

**GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar**  
**State Investments Taking High-Impact Tutoring to Scale**  
***Co-Sponsored by Overdeck Family Foundation***

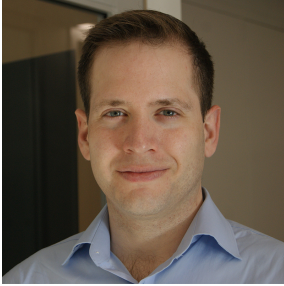
April 4, 2023

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**

**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 superintendentcies 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*.

**A.J. Gutierrez**

**Co-Founder and Chief of Marketing and Communications, Saga Education**



AJ Gutierrez is the Co-Founder, Vice Chair & Chief of Marketing & Communications at Saga Education. Prior to this, they were with SAGA Innovations, Summer Search, and Match Education. AJ has also served as a Corps Member with City Year and as a

Service Project Coordinator with the College Orientation Workshop. Their internships include one with the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office. AJ Gutierrez has a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Questrom School of Business at Boston University and a BA in Philosophy from Union College.

**Kevin Huffman**  
**CEO, Accelerate**



Kevin Huffman is the founding CEO of Accelerate, a national initiative that seeks to embed high-impact tutoring and personalized learning in public schools. Previously, Huffman was a partner with City Fund. Huffman is the former Tennessee commissioner of education, where he managed the state department of education in its effort to advance the academic progress of nearly one million students. During Huffman's tenure, Tennessee had the largest state gains on the National

Assessment of Educational Progress. Huffman began his education career as a bilingual teacher in the Houston Independent School District. After attending law school, he represented school districts, state departments of education and universities. Huffman joined the senior management of Teach For America in 2000, serving as general counsel, senior vice president of growth strategy and development, and executive vice president of public affairs. Huffman graduated from Swarthmore College with a B.A., and from the New York University School of Law.

**Carly Robinson, Ph.D.**  
**Director of Research, National Student Support Accelerator, Stanford University**



Carly Robinson is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Annenberg Institute at Brown University. Her research interests sit at the intersection of education, psychology, and policy. In particular, she draws on insights from social psychology and behavioral science to design and experimentally test interventions that improve social support for students. Some of her recent work focuses on strengthening teacher-student relationships and mobilizing effective family engagement. As a

complement to her applied research, her methodological work emphasizes open science practices, such as preregistering hypothesis-testing studies. Prior to conducting educational research, Carly worked as a New York City teacher. She holds a PhD in Education from Harvard University, a Master's in Applied Positive Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania, and BA in Psychology from Williams College.