

## GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series

Early Learning Innovation in a Time of Crisis

February 21, 2023 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

### PRESENTER BIOS

#### Moderator



**Leigh Giangreco**  
**Journalist**

Leigh Giangreco is a freelance journalist based in Chicago where she writes for The Washington Post, Bloomberg Citylab and Pew Stateline. Since 2020 she has contributed to Early Learning Nation magazine, where she has covered preschool television programming, New Mexico's fight for early childhood education aid and the challenges facing bilingual educators in Chicago.

#### Speakers



**Jennifer Headley-Nordman**  
**President**  
**First Steps Kent**

Jennifer Headley-Nordman is the President of First Steps Kent, an independent nonprofit leading a community-wide effort to build a comprehensive early childhood system in Kent County, Michigan. Jennifer brings more than 25 years of experience as an advocate for children and families in non-profit and educational leadership positions. Her work has focused on kindergarten readiness through social-emotional, physical, and educational strategies within early intervention. Jennifer came to First Steps Kent from Holland Public Schools where she was the Associate Superintendent of Student Services. Additionally, she has served as the President of the Michigan Association of School Psychologists, and the Executive Chair of the Michigan Department of Education's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).



**Kenia Pinela, M.A.**  
**Director of Programs and Innovation**  
**Valley Settlement**

Kenia Pinela is the Director of Programs and Innovation at Valley Settlement, a nonprofit serving the rural Aspen to Parachute region of Colorado with six two-generation programs designed by and for local Latina immigrant families. Kenia started with the organization in its first year, and has served in various roles - first as a babysitter, then as a community organizer, family educator, and program manager. In 2017, Kenia spearheaded the effort to redesign Valley Settlement's Family, Friends and Neighbors program, and after ten months of listening and building trust with neighborhood in-home childcare providers, built the program into a robust offering that has supported more than 80 informal in-home providers and hundreds of children in the region to-date.



**Andrea J. Serrano**  
**Executive Director**  
**OLÉ**

Andrea J. Serrano was born and raised in the neighborhood of Duranes in Albuquerque, NM. Andrea's experience spans decades, beginning with her work at the Rape Crisis Center of Central New Mexico, where she was a community educator focused not only on violence prevention but also interrupting and addressing rape culture, particularly with young people and college students. Andrea was also a program coordinator at South Valley Academy, working with high school freshmen in the service learning program, and has extensive involvement in community organizing and activism with various organizations. Andrea began working at OLÉ in 2012 as a community organizer focused on BIPOC communities and urban conservation, and helped stop the development of Albuquerque's Bosque, one of the only urban riparian forests in the US. Andrea is now Executive Director of the organization, leading the organization's political and electoral organizing work. Andrea is also a published poet and opinion writer, appearing in various anthologies and publications including *Time Magazine* and *Truthout*. Andrea lives in Albuquerque's South Valley.