

**GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar**  
**From Classroom to Community:**  
**Investing in Whole Child Support Systems From Cradle to Career**

March 21, 2023

Moderator, Presenters and Commentator Bios

**MODERATOR**

**Anna Edwards**

**Chief Advocacy Officer, Whiteboard Advisors**



For nearly two decades Anna has helped to architect changemaking campaigns, and advised the leaders of the nation’s most impactful businesses and nonprofits on national policy and advocacy initiatives. A product of the Atlanta Public School system and honors graduate of Yale University, Anna is regarded as trusted confidante and partner by both federal policymakers and state and local leaders alike on K-12, higher education and workforce policy. A student of the policy and market dynamics that impact preK-postsecondary education, Anna is a frequent speaker and advisor to education donors and investors. She is also Whiteboard Advisors’ most frequent flyer, working with governors’ offices, state departments of education, higher education and workforce leaders, and school districts across the country.

**PRESENTERS**

**Geoffrey Canada**

**President, Harlem Children’s Zone; Founder, William Julius Wilson Institute**



Geoffrey Canada is the president of Harlem Children’s Zone (HCZ), a world-renowned education and poverty-fighting organization based in New York City, and founder of William Julius Wilson Institute (WJWI). An innovator in the field of education, author, and leading advocate for children, Canada has made it his life’s mission to help young people from under-resourced communities succeed through education. Under Mr. Canada’s leadership, HCZ became a national model of place-based innovation for organizations across the country and the world. In 2010, President Barack Obama created the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative to replicate the HCZ model in under-resourced communities throughout the United States. In 2020, Mr. Canada came out of retirement to launch WJWI, a national resource for place-based, people-focused solutions that open pathways to social and economic mobility. For its first initiative, WJWI led a national COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Effort to combat the devastation of the pandemic in Black and brown communities across the country.

## **Roberto Rodríguez**

**Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development,  
U.S. Department of Education**



Roberto J. Rodríguez currently serves as Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education, where he leads the development and review of the Department's budget and advises the Secretary on all matters related to policy development, implementation, and review. Roberto's distinguished career in public service includes senior government roles in the White House, as Deputy Assistant for Education to President Barack Obama, and in the U.S. Senate, as Chief Counsel to the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Most recently, Rodríguez

served as President and CEO of Teach Plus where he built an equity-driven teacher leadership movement that engaged thousands of teachers to shape public policy and instructional practice to deliver greater opportunity for students.

## **COMMENTATORS**

### **Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Ed.D.**

**Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District, California**



Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell grew up attending schools in the Oakland Unified School District and has spent most of her 22-year career in the district. She currently serves as superintendent. Johnson-Trammell began her career as a teacher and teacher coach at Parker Elementary School. She next served as assistant principal at Oak Grove Middle School in the Mount Diablo Unified School District and spent two years in that position before returning to Oakland as principal of Sequoia Elementary School. From there, she advanced to administrator on special assignment. In this capacity,

Johnson-Trammell was responsible for coaching 40 school leaders. She later took on positions as associate superintendent of leadership, curriculum and instruction; lead network superintendent; and interim deputy superintendent. Johnson-Trammell has received a number of awards and honors, including Outstanding Principal of Alameda County by the Beta Mu Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization for women educators. She also earned the Outstanding District Leadership Award. She holds a bachelor's in communications from the University of Pennsylvania; a teaching credential from California State University, Hayward; and an administrative credential and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Martin Pollio, Ed.D.**

**Superintendent, Jefferson County Public School District, Kentucky**



Dr. Martin “Marty” Pollio was appointed superintendent of the Jefferson County Public School District effective April 1, 2018. Dr. Pollio had served as acting superintendent since July 2, 2017. For 25 years, Dr. Pollio has dedicated his career to serving the students of JCPS. He is a long- time administrator and educator whose focus is improving culture and climate across the district, increasing student achievement, and implementing deeper learning strategies to make lessons come alive for students and teachers. In July 2021, Dr. Pollio was named the Kentucky 2022 Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA)

**Christian Rhodes**

**Deputy Executive Director, Harlem Children’s Zone/William Julius Wilson Institute**



Christian Rhodes has been a trusted advisor to education leaders across the country for the past 15 years. Most recently, Christian served as Senior Advisor to the U.S Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona advising him on all matters of K-12, strategic partnership, and special initiatives. Appointed by President Biden, Rhodes also served as the Chief of Staff for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, leading the department’s efforts to increase the access and availability of summer learning and enrichment programs and establishing a practitioner-focused repository of district and state responses to safely reopening America’s schools. Before his appointment to the Biden Administration, Christian served as Chief of Staff for a large urban school district and policy advisor to multiple superintendents, mayors, governors, and state and municipal leaders on education.

**Rey Saldaña**

**President and CEO, Communities in Schools**



Rey Saldaña is the President and CEO of Communities In Schools®, (CIS™) the national organization that ensures all students are empowered to stay in school and on a path to a brighter future. Saldaña is a CIS alumnus, whose journey from former student supported by CIS to national leader of Communities In Schools, sends an inspiring message to young people nationwide about the power they have to write their own success story. Most recently, Saldaña served as the Regional Advocacy Director for the Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation and the Chair of the San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Agency-VIA.