

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series

Showing Up Together: Learning and Attendance Go Hand in Hand

May 23, 2023 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER and MODERATOR BIOS

Presenter

Gisela Ariza

Associate Director of Programs
Attendance Works



Gisela Ariza is the Associate Director of Programs at Attendance Works, where she supports the design, development and services for state agencies, school districts and schools to help reduce chronic absenteeism.

Prior to joining Attendance Works, Gisela managed a Network of School Improvement in South Los Angeles focused on increasing the number of 9th graders who were on track and college-ready. She also worked at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, where she supported state partners in the implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This work involved supporting local coalitions to advocate for strong state education plans that advanced educational equity through programs including robust parent and community engagement, accountability for the achievement of all students, resource equity and access to user-friendly data.

Gisela received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from California State University – Northridge, and completed her master's degree in Education and School Counseling from the University of Southern California

Presenter

Rosie Grant

Executive Director
Paterson Education Fund



Rosie Grant is the Executive Director of the Paterson Education Fund (PEF), where she has given 30 years of educational leadership.

PEF's mission is to stimulate community action for change so that the Paterson Public Schools (PPS) ensure that all Paterson children achieve high standards. PEF's programs are specifically designed to engage a broad cross-section of stakeholders in the improvement of Paterson Public Schools. Rosie has background in accounting, grant writing, program management and nonprofit management. In her work at Paterson Education Fund she has designed, developed and implemented many community engagement programs and strategies for Paterson Public Schools children and their families.

Rosie has trained more than 1,000 students and adults to be workshop facilitators, including Restorative Practices circle keepers, improve student outcomes, support relationship building, reduce suspensions, and nurture social and emotional wellbeing. She is skilled at convening cross-sector partnerships for education and leading difficult public dialog, particularly in the areas of equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism.

In addition to her leadership at PEF, Rosie has provided strategic planning and leadership development assistance to other community organizations and serve on several organizational boards. She is a Warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Paterson and Treasurer of the Gertrude Butts Memorial Scholarship Foundation.

Presenter

Hortensia Hernandez

Caldwell School District

Community School Coordinator

Caldwell School District #132



Hortensia served 5 years as the Community School Coordinator for Sacajawea Elementary, where their attendance team dived deep into addressing chronic absenteeism. These past two years she has overseen the expansion and implementation of the community school strategy across her district. With her experience, she successfully led their district's first Attendance Campaign. Community Schools in the Caldwell School district serve as the vehicle for hyper-local decision making that connects families to opportunities, so our children can thrive in and out of the classroom. She is a graduate of the College of Idaho.

Presenter

Ken Livingston

Director

Get Delaware Reading



Ken Livingston is the current Director for Get Delaware Reading with United Way of Delaware (UWDE). His primary focus is addressing the issue in Wilmington where many children from the Eight Promise Communities are identified as not reading proficiently when exiting the third grade. Ken's current goals and aspirations are: 1) Build positive relationships with community, government, and school district leaders as well as early learning centers and community-based organizations to ensure the GDR and CGRL outcomes are informed by the community perspective, especially in the Eight Promise Communities, 2) Work with UWDE's

leadership team to develop and implement a marketing plan for GDR and CGLR, which includes website design and effective use of social media outlets to educate and engage the community. 3) Work to increase and grow in personal development. Since becoming the new director of Get Delaware Reading, Ken is most proud of leading UWDE's "My Very Own Library" initiative in partnership with Scholastic and the University of Chicago. "My Very Own Library" provides students attending 17 Delaware schools with free books to create their own home libraries. This school year, "My Very Library" will provide over 70,000 brand new books to students from 7 school districts throughout 3 counties. He received his BS degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Delaware State University and his MS Degree in Human Services from Springfield College. In addition to working at United Way of Delaware, he is also employed at the Central Branch YMCA in the Membership Services Department. His passions include providing impactful programming to support parents and children. Ken enjoys going to Cardio Kick Boxing and spending time with his daughter. Ken is married to Janelle Livingston, and they have 2 daughters.

Moderator

Hedy Chang

Executive Director and President
Attendance Works



Hedy Nai-Lin Chang is the founder and Executive Director of Attendance Works, a national and state level initiative aimed at advancing student success by addressing chronic absence. A skilled presenter, facilitator, researcher and writer, she co-authored the seminal report, Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades, as well as numerous other articles about student attendance. Deeply committed to promoting two-generation solutions to achieving a more just and equitable society, Hedy has spent more than three decades working in the fields of family support, family economic success, education and child development. She served as a senior program officer at the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund and as co-director of California Tomorrow, a nonprofit committed to drawing strength from cultural, linguistic and racial diversity. In February 2013, Hedy was named by the White House as a Champion of Change for her commitment to furthering African American Education.