

Community Engagement Initiative: A Framework for Sustainable, Systemic Change

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

April 25, 2023 | 3:00-4:30pm ET

Moderator:



Vito Borrello
Executive Director, NAFSCE

Vito Borrello is the Executive Director for the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE). Previously, Mr. Borrello served as the president of EPIC – Every Person Influences Children, a national organization providing parenting education, family engagement in education, and character education programs. Current National Advisory Board Member roles include the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement, the National Center for After-school and Summer Enrichment (NCASE), the Center for Education Equity, and ClassTag. Mr. Borrello currently serves on National PTA’s Nominating and Leadership Recruitment Committee. He is co-founder and Chairman Emeritus for the NY State Family Engagement Coalition. Prior to his NAFSCE appointment, Mr. Borrello was Chairman of the NY State PTA Urban Initiatives Task Force, Steering Committee member of the NY State Parenting Education Partnership, and a past appointee to NY State Education Department workgroups for Teacher Standards, Striving Readers, and Safe Schools. He is also a past Board member for Buffalo’s Read to Succeed literacy initiative. He is a 2009 graduate of the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York Fellowship program and a 1998 graduate of Leadership Buffalo.

Speakers:



Yolie Flores
CEO & President, Families in Schools

Yolie Flores is CEO and President of Families In Schools, a nonprofit statewide organization based in Los Angeles, California, whose mission is to involve families and communities in their children’s education to achieve lifelong success. Most recently, Yolie served as the National Campaign Director for Building a Parent Nation, a campaign initiative of the TMW Center for Early Learning and Public Health at The University of Chicago. Previously, at the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Yolie supported Campaign communities in their quest to ensure early school success for more children by elevating parent success. As a leader in Los Angeles, she served as Vice President of the Los Angeles Board of Education and, for almost a decade, served as CEO of the L.A. County Children’s Planning Council, a countywide collaborative focused on improving outcomes for children. In 2017, Yolie ran for Congress distinguishing herself as the candidate for children and families. Yolie’s leadership and commitment to the well-being of children and families has earned her the distinction of, twice, being named Social Worker of the Year.



Jan Gustafson-Corea
CEO, CABA

Jan Gustafson-Corea is the Chief Executive Officer of the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABA). CABA is a non-profit educational organization incorporated in 1975 to promote bilingual education and quality educational experiences for all students in California. Jan has served as CABA CEO since 2012 and has over 30 years of experience working in the field of education with great emphasis on working in multilingual and culturally diverse communities and settings.



Robin McIver-Brown, Ed.D.
Leadership & Outreach Department Director, SBCSS

Dr. Robin McIver-Brown is the Leadership and Outreach Department Director at San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS). Dr. McIver-Brown executes and evaluates multiple educational programs, including comprehensive support and improvement, administrator leadership development, family and community engagement, expanded learning and opportunities programs, and student events. Dr. McIver-Brown worked as the founding director of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Support and Advisory

Services Department for seven years at SBCSS, focusing on reviewing and approving 33 districts, differentiated assistance, state and federal programs, and family and community engagement. With over 30 years of experience in the education sector, Dr. McIver-Brown has worked in large public-school districts and private education, serving in various roles such as assistant principal, principal, district office area director supervising 11 schools, and adjunct professor at Point Loma Nazarene University. Her leadership skills at Kelley Elementary School were pivotal in helping the school exit Program Improvement under No Child Left Behind, as cited by Dr. Susan Warren in a study conducted by the San Bernardino County Office of Education.



Steven Sterling Mitchell
Assistant Director of Community Engagement and System of Support, CCEE

Steven Sterling Mitchell is the Assistant Director of Community Engagement and System of Support for the CCEE. In this role, he co-leads the Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) within the CA System of Support. The CEI is focused on building the capacity of communities, school districts, and county offices of education (COEs) statewide to engage each other more meaningfully in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) development process.

Commentators:



Yolanda Brown
Parent & Community Liaison, Northridge Academy & Pontiac Academy for Excellence

Yolanda Brown is currently the Parent/Community/McKinney Vento/Foster Care Liaison at both Northridge Academy in Flint, MI, and Pontiac Academy for Excellence in Pontiac, MI. Prior to working in a school setting, Yolanda was employed by the Michigan Veterans Foundation in Detroit, MI., servicing homeless veterans. She served as the Homeless Management Information System Coordinator (HMIS) and case manager supervisor. Her current role as a Liaison, entails, advocating on behalf of students, their families, and the community at large. Collaborating and utilizing community leaders, organizations, and businesses to build meaningful partnerships that help to shape the future of our students, their families and the community.



Eddie Koen
President, IEL

A Chicago native with roots in Alabama, Eddie has a passion for education, equity, and criminal justice reform. Before his arrival at IEL, Eddie served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio (ULGSO), one of the largest Urban League affiliates in the country serving Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Dayton, Ohio. ULGSO secured at least one job per day in the region and served 1600 black, brown, & women-owned businesses a year with total revenues of over seven billion and 60 thousand employees. After securing the most significant programmatic personal gift of \$1M, the center expanded to education advocacy and health equity work. Prior to that, he served as the Chief Impact Officer for Mile High United Way, where he directed \$18 million in investment strategies and programming, shifting the work towards neighborhood needs.