

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

Smart ESSER Investments: Leveraging Edtech for Equitable Learning Acceleration

January 31, 2022

Presenter/Moderator and Discussant Bios

PRESENTER & MODERATOR

Anna Edwards

Chief Advocacy Officer, Whiteboard Advisors



For nearly two decades Anna has helped to architect changemaking campaigns, and advised the leaders of the nation’s most impactful businesses and nonprofits on national policy and advocacy initiatives. A product of the Atlanta Public School system and honors graduate of Yale University, Anna is regarded as trusted confidante and partner by both federal policymakers and state and local leaders alike on K-12, higher education and workforce policy. A student of the policy and market dynamics that impact preK-postsecondary education, Anna is a frequent speaker and advisor to education donors and investors. She is also Whiteboard Advisors’ most frequent flyer, working with governors’ offices, state departments of education, higher education and workforce leaders, and school districts across the country.

DISCUSSANTS

Shawn Bird, Ed.D.

Chief Academic Officer, Houston Independent School District



Dr. Shawn Bird grew up in Houston and has served in public education for 23 years. He began his career as a high school English teacher and has also held the position of secondary literacy coach, assistant principal, and principal. After moving to California, he worked in the Los Angeles Unified School District as a principal supervisor and in Pasadena Unified School District as the chief academic officer. Dr. Bird has also served as chief of schools in the School District of Philadelphia and most recently as the deputy superintendent of instruction and school communities at Portland Public Schools.

DISCUSSANTS

Leigh Ann Bradshaw, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent, Orange County Public Schools



As a veteran teacher, resource teacher, assistant principal, and principal, Dr. Bradshaw began her career with Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) in 2010 as the Turnaround Schools Director working with Evans High School, Oak Ridge High School, Memorial Middle School, and the Florida Department of Education Bureau of School Improvement. She directed the implementation of the Transformational Model for school improvement in targeted low—performing schools as required by state and federal regulations through the prescribed turnaround leader position and School Improvement Grant. During this time, each school increased its grade as measured by the Florida Department of Education. During her time with OCPS, Dr. Bradshaw served as an Executive Cabinet leader through her work as an Executive Area Director in the High School Office, Area Superintendent in the East Learning Community, and Associate Superintendent.

Sophia Mendoza

Director of Instructional Technology Initiative, Los Angeles Unified School District



Sophia Mendoza is an innovative, systems-level collaborator with over 20 years of experience as an education leader in L.A. Unified. Leading the implementation of computer science education and digital citizenship programs across 1300 schools. Committed to cultivating leaders and learners ready for a growing digital world. Named a NextGeneration Leader by EdScoop and CoSN, 2018 Most Influential People in EdTech by Tech & Learning and recently announced as an ISTE Impact Award honoree for 2019 Innovator of the Year for 2019 by Education Dive and recently announced as the ACSA Region 16 Technology Administrator for 2020 an honor that recognizes her work in establishing strategic partnerships and programs that expand instructional technology opportunities for all students.