



## Technology To Accelerate Learning: Tech-Enabled Solutions to Address Learning Loss

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

May 4, 2021 | 3-4:30 pm ET/12-1:30 pm PT

### *Panelist Bios*

#### MODERATOR



**Ipek Bakir**  
**Associate Program Officer, Innovative Schools**  
**Overdeck Family Foundation**  
**@ipekpek\_**

Ipek Bakir is an Associate Program Officer at Overdeck Family Foundation where she is responsible for shaping the Innovative Schools portfolio strategy and supporting grantee organizations within the portfolio. Prior to joining Overdeck Family Foundation, Ipek worked as a consultant and researcher providing impact and cost-analyses to investors, schools and EdTech companies. Ipek holds a B.A. in Government and Urban Studies from Connecticut College and a master's degree in Economics and Education from Teachers College Columbia University. In 2019, Ipek was selected as Forbes 30 Under 30 in Education for her work in education research and impact-driven investing.

#### PRESENTERS



**Michelle Brown**  
**CEO**  
**CommonLit**  
**@MichelleEileen | @CommonLit**

Michelle is the founder and CEO of CommonLit, an award-winning nonprofit education technology organization dedicated to closing persistent opportunity gaps in literacy education. Under Michelle's leadership, CommonLit has become a robust free online reading program that has been accessed in 75% of American public schools. Michelle holds a B.A. in English Literature and Spanish from Butler University and a master's degree in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Prior to starting CommonLit, Michelle was a classroom teacher; she has taught in urban and rural environments and at the university level. Today, Michelle speaks frequently about technology in education, and the importance of grounding innovation in the science of what works. She was a finalist for the Forbes 30 Under 30 Change the World Competition in 2016 and the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for her region in 2018. In her spare time, Michelle coaches early stage edtech entrepreneurs and blogs for Women@Forbes



**Neena Hendershott**  
**Chief Marketing Officer**  
**Zearn**  
**@zearned**

Neena Hendershott is Chief Marketing Officer at Zearn, the nonprofit educational organization behind Zearn Math, the top-rated math learning platform used by 1 in 4 elementary students nationwide. Neena leads Zearn's efforts to support awareness and fidelity usage of Zearn Math. Before joining Zearn, Neena led customer experience and marketing for companies in the financial technology space and spent nearly a decade at Bain & Company. She holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BS from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



**Claudia Miner**  
**Co-Founder and Executive Director**  
**Waterford UPSTART**  
**@DrClaudiaMiner**

For more than a decade, Dr. Claudia Miner has helped families prepare their children for kindergarten as the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Waterford Upstart. Dr. Miner worked closely with the Utah Legislature to secure initial and ongoing support for the program before expanding to states across the nation. Since 2009, nearly 100,000 children have prepared for kindergarten through Waterford Upstart with another 35,000 "graduating" in 2021. Omidyar Network named Miner one of their "Women Entrepreneurs Changing Education." She received her undergraduate degree from Colgate University, her master's degree from the College of William and Mary, and her Ph.D. from Washington State University.



**Karin Wu**  
**Executive Director of Social Impact**  
**MIND Institute, Creators of ST Math**  
**@KarinCWu**

Karin Wu leads MIND's Social Impact Team, which is responsible for the organization's philanthropic partnerships with corporations, foundations and individuals to help equip students to solve the world's most challenging problems. Over 1.6M students and their teachers are benefiting from ST Math, MIND's signature PreK-8 visual instructional program that leverages the brain's innate spatial-temporal reasoning ability to solve mathematical problems. Karin also served as Vice President of Engagement, responsible for developing MIND's marketing strategy and contributing to MIND's organizational strategic planning process. She serves as an ambassador for the organization, building relationships with the media, educational influencers and advocates, administrators, and philanthropic partners. Prior to joining MIND in 2015, Karin spent more than 20 years in leadership, sales and marketing roles in a variety of sectors including education, video games, and nonprofits, including Educational Software Partners International, Riverdeep Interactive/Edmark and Nintendo. She holds a B.A. in International Business Administration from St. Mary's University and a M.A. in Education Leadership from Argosy University. She is fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese.