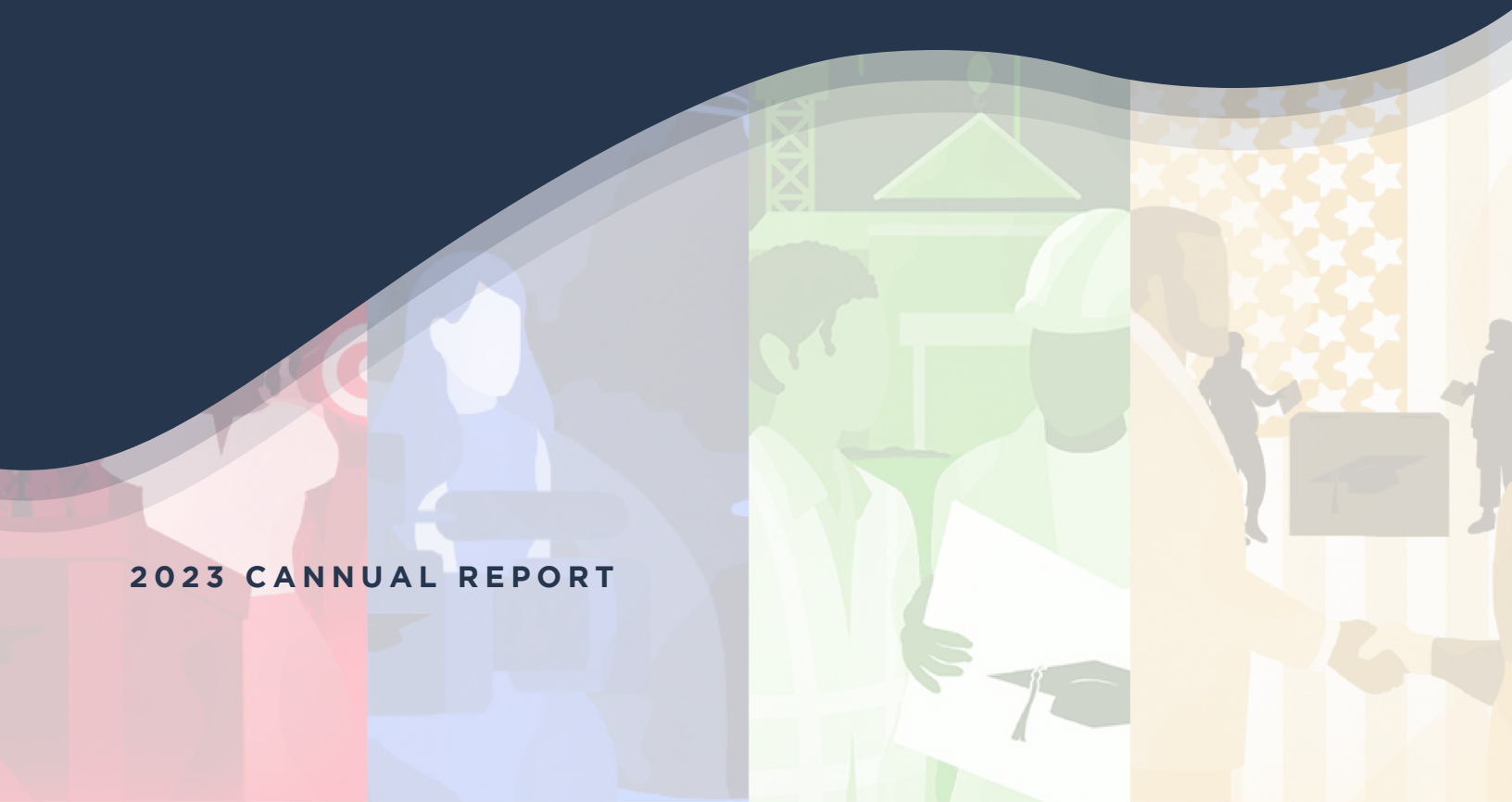




# INVENTING THE FUTURE

2023 CANNUAL REPORT



# INVENTING THE FUTURE

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# Inventing the Future

Dear Friends,

“The best way to predict the future is to invent it” served as the organizing principle at Xerox’s Palo Alto Research Center, which did just that in bringing the modern desktop computer to life with inventions like the graphical user interface, the laser printer and the mouse.

