

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar
Engage Every Student:
Building Community Connections to Expand OST Access

October 11, 2022

Moderator, Presenter and Commentator Bios

MODERATOR

John Gomperts

Executive Fellow, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading



John Gomperts is a long-time leader in non-profits and government organizations devoted to civic engagement and to creating greater opportunity for children and youth. From 2012 - 2020, John served as President & CEO of America's Promise Alliance. Prior to that, John served as the Director of AmeriCorps in the Obama Administration. Earlier in his career, John worked in the US Senate (Sens. Wofford, Kerry, Daschle), practiced law and served as a judicial clerk. John earned his JD

from Georgetown University Law Center and his AB in History from University of California, Berkeley. John has served on a wide range of boards including FoodCorps (Chair), Points of Light, Presidio Institute, News Literacy Project, and others.

PRESENTERS

Brodrick Clarke

Director of Technical Training, National Summer Learning Association



Brodrick has extensive experience working with the K-12 student population, primarily in an out-of-school time setting. He has recruited and trained hundreds of youth workers and volunteers. As a seasoned professional development trainer, Brodrick incorporates research and best practices with interactive simulations to engage his audience in dynamic learning experiences.

Sheronda Fleming, Ph.D.

Out-of-School Time Partnerships Fellow, Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Education



Dr. Sheronda Witter Fleming serves as the Out-of-School Time Partnerships Fellow in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education. In this capacity, Dr. Fleming helps to drive and coordinate the Department's Engage Every Student Initiative, which is a bold new call to action to provide high-quality out-of-school time learning opportunities for every child who wants to participate. Previously, she served as the Director of the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs. Through

this role, Dr. Fleming provided visionary and strategic leadership of North Carolina's State Afterschool Network.

Bryan Joffe
Project Director of Education and Youth Development
AASA, The School Superintendents Association



Bryan Joffe is the Project Director of Education and Youth Development for AASA. He leads AASA's efforts in Innovative Teacher Professional Development funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, working to assist districts in redesigning teacher PD and highlighting the need for school systems to revamp professional development systems and structures. He also leads AASA's school discipline reform and school climate efforts to highlight discipline disparities and reform strategies.

In 2012, Bryan was named a Trustee of the America's Promise Alliance and served on the Council of State Government Justice Center's School Discipline Consensus Project. He received a BA from Tulane University and a Master of Public Affairs from Brown University. He joined AASA in October 2009.

Shital Shah
Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Education



Prior to joining the Department, Shital was the Director of Philanthropic Engagement at the American Federation of Teachers and also served on the 2020 Biden-Harris Transition Team for the US Department of Education. While at the AFT, she cultivated and strengthened relationships with philanthropic and education industry partners to garner support for improving children's well-being, creating powerful learning, building teacher capacity, and fostering school and community

collaboration. In this role she also oversaw AFT's inter-departmental community school strategy, as well as the Center for School Improvement Institute. She has spent over a decade working in the field of community schools policy and practice, providing strategic support and guidance to state and local affiliates related to policy, advocacy and school and district implementation of approaches to the community school strategy and extended learning time, including implications for collective bargaining. During her time with the national Coalition for Community Schools, as the Manager of Policy & Partnerships, she lead partnership development; federal and state policy coordination; and helping develop federal policy recommendations.

Bela Shah Spooner
Program Director, Education and Expanded Learning
Institute for Youth, Education and Families, National League of Cities



Bela's portfolio includes working with cities to increase access to afterschool and summer learning, citywide partnerships between cities, schools, and community-based organizations to support student success, and increasing postsecondary access and completion leading to workforce success. For over 17 years, she has worked at NLC helping over 50 cities create citywide afterschool and summer learning systems, develop community schools, and impact local, state, and federal policy. Bela speaks nationally about expanded learning opportunities as equity strategies to catalyze policy, program, and practice change. She launched NLC's Afterschool Policy Advisors Network (APAN) in 2005, a national peer-learning network of senior municipal leaders focusing on afterschool programs, and has supported the growth of its Mayors' Education Policy Advisors' Network featuring the nation's largest cities. Bela has helped to raise millions of dollars in private philanthropic support to sustain and grow the work. She has authored various publications on municipal leadership for afterschool and hosted dozens of statewide municipal summits on afterschool and expanded learning. Bela also supports cohorts of cities working in collaboration with their postsecondary institution and business partners to address students' basic needs to enable them to attain a postsecondary credential.

