



Bridging the Gap Between Home and School to Boost Attendance and Achievement

A CGLR Funder-to-Funder Conversation

October 17, 2023 | 12:30–2 pm ET/9:30–11 am PT

Panelist Bios

MODERATOR

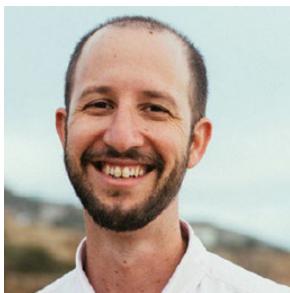


Yolie Flores
CEO & President
Families in Schools

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Yolie Flores is CEO and President of Families In Schools, a nonprofit statewide organization based in Los Angeles, California, whose mission is to involve families and communities in their children’s education to achieve lifelong success. Most recently, Yolie served as the National Campaign Director for Building a Parent Nation, a campaign initiative of the TMW Center for Early Learning and Public Health at The University of Chicago. Previously, at the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Yolie supported Campaign communities in their quest to ensure early school success for more children by elevating parent success. As a leader in Los Angeles, she served as Vice President of the Los Angeles Board of Education and, for almost a decade, served as CEO of the L.A. County Children’s Planning Council, a countywide collaborative focused on improving outcomes for children. In 2017, Yolie ran for Congress distinguishing herself as the candidate for children and families. Yolie’s leadership and commitment to the well-being of children and families has earned her the distinction of, twice, being named Social Worker of the Year.

PRESENTERS



Eyal Bergman Ed. L.D.
Senior Vice President
Learning Heroes

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Eyal leads Learning Heroes’ efforts to support schools, districts, and others that want to build their capacity for deeper and more meaningful partnerships with families. He recently earned his Doctorate of Education Leadership (Ed. L.D.) from Harvard University, a pursuit that included partnering with Dr. Karen Mapp in co-authoring the [Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School](#)

[Partnerships \(Version 2\)](#). Previously, he was the founder of the Family & Community Engagement Office in the Cajon Valley Union School District. Eyal's work and views are shaped by his professional roots in community organizing and youth mentoring, as well as his personal upbringing in a bilingual Latino immigrant home.



Ambika Kapur

**Program Director, Public Understanding, National Program
Carnegie Corporation of New York**

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Ambika Kapur is a program officer within Carnegie Corporation's Education program where she manages the Public Understanding portfolio. Kapur oversees grantmaking aimed at engaging parents, communities, teachers, and policymakers in understanding and demanding changes in education that ensure that all students develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions they need for future success. Previously, Kapur served as officer of Special Projects in the National Program, overseeing the budget, coordinating program strategies and grantmaking, and providing critical support to the vice president on strategic priorities. Kapur also managed grantmaking and communications activities for Next Generation Science Standards development and mobilization, leading the Corporation's commitment to the Common Core Communications Collaborative. Kapur was born in Calcutta. She has a BA in international relations from Wellesley College and a MA in international education development from Columbia University.



Gina Martinez-Keddy

**Executive Director
Parent Teacher Home Visits**

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Gina Martinez-Keddy is the executive director of Parent Teacher Home Visits (PTHV), a national family engagement model in twenty-eight states that strengthens relationships between teachers and parents – the primary co-educators in a child's life. As a community organizer in 1997-1999, Gina worked with parents and other organizers to help launch PTHV in Sacramento, CA, then rejoined PTHV as executive director in June 2017. In the intervening years, she continued her organizing career across California, serving as the executive director of Congregations Organizing for Renewal and Orange County Congregation Community Organizations. At PICO National Network she served as director of professional development and statewide consultant. She earned her BS from Cal Poly Pomona, her MBA from UCLA, and her MA in Social and Cultural Studies in Education from UC Berkeley. She comes from a proud line of courageous mothers who, within a racially segregated education system, advocated publicly for their children's rights to a high-quality public education.



Kate Pechacek, M.Ed.

Head of Impact Strategy

TalkingPoints

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Kate Pechacek, M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction, currently serves as the Head of Impact Strategy at Talking Points, as the most recent of several roles in the area of education technology over the last seven years. She began her over twenty-five year career in education as a secondary math teacher. In addition to fifteen years as a teacher, she has also served in districts across the country in multiple site and district leadership roles in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment as well as multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). She is passionate about ensuring equity, disrupting predictability and narrowing opportunity gaps. She also believes schools cannot do it alone, nor can families; partnerships are essential as every student deserves a school-family “wrap around” support system.



Stephanie Sharp, M.S.

Portfolio Manager, Early Impact

Overdeck Family Foundation

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Stephanie Sharp, Portfolio Manager, supports organizations in the Early Impact portfolio, with a focus on increasing reach, strengthening key capacities, and attracting follow-on funding. Before joining the portfolio in 2017, Stephanie worked at two edtech companies where she focused on scaling through partnerships and implementation models. Prior to that, Stephanie taught Pre-K in Baltimore City Public Schools through Teach For America. She earned her M.S. in Early Childhood Education from Johns Hopkins University and graduated cum laude from George Washington University with a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Outside of work, Stephanie is a Board Member for the School of American Ballet and serves on the Young Alumnae Committee for the Brearley School.