It’s no accident that those inventions emerged in the United States. As a country we have played, and continue to play, an outsized role in innovation. Yet, where once America also led the way in educational innovations like the creation of a system of universal high schools, for far too long we have been content merely to applaud and protect those accomplishments instead of continually aiming for better. The good news is that, in communities across the country, complacency is giving way to invention and the future of American education is coming into focus.

In 2023, across the country we saw historic expansions of educational choices, including passage of a universal ESA in North Carolina. In an effort to combat learning loss, dozens of states also expanded tutoring, after-school and summer programs, including in Louisiana where a program was funded to give regular tutoring access to every student in the state. Increasingly, states are enabling students to learn outside the classroom, such as in Hawaii where we passed legislation to expand access to credits for students engaging in learning experiences outside of school. Policymakers are responding to parent demands for greater transparency, such as in Colorado, where we secured the creation of a commission to

improve the state’s accountability framework. Finally, a number of states are working to better align career pathways between the K-12 system and the economic needs of their states, including in New Mexico where we created a permanent pathway for tradespeople and professionals to teach.

Even more important than these individual innovations is what they add up to: a whole new type of education system with five interconnected promises to America’s students.

1. The education that’s right for you, because every student learns differently.
2. Tutoring and care for every student in every community.
3. A world of open and connected learning, so that you have the tools you need to strengthen your community and succeed in life.
4. A family’s right to know what’s working—it’s all about accountability.
5. A clear path to the career you choose. It’s about finding your fit, and your pathway to a meaningful life.

We are committed to deliver on these promises over the coming years because our future depends on it.

We appreciate all you have done to make the progress in this report possible.



**Michael Phillips**  
Board Chair, 50CAN



**Lisa Graham Keegan**  
Board Member, 50CAN



**Marc Porter Magee**  
CEO and Founder, 50CAN



**Derrell Bradford**  
President, 50CAN

# 2023 Work Streams and Results

## Advocate

50CAN's core work has always been supporting local advocates as they strive to build the future of education in their states. Our 10 state campaigns are all led by savvy executive directors who possess deep expertise in policy and politics, collaborate across partisan divisions, have strong local knowledge and work relentlessly to get results every year for kids. Together, our network reaches one in six kids in America and has secured 235 policy wins since the founding of 50CAN in 2011.

In 2023, the local advocates of our network achieved **30 policy wins** that lay the foundation for the future of education.



### The Education That's Right for You

- **CarolinaCAN** passed a universal ESA, giving every student access to up to \$7,600 for tuition or other educational expenses.
- **TEN Colorado** implemented a transportation pilot to support students leaving a perennially underperforming district for others in the state.
- **TennesseeCAN** expanded the reach of the state ESA to Chattanooga, while also securing \$22 million for charter facilities.



### Tutoring and Care for All

- **Louisiana Kids Matter** guaranteed tutoring access for every student in the state at risk of falling behind, and is partnering with the state to pilot daily tutoring in schools.
- **JerseyCAN** obtained \$6.5 million in the state budget for tutoring students in academic need.
- **NewMexicoKidsCAN** ensured students will receive research-based literacy instruction by creating a list of state-approved curriculum.
- **TennesseeCAN** secured the funding for summer learning camps to continue indefinitely.



### A World of Open and Connected Learning

- **HawaiiKidsCAN** expanded computer science classes from high school to the lower grades and created a mandate for the state to determine a process to allow students to obtain credits outside the classroom and worked with the DOE to build “Learn Everywhere” into their strategic plan.



## A Parent's Right to Know What's Working

- **TEN Colorado** secured the creation of a commission, as well as a seat on it, to take a hard look at the state's accountability framework and to recommend updates.
- **ConnCAN** passed the Multilingual Learner's Bill of Rights, codifying information and support for families.



## A Path to a Career

- **NewMexicoKidsCAN** created a workforce pathway to overcome licensure barriers for career tradespeople to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses to students.
- **GeorgiaCAN** required new reporting on the success and reach of dual enrollment programs as the state prepares to expand pathways.



