



David Leahy

Managing Director East

David Leahy is a Managing Director for the Turner-Agassi Charter School Facilities Fund. He joined the firm in 2014.

What's your role at Turner Impact Capital?

My team manages the firm's charter school work in the eastern U.S. We work to identify potential charter school partners, communicate with the schools about their facility needs, and identify potential locations for new campuses. Once we have finalized a school investment, we work closely with our construction services team to get the project built on time while managing the budget.

What attracted you to the field of social impact?

Growing up, my parents made a lot of sacrifices so that I could have a quality education. It has never escaped me that not everyone is as lucky or afforded as many opportunities. I've always known that I wanted to work in a field where I could make a difference; early in my career I was a high school teacher in Florida and later went to business school. I saw there was a need in the field of social impact and that being part of it would let me combine my interest in business with my passion for providing high-quality education choices to students and families.

Is there a specific experience at Turner Impact Capital that has been most meaningful for you?

I always look back very fondly at my first project with the Turner-Agassi Charter School Facilities Fund. It was a new charter school campus in North Philadelphia, and I found it rewarding for several reasons. For starters, it helped us prove that our business model was achievable. The Fund was just getting its start, with a team that wasn't nearly as big as the one we have now. Many of us played a variety of roles to get the school built. In the end, we succeeded, and it put us on the path to building even more schools all over the country, and making a difference in other communities.

What impacts do you hope to make with your work?

I hope what we're doing ultimately gives students and families opportunities and choices that they otherwise would not have. I want students to have the chance to carve their own paths, as opposed to feeling that everything has been decided for them by others because they lack options. All these students deserve to have a choice and a say in their futures.