



Translating Good Research Into Good Policy: William T. Grant Foundation

A CGLR Funder to Funder Conversation

December 15, 2020 | 12:30-2 pm ET/9:30-11 am PT

Presenter & Commentator Bios

PRESENTERS



J. Lawrence Aber, Ph.D.
**Willner Family Professor of Psychology and Public Policy and
University Professor**
**Co-Director, Global TIES for Children (Transforming Intervention
Effectiveness and Scale) Center**
New York University

J. Lawrence Aber is Willner Family Professor of Psychology and Public Policy at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and University Professor at New York University, where he also serves as board chair of its Institute of Human Development and Social Change and co-director of the international research center “Global TIES for Children”. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical-Community and Developmental Psychology from Yale University. His basic research examines the influence of poverty and violence, at the family and community levels, on the social, emotional, behavioral, cognitive and academic development of children and youth. From 1994-2004, he served as Director of the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University. Currently, he conducts research on the impact of preschool teacher training quality and children’s learning and development in Ghana (in collaboration with Innovations for Poverty Action) and on school- and community-based interventions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Sierra Leone and Lebanon (in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee).



Adam Gamoran, Ph.D.
President
William T. Grant Foundation
@agamoran

Adam Gamoran is president of the William T. Grant Foundation, a charitable organization that supports research on programs, policies, and practices to reduce inequality in youth outcomes, and on ways to improve the use of research evidence in youth-related policies and practices. During 2019-2020, he led an organization-wide task force to take stock of the Foundation’s reducing inequality initiative, which he

launched in 2014. Previously, he held the John D. MacArthur Chair in Sociology and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he spent three decades engaged in research on educational inequality and school reform. Recent writing includes essays such as “The future of higher education is social impact” (*Stanford Social Innovation Review*, 2018) and research articles including “Does racial isolation in school lead to long-term disadvantages? Labor market consequences of high school racial composition” (*American Journal of Sociology*, 2016). He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the National Academy of Education, which he currently serves as vice president. He was also twice appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the National Board for Education Sciences. His research contributions have been honored by the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, the American Educational Research Association, and the Sociology of Education Section of the American Sociological Association.



Jason Grumet, J.D.
President
Bipartisan Policy Center
@JasonGrumet

Jason Grumet, founder and president of the Bipartisan Policy Center, is respected on both sides of the aisle for his innovative approach to improving government effectiveness and impacting public policy. Under Grumet’s leadership, BPC has harnessed the power of collaboration to advocate for principled and politically viable policy solutions to major policy challenges facing our country. In the 116th Congress, BPC played a significant role in successful legislative efforts to secure key provisions in coronavirus relief packages enacted into law, strengthen key early childhood programs, accelerate the development of low-carbon energy technologies, expand access to quality health care and retirement savings, and improve the nation’s response to the migration crisis at the southern border. Grumet is the author of *City of Rivals: Restoring the Glorious Mess of American Democracy*, released in September 2014. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University and J.D. from Harvard University and lives in Bethesda, Maryland with his wife and three children.

COMMENTATORS



Milton J. Little Jr.
President and CEO
United Way of Greater Atlanta
@MiltonJLittle
@unitedwayatl

Milton J. Little, Jr. became the first African-American president of United Way of Greater Atlanta, the largest in the national system, in July 2007. In March of 2020, Little led the launch – in partnership with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta – of the Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. To date, the Fund has raised more than \$30 million and provided 455 nonprofits across Greater Atlanta with resources they need to help the most vulnerable populations affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Altogether, Little has helped raise more than a billion dollars for local community

needs and priorities. Before joining United Way, he served as chief operating officer and interim president and CEO of the National Urban League.

He is a member of many boards and advisory committees. Notable among them are the Center for Assessment and Policy Development, past chair of the Southern Education Foundation, and past vice chair of the board of directors for Ways to Work. He also serves on the Atlanta Speech School Board of Advisors, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, Georgia's Children's Cabinet, and Get Georgia Ready Reading Cabinet. He was selected to serve on MDRC and the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement for the National Academies of Sciences Engineering Medicine.

He graduated magna cum laude from Morehouse College with a B.A. in sociology and earned an M.A. in urban sociology and social policy from Columbia University.



Shelley Waters Boots
Principal
SWB Strategic Solutions, LLC

Shelley Waters Boots brings over 20 years of experience as a writer, researcher and policy expert on a wide range of issues affecting the lives of children and families. Blending her expertise on strategy, research, policy, and communications, she advises leading philanthropies across the country.

With a passion for collaboration and integrative design thinking, Shelley works to bridge people, ideas, and actions to leverage diverse expertise in creating positive change for families. Committed to equity and social justice, she works as a national expert on two-generation approaches to alleviating poverty for low-income families, partnering with philanthropy, state governments, and non-profits to help them better align family services. She is also a key advisor on creating bipartisan strategies—finding common ground and creating momentum on policy action. Additionally, she leads a funder collaborative with philanthropic leaders from multiple sectors to invest in cross-cutting strategies aimed at improving the lives of youth and young adults.

Through past positions at the Urban Institute and the New America Foundation, she has published extensively on a wide range of issues concerning children, work, and family. Time spent at leading advocacy organizations, including the Children's Defense Fund and Parents Action for Children, provided experience managing policy and communications campaigns, running coalitions, and crafting new policy ideas.

She holds a BA in Political Science from Furman University in South Carolina and earned her MPA from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY.