

**GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar**  
***Opportunities and Potential Pitfalls:***  
***State Expansion of Education Savings Accounts***

May 30, 2023

Moderator and Presenter Bios

**MODERATOR**

**Teree Caldwell-Johnson**

**CEO, Oakridge Neighborhood Services, Des Moines, Iowa**



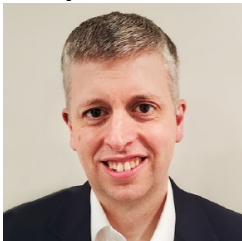
Teree Caldwell-Johnson serves as the CEO of Oakridge Neighborhood and Oakridge Neighborhood Services a housing and humans services non-profit agency located in Des Moines, IA. Prior to assuming her position at Oakridge, Teree held progressively responsible positions in local government across the country most recently serving as Polk County Manager from 1996-2003. Teree is Chair of the Des Moines School Board and has been

elected to three, four-year terms beginning in 2006. She also serves on the board of directors of Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and The Director's Council. In addition, Teree is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Jack and Jill of America and The Links, Incorporated. Teree holds a B.A. in English from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA and an MPA from the University of Kansas. She has also completed post-graduate studies at Bucknell University.

**PRESENTERS**

**Ben DeGrow**

**Policy Director, Education Choice, ExcelinEd**



Ben DeGrow is the Policy Director, Education Choice for ExcelinEd. Ben worked nearly two decades in state-based public policy, providing expert analysis in school choice, school finance and more. In his time at Colorado's Independence Institute and Michigan's Mackinac Center for Public Policy, he led dozens of studies and research project initiatives while also managing or supporting various coalitions to advance student opportunity

through greater parental choice. Ben's classroom experiences include service as a university graduate assistant, high school history teacher and a substitute in Michigan public schools. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Hillsdale College, a Master of Arts degree from Penn State University and a Certificate in Education Finance from Georgetown University.

### **Kate Becker Demers**

#### **Executive Director, Children’s Scholarship Fund, New Hampshire**



Kate Baker Demers is the Executive Director of Children’s Scholarship Fund New Hampshire (CSF) and was the first to implement the New Hampshire Education Tax Credit Scholarships and the first to implement the New Hampshire Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs). Under Kate’s leadership, the NH Education Tax Credit Scholarship Program grew to be a nationally recognized scholarship program that has awarded more than \$9 million in private school and homeschool scholarships to New Hampshire children in need. EFAs were passed by the NH legislature and signed by the governor in June of 2021. In the inaugural year, more than 2000 New Hampshire children, from low and moderate income families are using EFAs to pay for tuition at the school of their choice, tutoring, online learning programs, educational supplies and other educational expenses. Kate is a Board Member of the Rotary Club of Concord, a Member of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities NH, and is an appointee of Governor Sununu to the Council for Thriving Children. Kate was honored to be recognized by the New Hampshire Union Leader and the NH Business and Industry Association as a “40 Under Forty, the state’s brightest young achievers”. She remains a leader in the Granite State’s education freedom movement and toward that aim she has worked tirelessly for more two decades on behalf of New Hampshire children.

### **Joann Mickens**

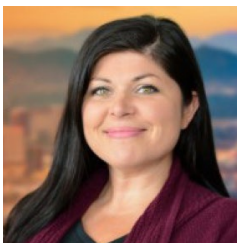
#### **Executive Director, Parents for Public Schools**



Since 2018, Joann Mickens has served as the Executive Director of Parents for Public Schools® (PPS), a national organization headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi. Before joining PPS, Joann taught history and civics, first in Richmond, Virginia, and then in Warrensville Heights, Ohio. She also taught remedial English and English as a second language at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition, she was a manager with BellSouth Telecommunications and for several years ran her own consulting company. Joann holds a bachelor’s degree from Notre Dame College of Ohio and an MBA from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi.

### **Beth Lewis**

#### **Co-Executive Director, Save Our Schools Arizona Network**



Beth Lewis is a mom, public education advocate, and K-12 policy expert who fights for a fully and equitably funded school for every Arizona child. As Director of Save Our Schools Arizona, Beth works to bring parents, educators, elected officials, business leaders, and community members together in support of Arizona’s public schools, which strengthen our communities and our great state. Beth has taught elementary and middle school in Arizona for 12 years and has been named a Rodel Exemplary teacher and Tempe Diablos Teacher of the Year Finalist. She holds a BA from the University of Notre Dame and a Master’s in Education from ASU.