**GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Challenge Series**

Learning to Read: Applying Universal Design to Learning

February 7 , 2023 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

**PRESENTER BIOS**

**Moderator**

**Lindsay Jones**

CEO, CAST

Lindsay E. Jones is the [Chief Executive Officer of CAST](https://www.cast.org/news/2022/cast-appoints-lindsay-jones-new-chief-executive-officer), where she works with innovative educators and researchers across the globe to design education systems that are learner-centered, flexible, accessible, and rooted in [Universal Design for Learning](https://www.cast.org/impact/universal-design-for-learning-udl). Lindsay leads strategy and implementation at CAST to ensure all of CAST's work removes barriers, fosters belonging, and creates equitable education opportunities for every learner.

Lindsay previously served as the President and CEO of the [National Center for Learning Disabilities](https://ncld.org/) (NCLD), a nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes innovation, research, and youth voice to improve the lives of the 1 in 5 with learning disabilities and attention issues. She also served as the senior director for policy and advocacy at the [Council for Exceptional Children](https://exceptionalchildren.org/) (CEC) where she led federal legislative advocacy and worked with dedicated educators from across the country.

Lindsay began her career as an attorney, advising and representing schools and parents in special education matters. She was a partner with the law firm of [Gust Rosenfeld](https://www.gustlaw.com/) in Phoenix, AZ, and is admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the State Bar of Arizona.

Lindsay is a sought-after education and disability policy expert. She currently sits on the [National Advisory Committee of the Science of Learning and Development Alliance](https://soldalliance.org/who-we-are/national-advisory-committee/) and is an [Advisor to the Progress Center,](https://promotingprogress.org/about/center-advisors) a program that improves outcomes for students with disabilities, funded by OSEP and housed at the American Institutes of Research. She is a regular presenter at conferences across the nation and often appears in print and on air, including in publications like *The Washington Post*, *US News and World Report*, *NPR*, *Education Week*, and the *National Journal*.

Throughout her career, Lindsay has served on several education-related boards including the Arizona Education Foundation, the Committee for Education Funding, IDEA Full Funding Coalition, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Education Taskforce, University of Arizona Law College Association, and Council of School Attorneys, National School Boards Association. She lives in Virginia with her husband and son, where they cheer on the Arizona Wildcats, Cleveland Browns, and all teams D.C.

**Presenter**

**Becky Canham**

Implementation Specialist

California Coalition for Inclusive Literacy

CAST

**** As one of the Implementation Specialists for the [California Coalition for Inclusive Literacy (CCIL)](https://www.cast.org/our-work/projects/ccil-inclusive-literacy-california-students), Becky collaborates with and supports educators to improve teaching and learning for all learners with a focus on inclusive literacy and [Universal Design for Learning (UDL)](https://www.cast.org/impact/universal-design-for-learning-udl).

Becky has over 21 years of experience within the Los Angeles Unified School District. Her experience has focused on instructional leadership, literacy, language development, and ensuring equity and access for all. She is passionate about the power of literacy and is excited for her work with the CCIL project, leveraging literacy as a means to develop more inclusive and equitable learning environments for all learners.

**Presenter**

**Jennifer Levine**

Chief Academic Officer: PreK-12

CAST

A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated with low confidenceAs Chief Academic Officer (PreK-12), Jennifer Levine oversees the design and delivery of products and services related to the implementation of Universal Design for Learning in schools, districts, and states.

Jennifer is passionate about teaching students who have been marginalized and sees her role at CAST as an opportunity to support systemic changes that empower these students and change society.

Before joining the staff at CAST in 2016, Jennifer spent more than 20 years working in alternative urban education as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Her positive experiences with UDL in the classroom led her to her current position.

**Presenter**

**Benjamin N. Powers, DBA**

Director, Global Literacy Hub

Yale Child Study Center

A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated with medium confidence Benjamin Powers is a practitioner, researcher, and advocate who integrates research and practice to benefit children and adults with reading and attention issues. After completing a BA in Russian, he holds an Executive MBA from RIT and a Doctorate from Grenoble Ecole de Management; his doctoral research focused on the self-esteem and self-efficacy perceptions of adolescents with dyslexia and ADHD to understand the impact on social-emotional well-being and career intentions. Additional interests include developing collaborative and scalable implementation models across LD/ADHD, bilingual, bidialectal, and vulnerable communities.

He speaks on topics related to dyslexia, literacy, ADHD, and Executive Functions, building community partnerships to close the literacy gap and support the needs of diverse students, and developing sustainable platforms of opportunity for all learners.

Benjamin serves as the Director of the Haskins Global Literacy Hub at the Yale Child Study Center where the mission is to improve the mental health of children and families, advance understanding of their psychological and developmental needs, and treat and prevent childhood mental illness through the integration of research, clinical practice, and professional training.

He is the Executive Director of The Southport School & CoLAB. The vision of The Southport School is a world where people with language-based learning differences, like dyslexia, and ADHD are embraced for their strengths and potential, and where all teachers have access to training in best educational practices and current research. Its mission is to provide transformative educational experiences that have lifelong impact on our students as well as thought leadership that engages the LD community.

Benjamin is also the Executive Director of the Dyslexia Foundation. The mission of The Dyslexia Foundation is to facilitate and disseminate scientific breakthroughs and advances in dyslexia through collaboration among neuroscientists, cognitive scientists, geneticists, and practitioners.