



## GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Series

### The Federal Role in Advancing Digital Equity

October 27, 2020 | 3-4:30 pm ET

#### SPEAKER BIOS

#### MODERATOR



**Vikki Katz, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor in the School of Communication & Information  
Rutgers University  
@vikki\_katz

Vikki Katz is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication & Information at Rutgers University. She conducts research with children growing up in low-income, working class, and immigrant families. She investigates how family technology use influences skills development and access to learning resources and how digital inequality affects learning opportunities for children. Her research has been supported by the Spencer, Grable, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundations, and she is author of more than thirty articles, books, and reports. Dr. Katz also currently serves as Co-Editor of *Journal of Children and Media* and on the Board of Directors for the National Center for Families Learning.

#### PRESENTERS



**Larry Irving**

President and CEO  
Irving Group

Larry Irving is the President and CEO of the Irving Group, a consulting firm providing strategic advice and assistance to international telecommunications and information technology companies, investors, philanthropies and non-profit organizations. From September 2009 to July 2011, Mr. Irving served as Vice President for Global Government Affairs for the Hewlett-Packard Company, the world's largest technology company.

Prior to founding the Irving Group in 1999, Mr. Irving served for almost seven years as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), where he was a principal advisor to the President, Vice President and Secretary of Commerce on domestic and international telecommunications and information technology issues.

Mr. Irving was one of the principal architects and advocates of the Clinton Administration's telecommunications and Internet policies, and was a point person in the Clinton Administration's

successful efforts to reform the United States telecommunications law, resulting in passage of the most sweeping change in America's telecommunications laws in 60 years. In large part due to his work to promote policies and develop programs to ensure access to advanced telecommunications and information technologies, Mr. Irving was named one of the fifty most influential persons in the "Year of the Internet" by Newsweek Magazine. In 2019 Mr. Irving was elected to the Internet Hall of Fame for his pioneering efforts identifying the "digital divide" and advocating for domestic and international policies to increase more equitable access to the Internet and related technologies.

Mr. Irving currently serves as a member of the Boards of Directors of Education Networks of America, The Texas Tribune and ReliabilityFirst Corporation. He also serves as a member of Northwestern University's Board of Trustees, as president of Northwestern's Alumni Association, on the Board of Visitors for the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences of Northwestern University and the Board of Visitors for Stanford Law School.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University and is a recipient of the University's Alumni Merit Award for distinguished professional achievement and is a Salute to Excellence Honoree of the Northwestern University Black Alumni Association. He is also a graduate of Stanford University School of Law, where he was elected President of his graduating class and is a Stanford Associate.



**Angela Siefer**  
Executive Director  
National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Angela Siefer is the Executive Director of the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. Angela has been working in the field we now call digital inclusion since 1997.

From physically setting up computer labs in underserved areas and managing local digital inclusion programs to consulting for the US. Department of Commerce and testifying before Congress, Angela develops national strategies and solutions from the ground up. In 2015, Angela helped found the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, a unified voice for home broadband access, public broadband access, personal devices and local technology training and support programs. Government Technology Magazine named Angela one of their Top 25 Doers, Dreams, and Drivers of 2019.



**Divya Sridhar**  
Policy Director, Digital Equity  
Excel in Ed

Divya Sridhar serves as Policy Director, Digital Equity at Excel in Ed. For the last five years, Divya served as the Public Policy Advisor for K-12 Education Policy at the leading learning science publisher, McGraw-Hill. Prior to her time at McGraw-Hill, she served in numerous roles in the healthcare industry, working to advocate for policy change on broadband, health systems connectivity, telemedicine, and more. Divya earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance from Texas A&M University, a Master of Public Policy from the University of Texas at Dallas and a PhD in Public Policy from George Mason University.

## COMMENTATORS



**John Ferguson**

Manager, Digital Access for All  
The Patterson Foundation  
@TheRealJohnFerg

John Ferguson joined The Patterson Foundation as a fellow in April 2020. His fellowship consists of collaborating within and/or managing multiple special projects across several different initiatives to provide strategic value and further innovation. His primary roles include serving as manager of the Digital Access for All initiative, and intimate involvement with Advancing Mission Thrivability and Patriot Plaza.

John received his degree from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, the world's first school dedicated solely to the study and teaching of philanthropy. He was named Chancellor's Scholar for his graduating class and proudly serves on the Alumni Board for the school. Prior to joining TPF, he spent three years with Indiana United Ways in a variety of roles dedicated to supporting all local United Ways throughout Indiana. Previous to that, John was in hospitality for more than 18 years in a myriad of roles, including trainer and manager. He is passionate about helping people and organizations thrive.

John is a huge Chicago Cubs fan and avid concert-goer (in different times). He enjoys connecting with friends and family, fantasy football, and discovering new music in his free time.



**Jack Lynch**

Director of State Engagements & The Digital Bridge  
EducationSuperHighway  
@educationsuperhighway

Jack Lynch is the Director of State Engagements and the Digital Bridge K-12 project lead at EducationSuperHighway, the leading non-profit focused on upgrading the Internet access in every public-school classroom in America. Since its launch in 2012, EducationSuperHighway has helped connect 43 million students to the minimum speed necessary for digital learning. In addition, the organization has secured commitments from governors in all 50 states to upgrade their schools for the 21st century. Digital Bridge K-12 is an initiative from EducationSuperHighway to provide state and school district leaders with connectivity solutions for students outside of the classroom during the COVID-19 pandemic. Jack began his career as a hardware engineer at Cisco Systems, but was driven to make a career change by a strong belief in the power of education to change the world.



**Claire Park**

Program Associate

Open Technology Institute at New America

@clerppark

Claire Park is a program associate with New America's Open Technology Institute, where she researches and writes on a number of technology policy issues including broadband access and competition, as well as privacy. Before supporting OTI's work, Park was a fellow of the German Academic Exchange Service, and completed a M.Sc. in Politics, Economics and Philosophy at Universität Hamburg. Her thesis examined the impact of algorithms on democratic norms and institutions. Park was previously an associate at financial research company Third Bridge and holds a B.A. in government from Dartmouth College.