

Making Money Matter

GLR Learning Tuesdays

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 | 3 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

PRESENTERS



Andrea Figueroa MPA, CNP
Senior Program Officer of Youth Success
San Antonio Area Foundation

[LinkedIn](#)

Andrea has a Masters of Public Administration and National Certification in Nonprofit Management, as well as a B.A. in Mexican American Studies with a concentration in Literature, from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She currently serves as Senior Program Officer for Youth Success at The San Antonio Area Foundation. Previously she served as the Executive Director of Empower House SA (formerly The Martinez Street Women’s Center), a 23 year-old organization with roots in the East Side of San Antonio. Although not an S.A. native, she now considers this home, and so has lent a hand in several issues and movements she cares about. She currently serves as a board development chair for Media Justice, and board member for Planned Parenthood San Antonio.



Aleah Guthrie
Vice President of Policy and Government Relations
Tennessee SCORE

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Aleah leads SCORE’s policy and government relations work to improve outcomes for K-12 and postsecondary students in Tennessee. Aleah has been working in education in Tennessee since 2011 when she started her career as a seventh-grade English teacher in Metro Nashville Public Schools. Aleah has also served as a legislative liaison and director of policy at the Tennessee Department of Education. During her time at SCORE, Aleah has advocated for the successful passage of numerous policy initiatives, including the Tennessee Literacy Success Act and the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement, the state's new student-centered funding formula.



Matthew H. Joseph
Senior Policy Advisor, Education Funding
ExcelinEd

Matthew previously worked as a senior program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, spearheading a national initiative to improve strategic use of resources in public education. He also served as Executive Director of Advocates for Children and Youth, where he led successful efforts to improve education and other services in Maryland. He also previously worked as a senior associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Matthew received his bachelor's from Harvard University and a JD from the University of Maryland School of Law.



Zahava Stadler
Project Director, Education Funding Equity Initiative
New America
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Zahava Stadler is Project Director of the Education Funding Equity Initiative in the Education Policy Program at New America. Her work focuses on the policies that govern how school funding is raised and distributed, how those policies affect the equity of the public education system, and how they intersect with issues including housing policy, wealth inequality, and systemic racism. Before joining New America, Stadler was a special assistant at The Education Trust, where she led the organization's work on state school funding policy. Previously, Stadler served as Director of Policy at EdBuild, which focused on school funding inequity.



Rochelle Wilcox
CEO
Wilcox Academy of Early Learning
[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

Rochelle Wilcox has been an early childhood education professional for over 25 years. Her advocacy for early learning started in the classroom as a teacher and led her to her current position as the CEO/Executive Director of the Wilcox's Academy of Early Learning, Wilcox's Academy Too and Wilcox Academy Central City Wilcox Academy. She comes super-charged with an educational background including an Associates of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with an education in Urban Society concentration. She was the first early learning center provider to sit on the Board of Agenda for Children. She currently sits on the boards of The Children's Funding Accelerator CFA and Drexel Prep Foundation DPF. She also sits the steering committees of the New Orleans Grade Level Reading Campaign NOLAGLR, The New Orleans Early Education Network NOEEN and she is the co-chair of Geaux far Louisiana GeauxFar. In 2021, she cofounded For Providers by Providers 4PXPLA a non-profit that champions Louisiana's Type III predominantly BIPOC and Woman led early learning centers (ELC that accepts public funding) by enhancing the quality of ELC through policy advocacy, professional development, networking and wealth building. She is the 2023 recipient of the Inaugural Early Childhood Leader of the Year award

bestowed by Dream teachers and the Louisiana Department of Education. Over her career she has served over 2000 children, families and ECE providers however, she notes her highest honor is being a wife and a mother to 3 sons.

MODERATOR



Elizabeth Gaines
Founder and CEO
Children's Funding Project
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Elizabeth is the founder and chief executive officer of Children's Funding Project. Begun in 2018, Children's Funding Project is the response to Elizabeth's 25 year career in child advocacy that persistently led her to question whether adequate resources were being directed to children. Her career began with leading after-school and community-based youth programs at the Atwood Community Center in Madison, Wisconsin. She later served as youth policy analyst for Citizens for Missouri's Children, followed by 13 years at the Forum for Youth Investment, where she helped policy leaders develop tools and techniques to improve their use of data, increase their policy alignment, and more efficiently apply resources for greater impact. Elizabeth is also the executive director of Children's Funding Accelerator, the advocacy arm of Children's Funding Project.

As an expert on children's policy at the state and local level, Elizabeth has worked with communities in nearly all 50 states to establish children's cabinets, conduct fiscal maps, and pursue dedicated funding for youth. Her publications include: *The Adding It Up Guide to Mapping Public Resources for Children, Youth and Families*; the Forum for Youth Investment papers on state children's cabinets and councils; *How Public Policy Can Support Collective Impact*, co-authored with FSG; and a collaboration on *Funding Our Future: Generating State and Local Tax Revenue for Quality Early Care and Education*. Since 2018, Elizabeth has guided Children's Funding Project through over 40 projects with national networks, state and local governments, advocates, and youth leaders. A native of St. Louis, MO, Elizabeth attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and currently resides in Washington, D.C.