COMMENTATORS

Jeff Cole
Network Lead, Beyond School Bells, Lincoln, Nebraska



Jeff Cole has been the Network Lead for Beyond School Bells since September 2006 and previously served on the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Children & Families Foundation (NCFE). Jeff began his ELO journey coordinating afterschool and summer learning opportunities at New York City's High School for Environmental Studies. Upon moving to Nebraska, Jeff led the Lincoln Public School Foundation's program to launch Lincoln's Community Learning Center initiative. During his 11 years as BSB Network Lead, Jeff's work has focused on building partnerships and policies that support more high quality, sustainable expanded learning opportunity (ELO) programs across Nebraska. Jeff earned a B.S. in International Relations at American University in Washington, D.C. and an M.S. in Environmental Economics from Baylor University in Texas and was a Fulbright Research scholar in Poland.

**Councilwoman, Alyia Gaskins,
Alexandria, Virginia City Council**



Alyia Gaskins, a tenacious fighter for families, communities, and health equity, was elected to City Council in 2021 and is serving her first three-year term. She is dedicated to building a healthier, more prosperous Alexandria for all. Alyia represents the Council on several local and regional boards, including: Audit and Finance Committee; Health and Safety Coordinating Committee; Inova Alexandria Hospital Task Force; Landmark Community Development Authority Board of Directors; City Naming Committee; Gang Prevention Community Task Force; Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission; Local Emergency Planning Committee; Council of Governments: Public Safety and Human Services Committee; Council of Governments Region Forward Coalition; Council of Governments: Regional Transportation Planning Board; and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. As a public health strategist and city planner, Alyia has worked on hunger policy at D.C. Hunger Solutions and health issues at the National League of Cities, as well as managing an affordable housing investment program at the Center for Community Investment. Currently, she is a Senior Program Officer at the Melville Charitable Trust, a national philanthropic organization devoted to ending homelessness, where she leads efforts to advance housing justice through better land use policies. Her consulting business, CitiesRX, focuses on building physical, social, and economic health through community partnerships.

**Sylvia Lyles, Ph.D.
Chief Strategic Partnerships and Grants Officer, Foundations, Inc.**



Dr. Sylvia E. Lyles serves as the Chief, Strategic Partnerships and Grants for Foundations, Inc. In this role, she implements the organization's strategic vision that focuses on effective growth; builds new partnerships to grow and sustain the organization; and manages special projects. Dr. Lyles has over 40 years working in the field of education, where she brings years of experience in the field of literacy (pedagogy & andragogy), career and technical education, gifted/talented education, STEM, teacher quality, arts education, and afterschool programming. As the director for the 21st CCLC federal afterschool program, she has been responsible for developing numerous national policies used to inform education policy development at state and local education agencies, national and community organizations, and other entities. Since January 2010, Dr. Lyles has served as Distinguished Adjunct Faculty at National University.

Paul Stanton, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Washington Elementary School District, Glendale, Arizona



Dr. Paul Stanton is proud to serve his eighth year as superintendent of the Washington Elementary School District (WESD). A product of the District, Dr. Stanton attended Manzanita Elementary School. He continued his education by earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Marketing and Finance from Marquette University, as well as Masters' Degrees in Elementary Education and Educational Administration and Supervision.

He also received his Doctorate Degree in Educational Administration from Arizona State University. Dr. Stanton has wholeheartedly embraced WESD's vision, mission and values. He recognizes that all WESD teachers and staff play an essential role in contributing to students' academic achievement and preparing them to become responsible, successful contributors to our diverse society. Dr. Stanton is grateful for the support of all District employees and proudly welcomes them as part of the WESD Family.