# GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar Beyond the ESSER "Funding Cliff": Local Supports to Sustain High-Impact Tutoring Co-Sponsored by Overdeck Family Foundation

April 11, 2023 Moderator and Presenter Bios

#### **MODERATOR**

## Pete Lavorini Portfolio Manager, Innovative Schools, Overdeck Family Foundation



Pete Lavorini leads the Innovative Schools portfolio, which aims to expand access to tech-enabled, student-centered K-9 learning environments. As a former 6th grade teacher, Pete believes that every child deserves an education that both empowers and connects. He has experience leading district-level initiatives for both the New York City Department of Education and Pittsburgh Public Schools, and helping social impact organizations set and operationalize strategy at The Bridgespan Group. Most recently

at OneGoal, a national college access and success nonprofit, he supported strategies to scale impact for the organization.

#### **PRESENTERS**

### Horace Buddoo Director for District Partnerships, Saga Education



Horace Buddoo brings more than eighteen years of experience in mathematics education to Saga. As a former high school math teacher, his work in the classroom and unique perspectives on teaching and learning earned him a designation as a "master teacher" in 2013 by official mayoral proclamation. Horace has also played an instrumental role in shaping mathematics education within the state of Florida and served on multiple state panels that aimed to improve mathematical outcomes for

students. In 2017, he was selected by Legacy Magazine as one of South Florida's "40 under 40 Leaders of Today and Tomorrow" Honorees for his leadership in education. As the Director for District Partnerships at Saga Education, Horace is passionate about creating and supporting mathematics acceleration opportunities for the historically disadvantaged and underserved students via high impact tutoring programs.

## Sharon Contreras, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer, Innovation Project, North Carolina



Dr. Sharon Contreras is the CEO of The Innovation Project in North Carolina, a collaborative of school districts committed to high academic achievement and equity through innovation. Dr. Contreras has held two superintendencies and is celebrated for implementing policies and practices aimed at improving student life outcomes. In Guilford County, her team expanded access to Advanced Placement courses, career technical education and dual-enrollment programming, preparing students and their

parents for the workforce. GCS' high-impact tutoring initiative and learning hubs are considered a national model. In 2022, the GCS graduation rate reached a high of 91.8%. Contreras was North Carolina PTA's Superintendent of the Year (2019), was among Triad Business Journal's Most Admired CEOs in 2020 and named to the Business North Carolina Power List 2022.

Nicholas Erber
Director of Learning Acceleration, Uplift Education



Nick is passionate about helping students achieve their full potential. He is a former teacher, instructional coach, assistant principal, and personalized learning coordinator who currently serves as the Director of Learning Acceleration at the #1 fully IB charter network in Texas, Uplift Education. Serving over 20,000 students, 100% of Uplift graduates have been accepted to college for the last 19 years. Over the last two years, Nick has worked with Uplift schools, external tutoring partners, and

researchers to develop, improve, and maintain an NSSA-aligned, equitable high impact tutoring program that has served over 50,000 hours of tutoring to over 5,000 scholars.

Mindy Sjoblom Founder and CEO, OnYourMark



Mindy started OnYourMark with a passion for early literacy and deep experience building systems to cultivate and develop educators. While preparing to launch OnYourMark, Mindy served as an Entrepreneur in Residence at Charter School Growth Fund where she started her early literacy journey at the nexus of a growing demand for high dosage tutoring to address pandemic learning recovery and increased need to support schools with

foundational skills reading instruction across the country. Prior to this newest adventure, Mindy served as Founding Dean of Relay Chicago, where she oversaw all aspects of campus growth/strategy, financial health, partnership development, political advocacy, and teacher preparation programming. Before joining Relay, Sjoblom served as Director of Curriculum and Instruction, then as principal, at Rauner College Prep, one of the Noble Schools. Sjoblom, an alumna of Teach For America, earned an M.A.T. from Johns Hopkins University, School Administrative credentials from National Louis University and a B.A. in political science from Butler University.