## GET INVOLVED

Over the next three years at 50CAN, we plan on expanding the number of state CANs from 10 to 15, which will move our organization from serving 17% of the country's children to 25%.

Do you see a particularly urgent need for education advocacy in your state? Do you know of a stellar local advocate that boldly pursues change?



Contact CEO and Founder,  
**Marc Porter Magee.**



Contact President,  
**Derrell Bradford.**



50CAN has a long history of using fellowships to support new voices and new leaders. In fact, three of the network's current advocacy campaigns—in Delaware, Hawaii and New Mexico—were created by 50CAN fellows.

As political divisions have grown in the country, we have seen an increasing interest in fellowship programs that bring people together around concrete, positive, innovative ideas. This is important not only because a climate of heightened division threatens our work, but because the best spokespeople, advocates and policy experts will be people who know how to work across differences. Because new ideas spread more rapidly through deep social, professional and institutional networks, we have made building these bridges a core goal of our National Voices, Changemakers and EPIC fellowships. Scaling them up to meet growing demand will be a key approach to ensure we have the people needed to drive this movement forward.

### In 2023, to promote our vision to the public and spark new ideas, we:



Trained **333 new local advocates**, including parents, students and educators, to contribute their ideas and communicate their needs to the press, elected officials and other stakeholders.



Welcomed **14 new National Voices Fellows**, who obtained **197** media hits, including in Newsweek, the New York Post, the City Journal, Fox News and Spectrum.



We also welcomed **5 New York Voices Fellows** and **10 Next Gen Voices Fellows**, in the first regional and generational imprints of National Voices, with tailored curriculums and tactics.



Promoted our vision of the future through **78 national** and **107 local media hits**, including appearances in The Washington Post, the Hill and Education Next.



Authored **25** issues of our newsletter, *The New Reality Roundup*, sharing over **200** resources for advocates, educators and elected officials which were **viewed** more than **55,000 times**.



Recruited our first **William E. Simon Policy Fellow** to contribute new ideas and tactics to network leaders and local advocates.



**50CAN President** Derrell Bradford **testified** before the United States Congress on educational recovery and the pandemic.



## GET INVOLVED

With so many potential new leaders and voices, over the next three years at 50CAN we're doubling the number of messenger fellowships across the network, with new opportunities in specific geographies.

National Voices Fellowship applications for Cohort VII will open in October for interested applicants.

Want to work with us to build the next local imprint of National Voices?



Contact President,  
[Derrell Bradford](#).



Contact Vice President of  
Communications,  
[Ned Stanley](#).

# Build

One way 50CAN has sought to advance change is by helping entrepreneurs do more by leveraging the financial, operational and legal services and support we also provide to our state campaigns.

They bring the ideas and the drive, we provide a tested platform that helps them scale up quickly to meet demand. Today, we support a dozen initiatives across the country with these services. We do this as a way to grow the movement, allow advocates to focus on what they are best at, and to help smaller organizations get a foothold in the advocacy space as they grow and expand their work.

By supporting education entrepreneurs, we are helping create a new generation of proof points for a transformed education system that can work better for all kids.

## In 2023, we:



Supported **10 education entrepreneurs** across the country to bring their visions to life, with programs implemented to serve parents and children in:

- Alabama
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Indiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- New York
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington, D.C.



Provided new learning opportunities through these programs to over **35,000 kids**.



## GET INVOLVED

Ready to build the education organization of your dreams with the additional support of the 50CAN network? We review partner applications every February and November.



Contact Vice President of Finance and Operations, [Kenna Little](#).





A policy vision can't be enacted without policymakers who share your values, understand your motivations, believe in your goals for the future and are willing to take risks to help make them a reality. For this reason, we have built up a world class operation to support and inform policymakers in states across the nation. With the future of education on the line, we believe the time to expand and deepen this work is now.

