bush Foundation**

Dates Employed May 2014 – Apr 2019

Employment Duration 5 yrs

Location Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

The Fellowship is an opportunity for Bush Fellows to increase their capacity for leadership by pursuing learning experiences that will increase their knowledge, and by developing the skills and personal attributes necessary to be an effective leader.



Board Chair

Company Name **Students For Education Reform**

Dates Employed Dec 2013 – Apr 2017

Employment Duration 3 yrs 5 mos
Location Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

Board leadership that supports strategic planning and mission achievement for a student-led movement to end educational injustice.

Board Member Charter School Partners

Dates Employed Apr 2011 – Apr 2015
Employment Duration 4 yrs 1 mo
Location Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

Board leadership that provides strategic insights into community building in support of developing great schools in places where they do not exist.



Director - African American Leadership Forum
Company Name **Headwaters Foundation for Justice**
Dates Employed Apr 2012 – Aug 2014
Employment Duration 2 yrs 5 mos
Location Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

Founding director of the African American Leadership Forum (AALF), a Twin Cities-based intergenerational network of leaders developing and implementing a black agenda.



Asset Development Consultant
Company Name **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**
Dates Employed Oct 2009 – Mar 2013
Employment Duration 3 yrs 6 mos

Developed community inclusion strategy to support economic development projects in marginalized communities.

Board Member
Company Name **Northside Achievement Zone**
Dates Employed Dec 2010 – Jul 2012
Employment Duration 1 yr 8 mos

The Northside Achievement Zone, a 501(c)(3), is turning the momentum built over the past few years of lining up around our common vision of all kids in the Zone becoming college-ready into results from our strategies in the Zone. Our collaborative effort has made significant progress in positioning our efforts for success, from the PEACE Foundation's initial family engagement strategies to the way in which organizational partners are effectively lined up around the organizing principle of doing whatever it takes for the families in the NAZ pilot.

Co-Chair, Education Work Group
Company Name **African American Leadership Forum**

Dates Employed Sep 2011 – Apr 2012

Employment Duration 8 mos

Group leadership that facilitated the development of education policy, legislative agenda setting, and network building to influence system leaders.

Principal Consultant

Company Name **Yielding Assets, LLC**

Dates Employed Dec 2009 – Apr 2012

Employment Duration 2 yrs 5 mos

Location Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

Consulting with mission-driven organizations to transform communities from isolation to sustainability. Worked with foundations, government agencies, and nonprofits to develop strategies that multiply the impact of their efforts through community ideation and development of engagement and mobilization strategies. I focused heavily on the creation of regenerative social enterprises and asset-based community development.

Board Member

Company Name **KIPP: Stand Academy**

Dates Employed Mar 2011 – Jan 2012

Employment Duration 11 mos

Location Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

At KIPP Stand Academy, our goal is to prepare all of our students for success in college and beyond. To do that, we are focused on ensuring our students develop both the academic skills and the character necessary to help them define what they stand for. Through a culture of high expectations, we seek to instill in our students the values of integrity, self-awareness, grit, pride and fun.

Director

Company Name **Minneapolis Board of Education**

Dates Employed Jan 2007 – Jan 2011

Employment Duration 4 yrs 1 mo

Location Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

As a board member I provided high-level leadership for the care, management, and curriculum of Minneapolis Public Schools, an urban school district with over 37,000 students.

Endorsed Candidate

Company Name **SEIU**

Dates Employed 2006 – 2007

Employment Duration 1 yr

Endorsed Candidate

Company Name **DFL**

Dates Employed 2006 – 2007

Employment Duration 1 yr

Education

University of Phoenix

Field Of Study Human Services Management

Dates attended or expected graduation 2006 – 2010

[Goddard College](#)

Degree Name Bachelor of Arts - BA

Field Of Study Autonomous Education

Interests Who Chris Stewart is following?

- **Angela Duckworth**
Founder and CEO at Character Lab, professor at UPenn, author of GRIT, co-host of the podcast No Stupid Questions
- **Bill Gates**
Co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Tony Robbins**
#1 New York Times best-selling author, life and business strategist, philanthropist, entrepreneur
- **Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz**
President & Board Chair at Charles Schwab Foundation
- **Gary Vaynerchuk**
Chairman of VaynerX, CEO of VaynerMedia, 5-Time NYT Bestselling Author, Text Me: 212-931-5731
- **Mike Bloomberg**
Entrepreneur, philanthropist, three-term mayor of NYC, father, and grandfather
- **Jamie Dimon**
Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- **Melinda French Gates**
Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Founder of Pivotal Ventures. Author of The Moment of Lift.