

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery
Ed Tech and Accelerated Learning: The Future is Now
February 23, 2021 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

Presenter Bios

INTRODUCTION & COMMENTARY



Valerie Truesdale, Ph.D.

Assistant Executive Director
AASA, The School Superintendents Association
@valerietruesdal

Valerie Truesdale joined AASA, the Superintendents Association as Assistant Executive Director in 2019. Valerie previously led technology and transformation for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools for over six years, growing personalized learning for CMS' 151,000 students. Prior to joining CMS as a chief officer, Valerie served as a superintendent of schools for ten years in Beaufort County and Oconee County, SC. Valerie served as a chief academic officer, deputy superintendent for the state department of education, high school principal, and most importantly, a teacher. Valerie has earned credentials as a Certified Educational Technology Leader (CETL) by CoSN and Certified Education Chief Technology Officer (CECTO) by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She co-founded North Carolina's chapter of CoSN. Valerie was named CTO of the Year by the Charlotte Business Journal, is a former state Superintendent of the Year for SC and is a past president of ASCD international. She is a current board member of CoSN, the National Dropout Prevention Center, and the National Policy Board for Educational Administration (NPBEA). Valerie holds a Ph. D. from USC, MBA from Georgia State, and a Bachelor's in Education from Clemson University.

MODERATOR



Shawn Joseph, Ed.D.

Co-Director, Urban Superintendent Academy
Howard University
@UnchainedJoseph

Dr. Shawn Joseph's passion for equity and social justice has led him to serve in a number of positions in the world of education. He has been an English teacher, reading specialist, school administrator, central

office administrator, and superintendent in Delaware (Seaford School District) and Tennessee (Metro Nashville Public Schools). He served on the faculty of Fordham University in the Department of Educational Leadership, Administration, and Policy during the 2019-2020 school year and is currently Co-Director of the AASA/Howard Urban Superintendent Academy and Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Administration, and Policy Studies at Howard University.

In 2009, Dr. Joseph was honored by his peers as the National Association of Secondary School Administrator's Met-Life Middle School Principal of the year for the State of Maryland. In 2010, Dr. Joseph was the recipient of the American Educational Research Association's Outstanding Dissertation Award in the area of Educational Leadership. In 2019 and 2020, Dr. Joseph was selected as the Person of the Year by the Tribune Newspaper in Nashville. His first book, *The Principal's Guide to the First 100 Days of the School Year: Creating Instructional Momentum*, offers insight into the complexity of the principalship and suggests strategies for focusing on increasing student achievement. In 2019, he published the book *Finding the Joseph Within*, a memoir which tells the account of his professional journey and how faith and perseverance unleashed favor upon his life.

Dr. Joseph earned a doctoral degree in educational administration and policy studies from The George Washington University and a master's degree from The Johns Hopkins University. His bachelor's degree is from Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, America's oldest Historically Black College.

Dr. Joseph's research interests include studying the leadership experiences of Black male superintendents, superintendent preparation programs, and how minoritized leaders lead for equity.

PRESENTERS



Maria Alvarez

VP of Family and Community Engagement
Common Sense Media
@CommonSense

Maria is an expert on media, technology, and Latino families. She first joined the Common Sense team in 2007. Maria designed and led the Common Sense Latino Program, which blended culture and language to connect with Spanish-speaking families and respond to their unique media and technology needs, empowering them to navigate the digital world with confidence. Maria now runs Common Sense's FACE Program. The Common Sense FACE team is committed to providing advice for all families as they navigate the digital world with a special focus on reaching and serving diverse communities including Black, Latino and lower-income families. Timely issues such as the learning loss and the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will be editorial priorities in 2021.

Maria is a sought-after speaker who has presented in the U.S. and abroad. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism in Venezuela and her master's degree in communications in Chile. Prior to joining Common Sense, Maria was Founder & Principal of the Latin Story, and she has worked as a news producer and reporter for outlets including Univision and CNN en Español. Maria is the proud mom of two bilingual and bicultural boys. She lives in Berkeley, California with her family.



Amanda LaTasha Armstrong, M.S.

Research Fellow, New America

Doctoral Candidate, New Mexico State University

@AArmstrong_CD

Amanda LaTasha Armstrong is a doctoral candidate at New Mexico State University, whose research interests include the intersection of early childhood, learning design and technology, culture and diversity, and multicultural education. She is also a Research Fellow with New America's Education Policy Program and also works at NMSU's Learning Games Lab where she leads user-testing and teaches summer sessions with children and youth on topics related to design.

Amanda LaTasha Armstrong is a doctoral candidate in New Mexico State University (NMSU)'s Curriculum and Instruction Department and NMSU's Learning Games Lab coordinator, where she leads user-testing sessions and teaches summer sessions on game design and evaluation with youth. She is also a Research Fellow with New America's Education Policy Program and a 2020-2021 CADRE Fellow with the National Science Foundation. Her research interests include the intersection of early childhood, learning design and technology, culture and diversity, and multicultural pedagogies. In addition to her work at NMSU and fellowships, she is contributing writer for Edutopia and Britannica for Parents and member of Britannica's Early Learning Advisory Council.

Amanda was a founding member of KidMap (Kids Inclusive and Diversity Media Action Project) and member of the Technical Working Group to refresh the ISTE Standards for Educators released in 2017. Amanda earned her MS in Child Development with an administration specialization from Erikson Institute. Before coming to NMSU, Amanda conducted research with Erikson's Early Math Collaborative and was the program coordinator at the Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center.



Lydia M. Logan

Executive Director

Verizon Innovative Learning Schools,
directed by Digital Promise

@LydLogan

Lydia Logan is the Executive Director of the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools initiative at Digital Promise. Previously, she served as managing director of Chiefs for Change at the Foundation for Excellence in Education. Before joining Chiefs for Change, Lydia served as the senior director of policy at the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, where she focused on national policy, K-12 school improvement in Michigan, and investments improving management, human capital, quality, and transparency across district and charter public schools in Washington, D.C. Prior to The Broad Foundation, she held the

position of vice president and executive director of the Institute for a Competitive Workforce at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where she worked with the business community on national and state policies and programs to improve early childhood, pre-K through post-secondary public education, and workforce training. Lydia also served as the vice president of programs for the Kimsey Foundation, where her grant portfolio focused on strategic support for district leadership, charter school expansion, closing the digital divide for low-income families, and wrap-around services for students in D.C. Public Schools. Lydia holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and serves on the board of the American Youth Policy Forum. Lydia lives in Maryland with her husband, two children, and rescue dog.



Mark Williams

Chief Partner Success Officer
BellXcel
@Bellxcel

Mark joined BellXcel in 2017 as Chief of Partner Success to drive national implementation of the BellXcel learning model. Since 2014, Mark served as the Founding Vice President, School & District Partnerships at New Classrooms focused on maximizing national impact and sustainability of the personalized learning model through strengthened partner engagement and fidelity of implementation. Prior, Mark worked with Teach for All managing the engagement of Teach For America with aspiring partners and developing strategies to strengthen organizational learning and leadership development. Additionally, during his 9 years at Teach For America, he focused on teacher leadership development and addressing operational infrastructure needs of the rapidly growing organization as it supported the 7,000+ teachers in achieving academic gains with their students. Mark began his career as a Kindergarten teacher in Newark, NJ.