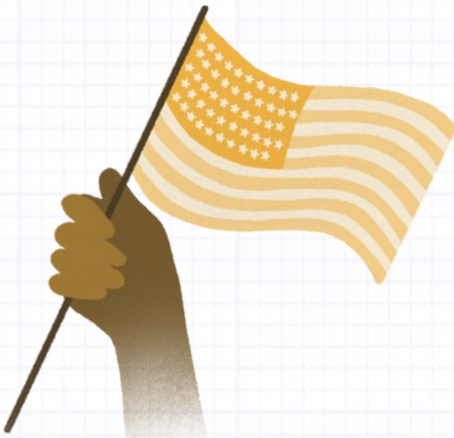
### In 2023, we:



Supported a bipartisan group of **10 elected officials**, serving nearly **700,000 constituents**, in the Believe in Better Education Leaders Fellowship.



Connected elected officials with peers and national thought leaders to explore the history of public education and the issues affecting the modern education landscape.



## GET INVOLVED

We'll be working with over 50 elected leaders to deepen their understanding of education and broaden their vision for the future.

Aware of a strong elected official who can work across the aisle and is a champion for kids?



Contact Executive Vice President,  
**Jonathan Nikkila**.

# Donor List

We are grateful to all who invested in our work in 2023. The generous support of many donors across our network helps us in our mission to fulfill the hopes and dreams of millions of families for the education system their children deserve.

## \$100,000 +

- Accelerate: The National Collaborative for Accelerated Learning
- Anonymous (2)
- Barr Foundation
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- City Fund
- Daniels Fund
- Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
- Houston Endowment
- Longwood Foundation
- Memphis Education Fund
- New Jersey Children's Foundation
- Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation
- redefinED atlanta
- Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock
- RootED
- Stand Together Trust
- Stupski Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation

## \$50,000-\$99,999

- Beth and Ravenel Curry Foundation
- Boas Family Fund
- Cambiar Thrive Grant
- Camden Education Fund
- Challenge Foundation
- Gary Community Ventures
- Gates Family Foundation
- Ittycheria-Thomas Family Fund
- JJJ Charitable Foundation
- Maeve Foundation
- Schwedel Family Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation
- Challenge Foundation
- William E. Simon Foundation

## \$5,000-\$49,999

- Air Tutors
- Anonymous (2)

- Anschutz Foundation
- Atherton Family Foundation
- Bell Charitable Foundation via Hawaiian Telcom
- Bellwether Education Partners
- Ann and Stanley Borowiec
- BuildStrong Education
- Ceeds of Peace
- City and County of Honolulu Grant In Aid
- Colorado Education Organizing (CEO) Funders Collaborative
- Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut
- The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
- Connecticut Community Foundation
- John and Wendy Cozzi
- CSC
- The Denver Foundation
- Derrick Diggs
- Educational Testing Service
- Erika Long Giving Fund
- Fairfield County's Community Foundation
- F.M. Kirby Foundation
- Katherine Haley
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Healey Family Foundation
- Hispano Philanthropic Society Fund at United Way of North Central New Mexico
- Ion Bank Foundation
- John and Jeanet Irwin
- Javeri Fund
- Joe C. Davis Foundation
- John William Pope Foundation
- Jordan Family Foundation
- KaiHonua
- Kamehameha Schools
- Leever Foundation Grant Program
- Lone Pine Foundation
- The MacNaughton Group Foundation
- MCJ Amelior Foundation
- Murmuration
- Nakupuna Foundation

- National School Choice Awareness Foundation
- Nellie Mae Education Foundation
- Olson Family Fund
- The Prosperity Foundation
- Riverview Works Fund at the Delaware Community Foundation
- Sandia Foundation
- Sartain Lanier Family Foundation
- Turrell Fund
- yes. every kid. foundation.

## \$1,000-\$4,999

- Anonymous
- Community Foundation of New Jersey
- The Connecticut Project
- Michael Feferman
- Gary Michael Namm Fund
- Jeff and Loan Arce Family Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation
- John Jekowski
- Michael Stoppelman Donation Fund
- Valerie Rockefeller
- Alex O. Romero
- Sandia Investment Management
- Teach For America
- Yale Black Men's Union

