



Making Summer Count: Philanthropic Opportunities for Summer Learning Acceleration

A CGLR Funder-to-Funder Conversation

March 21, 2023 | 12:30–2 pm ET/9:30–11 am PT

Presenter Bios

PRESENTERS



Kate Bennett

**Community Impact Officer, Early Childhood Success & Education Success
United Way of Central Iowa**

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Kate Bennett began her career at United Way of Central Iowa in 2002 as the Executive Director for Polk County Early Childhood Iowa. In that position, Kate worked to create a collaborative system for government and local nonprofits to support at-risk children from ages 0-8 and their families. The outcome of that work was a much more collaborative system and higher quality early childhood services in central Iowa.

Kate has served as the Community Impact Officer, Education Success since 2012. She spearheaded the 2020 goals to raise the graduation rate in Polk, Dallas, and Warren counties from 83.4% in 2008 to 93.6% in 2019. This increase of 10.2% means 6,300 more students graduated opposed to if the graduation rate remained at the 2008 statistic. For the last two years, Kate has been a part of the team who created the United to Thrive framework, which UWCI officially launched in May 2021. This framework maintains a strong education focus while looking through an equity lens and COVID recovery. Kate is the staff lead for two volunteer cabinets who guide this work: Early Childhood Success and Education Success. Kate is looking forward to this next exciting chapter in central Iowa.



Gwynn Huges

**Senior Program Officer
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**

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Gwynn Huges joined Mott as a program officer in 2010 and was named a senior program officer five years later. She manages the Foundation's largest grantmaking portfolio, Advancing Afterschool, which supports — among many other organizations — 50 statewide afterschool networks. Prior to joining the Foundation, Hughes served as executive director of the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership in Boston from 2004 through 2010. She also held several positions with the State of Massachusetts, where she focused on policy and practice initiatives supporting children and families, serving consecutively as director of labor relations, chief operating officer of the Office of Child Care Services, and chief of Project Management and Policy Support for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. A graduate of Wellesley College, Hughes earned her master's degree in music from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. In 1998, she received a Juris Doctor from the Northeastern University School of Law in Boston.



Polly Singh
Senior Program Officer
Wallace Foundation

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Polly Singh joined The Wallace Foundation in 2002 and was named a program officer in 2012, and was named senior program officer in November 2017. Since she began at Wallace, she has worked in the afterschool program area. Singh oversees grants primarily in Wallace’s expanded learning and strengthening financial management initiatives. She also helps manage StrongNonprofits.org, a Wallace website that shares best practices in financial management for afterschool providers.

Before joining Wallace, Singh worked at Morgan Stanley and The Century Foundation. She has a bachelor’s degree from Hamilton College, where she majored in Spanish and Latin American studies, and a master’s degree in public administration from the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College. Singh has studied in Spain and the Dominican Republic. In the latter country, she taught English while earning certification to teach English as a second language.