



Louise Ukleja

*Founder and Executive Director, Opportunity Schools
Businesswoman, Educational Visionary, and Philanthropist*

As the founder and Executive Director of Opportunity Schools, a nonprofit that enables private schools to meet the educational needs of students with learning disabilities, Louise Ukleja has an ongoing passion for creating public awareness of the importance of meeting the needs of these students.

Her initial motivation for founding Opportunity Schools was a desire to create an appropriate educational environment for her daughter Michelle, who had been diagnosed with multiple learning challenges. Louise's personal mission is "to ignite potential" and she has incorporated it into her leadership role at Opportunity Schools, as well as a variety of other venues in the nonprofit world.

Louise enjoys being an active volunteer and philanthropist in Long Beach, a community which she feels is the best kept secret in Southern California. She serves as Governing Council Chair of the Ukleja Center for Ethical Leadership and as a member of the 49er Foundation Board of Directors, both at California State University, Long Beach. Louise is also a board member for The Winston School, a private college preparatory school for students with learning challenges.

Louise was the keynote speaker at a recent graduation ceremony at The Winston School. The title of her address was "If the Elevator to Success isn't Working, Don't Forget the Stairs." Louise is truly a personification of this philosophy. She never gives up, is positive, resilient, and gives back to society in any way she can.

Louise earned a B.A. degree in Business Administration from Ohio University. She stays current in her field by regularly attending educational conferences related to learning and the brain.