# Financials

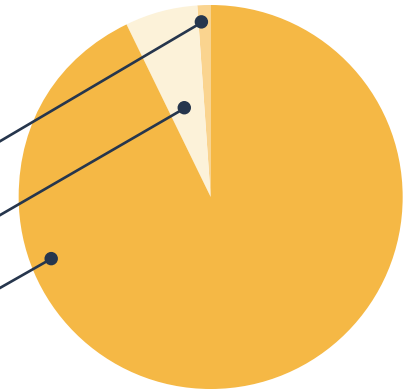


Fundraising 0.9%

Management 5.8%

Program 93.3%

*Expenses by category*



## 50CAN INC.

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY\*

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

#### Revenue

Contributions	\$78,802,707
Fee for Service	\$1,445,934
Other Revenue	\$200,196
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$80,448,838</b>

#### Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$8,741,703
Contract Services	\$8,959,885
Grants to Schools	\$55,398,542
Supplies & Materials	\$203,408
Facility & Equipment	\$152,036
Travel, Meetings & Events	\$735,745
IT & Technology	\$344,996
Insurance	\$52,774
Other Business	\$229,480
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$74,818,568</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,630,269</b>

<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$10,802,010</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$16,432,279</b>

\*All financial information was obtained from 50CAN's internal budget tracking for the 2023 fiscal year. All audit reports, Form 990s and previous CANnual Reports can be viewed or requested at [50can.org/financials](https://50can.org/financials).

# 50CAN Team and Board

## The Leadership Team



**Marc Porter Magee**  
CEO & Founder



**Derrell Bradford**  
President



**Jonathan Nikkila**  
Executive Vice President



**Kenna Little**  
Vice President of Finance and Operations



**Alex Lawrence**  
Vice President of Strategic Growth



**Ned Stanley**  
Vice President of Communications



**Samantha Kobbah**  
Chief of Staff

## The National Team



**Takara Edwards**  
Executive Assistant and Creative Associate



**Lauren Nguyen**  
Finance Director



**Chris Ameto**  
Finance Associate



**Andi Shaw**  
Digital Experience Manager



**Megan Kitchen**  
Creative Manager



**Melissa Farmer**  
Development Manager



**Connie Barcelo**  
Grant Writing Manager



**Alyssa Carr**  
Development Associate



**Andrew Thode**  
Campaigns Manager

## The State & Local Teams



**Marcus Brandon**  
Executive Director, CarolinaCAN



**Hamish MacPhail**  
Deputy Director, ConnCAN



**Luis Ortiz**  
State Grassroots Manager, ConnCAN



**Britney Mumford**  
Executive Director, DelawareCAN



**Michael O'Sullivan**  
Executive Director, GeorgiaCAN



**Steven Quinn**  
National Organizing Manager and  
State Outreach Director, GeorgiaCAN



**Pelleo Badiane**  
Charter Engagement Coordinator,  
GeorgiaCAN



**Ty'Sheka Lambert**  
Field Coordinator, GeorgiaCAN



**David Sun-Miyashiro**  
Executive Director, HawaiiKidsCAN



**Paula White**  
Executive Director, JerseyCAN



**Samantha Wilkerson**  
Public Affairs Manager and Parent  
Fellow Coordinator, JerseyCAN



**Kelli Bottger**  
Executive Director, Louisiana Kids  
Matter Campaign



**Amanda Aragon**  
Executive Director,  
NewMexicoKidsCAN



**Dominica Chavez**  
Advocacy Manager,  
NewMexicoKidsCAN



**Diego Lopez**  
Education Reporter,  
NewMexicoKidsCAN



**Nicholas Martinez**  
Executive Director, TEN, Colorado



**Anita Banuelos**  
Director of Community Organizing,  
TEN, Colorado



**Victor Evans**  
Executive Director, TennesseeCAN



**Erika Berry Huffman**  
Senior Director of Policy,  
TennesseeCAN

## NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Michael Phillips, Board Chair**  
Chief Operating Officer, TDJ Enterprises

