

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series

Reading for Life: The Impact of Child Literacy on Health Outcomes

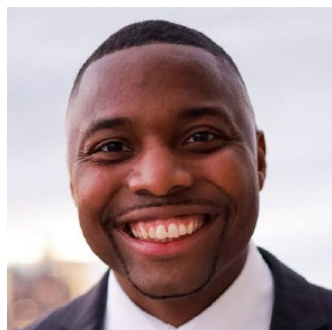
May 9, 2023 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER and MODERATOR BIOS

Presenter

David Adams

Chief Executive Officer
Urban Assembly



David is the Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Assembly. He started with the UA in 2014 as the Director of Social-Emotional Learning, where he created the Resilient Scholars Program (RSP), a unique approach to integrating SEL into curriculum and classroom practices across the UA network. RSP has grown into a national program, serving schools and districts in Los Angeles, Houston, Syracuse, and other cities. As the Senior Director of Strategy, David led the expansion of the organization into a model provider of school support, with an emphasis on innovation and equity in public education. In 2022, David was named one of Crain's 40 Under 40 honorees and in 2021 he received the Champion of Equity Award from the American Consortium for Equity in Education. David is a co-founder of International SEL Day, sits on the board of CASEL, is an author of *The Educator's Practical Guide to Emotional Intelligence*, and a co-author of the textbook *Challenges to Integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programs in Organizations*. He is a Civil Affairs Officer in the Army Reserve and holds an M.Ed in Educational Psychology from Fordham University.

Presenter

Lee Beers, M.D. FAAP

Medical Director of Community Health and Advocacy
Children's National Hospital



Lee Savio Beers, MD, FAAP is a Professor of Pediatrics and the Medical Director for Community Health and Advocacy at Children's National Hospital, and the A. James & Alice B. Clark Distinguished Professor of Early Childhood Intervention and Advocacy. She is also the Medical Director for Behavioral Health Initiatives for the Pediatric Health Network in Washington DC. Dr Beers oversees the Child Health Advocacy Institute's Community Mental Health CORE, which includes initiatives such as the Early Childhood Innovation Network and serves as a catalyst to elevate the standard of mental health care for every young person in Washington DC. She was the 2021 President of the American Academy of

Pediatrics and received the 2019 Public Policy and Advocacy Award from the Academic Pediatric Association. She is currently on the Board of Directors of Zero to Three.

She earned her Medical Degree from Emory University School of Medicine and completed a pediatric residency at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth VA. Prior to joining Children's National, she was a general pediatrician at the Naval Hospital in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

Her clinical and research interests include the integration of mental health and pediatric primary care, the impact of adversity and stress on child well-being, adolescent pregnancy and parenting, and advocacy education. She lives in Washington DC with her husband Nathaniel, and two children.

Presenter

Linda Mayes, M.D.

Director, Yale Child Study Center
Yale University



Dr. Linda Mayes is the Arnold Gesell Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Psychology and Director of the Yale Child Study Center. She is also Special Advisor to the Dean in the Yale School of Medicine. Trained as a pediatrician, Dr. Mayes's research focuses on stress-response and regulatory mechanisms in young children at both biological and psychosocial risk. She has especially focused on the impact of prenatal substance use on children's long-term outcomes. She has made contributions to understanding the mechanisms of effect of prenatal stimulant exposure on the ontogeny of arousal regulatory systems and the relation between dysfunctional emotional regulation and impaired prefrontal cortical function in young children. She has published widely in the developmental psychology, pediatrics, and child psychiatry literature.

Given the nature of her work with children at significantly high-risk for developmental impairments from both biological and psychosocial etiologies, Dr. Mayes also focuses on the impact of parenting on the development of arousal and attention regulatory mechanisms in their children, and specifically on how substance abuse impacts reward and stress regulatory systems in new parents. With other colleagues in the Center, she studies how adults transition to parenthood, especially when substance abuse is involved, and the basic neural circuitry of early parent-infant attachment using both neuroimaging and electroencephalographic techniques. She and her colleagues have developed a series of interventions for parents including an intensive home-based program called Minding the Baby.

Dr. Mayes's research programs are multidisciplinary, not only in their blending basic science with clinical interventions but also in the disciplines required including adult and child psychiatry, behavioral neuroscience, obstetrics, pediatrics, and neuropsychology.

She is also a Distinguished Visiting Professor in psychology at Sewanee: The University of the South where she is working on intervention programs to enhance child and family resilience

Moderator

Amanda Alexander Ph.D.

Chief Academic Officer

Scholastic Education Solutions



Amanda Alexander serves as Scholastic’s Chief Academic Officer. In this role, she leads research and validation efforts to ensure the efficacy of products, the delivery of professional learning services and the company’s partnership with the Yale Child Study Center focusing on the intersection of literacy and health. Prior to joining Scholastic, Amanda served as the Vice President of Policy and Partnership Development at Teachstone. With more than 20 years of progressive leadership experience, the majority of Amanda’s service has been as a practitioner in the public sector. She began her career as a kindergarten teacher in Washington, DC and was an assistant principal in the New York City Department of Education. In the District of Columbia Public Schools, she served as a principal and held senior leadership roles including Interim Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor and Chief of Elementary Schools where she provided leadership and vision for the district’s elementary schools, led a team of principal supervisors, and oversaw early childhood programs. Over the course of her time as a central office administrator, Amanda also led literacy initiatives and a district-wide taskforce to identify and implement evidence-based practices to improve student performance. Amanda has a B.A. in English and a M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Howard University, a M.S. Ed. in educational leadership from Baruch College, and a Ph.D. in education from American University.