**Derrick Diggs**  
Former President, Diggs Construction

**Marc Porter Magee**  
CEO and Founder, 50CAN

**Ann Borowiec**  
Former CEO, JP Morgan Private  
Wealth Management

**Katherine Haley**  
Founder and Partner, Oak Rose Group

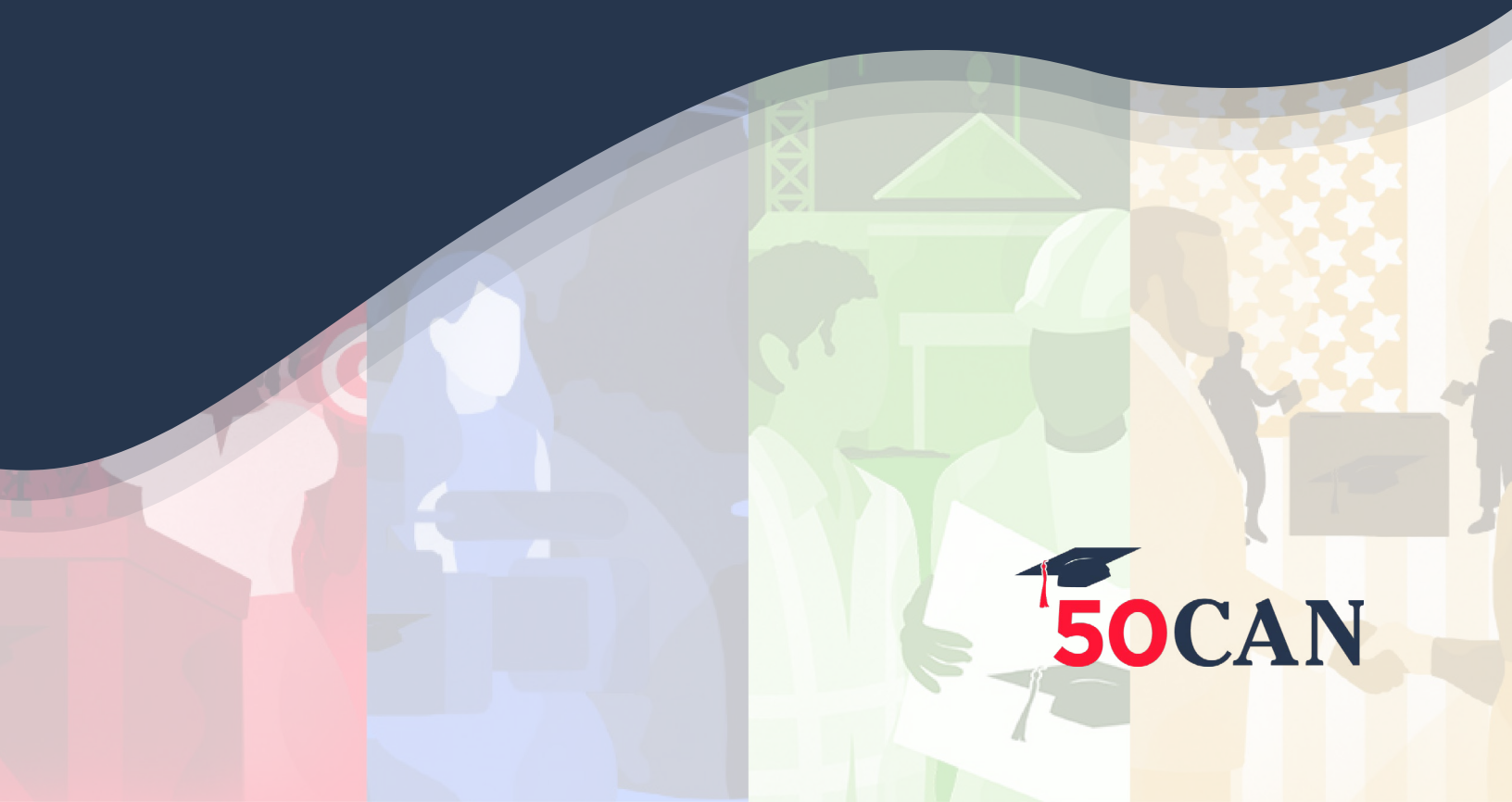
**Roland Martin**  
CEO, Black Star Network, Managing Editor  
and Host, #RolandMartinUnfiltered

**Campbell Brown**  
Vice President of Media Partnerships, Meta

**Lisa Graham Keegan**  
Partner, The Keegan Company

**Andrew Schwedel**  
Partner, Bain & Company

# Share the #CANnualReport



The logo for 50CAN, featuring a black graduation cap icon above the text "50CAN" in a bold, sans-serif font. The "50" is red and the "CAN" is black.