



Transforming the Early Literacy Landscape Using Collective Learning With 313Reads

A Crucible of Practice Salon
January 10, 2023 / 12:30 – 2 pm EST

MODERATOR



Alyce Hartman
Director of Collective Learning & Resources
313Reads

Alyce Hartman is a passionate urban educator, speaker, writer, and curriculum developer with a literacy background. She has 11 years of experience teaching in the public school system, leading youth-based programs for non-profit organizations and working in social service settings for community development companies.

PRESENTERS



Christine Bell, LMSW
Executive Director
Urban Neighborhood Initiatives
Co-chair of Every School Day Counts Detroit

Christine Bell, LMSW is a community and youth development practitioner, teacher, and mentor with more than 20 years of experience, 18 of those years have been in Detroit neighborhoods. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI). She is the architect of 9 high-quality youth development programs including the Southwest Detroit Mural Arts Project, as well as a leader in efforts focused on education and youth-driven community development. Ms. Bell led UNI in collective impact efforts including co-founding Every School Day Counts Detroit, a multi-sector effort to decrease chronic absence. She is the co-chair of this effort. Christine holds a Bachelors in Social Work from Michigan State University (2001) and a Masters in Social Work from Wayne State University (2006). Most importantly, Ms. Bell is a wife and mother to three beautiful children, Louis, Quintin, and Emersyn.



Emma Herdean
Senior Fellow
Attendance Works

Emma Herdean leverages connections, resources, and research to provide attendance awareness, advocacy and assistance to the community, school administration, students, and families. She currently provides local attendance support to schools and community

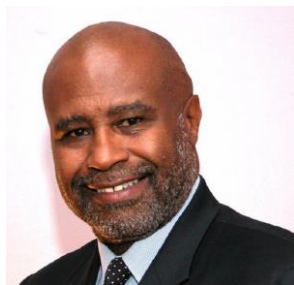
organizations in the city of Detroit, helping to increase academic and life-long success. Emma's knowledge and experience with non-profit organizations, family literacy programs, schools, and community partnerships in the last fifteen years have been instrumental for the current work of improving school attendance.

Emma led to the implementation of family literacy programs through partnerships with community-based organizations and with both Detroit Public Schools Community district (DPSCD) and various charter districts for over a decade. She provided oversight for the implementation of the Community Schools model in the DPSCD for three years, creating systems and supporting implementation of best practices that center and support the whole child. She holds a BA in English and an MA in Linguistics both from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. Emma is currently earning her doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership from Oakland University in Rochester, MI. Emma is fully trilingual and consistently volunteers with children and youth programs and with immigrant communities.



Andrea Meyer
Executive Director
Center for Success

Andrea Meyer has been engaged in the field of education since 2005 and has worked to develop the Center for Success Network afterschool program since January 2015. Prior to that, Andrea gained experience as a classroom teacher for 10 years. Andrea holds certifications in Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI) and English Language Development (ELD) which support her role in creating meaningful, individualized lessons for struggling readers at the Center. As the Executive Director of the Network, Andrea oversees the implementation of the strategic plan of the organization, leads staff and defines culture and oversees donor cultivation, grant writing and financial stewardship. Andrea holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Western Michigan University, gaining her degree through their Urban Education program. In addition to her role at CFSN, Andrea is a co-chair for the Summer Learning Table for 313Reads!, a member of the Transition Committee for the Youth Development Resource Center, a board member for the East Side Youth Sports Foundation, and chairs the Literacy Workgroup for Great Start Collaborative in Oakland County. Andrea's most important role is a wife and mother of her 3 young children, Estelle, Declan, and Asa.



Reverend Larry L. Simmons Sr.
Executive Director, Brightmoor Alliance
Pastor, Baber Memorial A.M.E. Church
Co-chair of Every School Day Counts Detroit

Rev. Simmons is a born-again Christian, joyfully married to Betty Simmons. They have a blended family of eight sons. Rev. Simmons is a graduate of Detroit Public Schools, (Central) Wayne State University with a degree in Computer Science, and Washtenaw Community College with a degree in Applied Technologies.

Rev. Simmons is a fixture in service in Detroit for decades, having served as Political Director for Mayor Coleman A. Young, Chief Information Officer/Director of Strategic Planning for Wayne County, and executive positions in human services. He currently serves as Pastor of Baber Memorial A.M.E Church (soon to retire) and Executive Director of the Brightmoor Alliance.

Baber's vision for its members and the community is "Saved, Prospering, Peaceful, Beautiful, Diverse, Engaged, and Empowered." The community's vision for Brightmoor is "Brightmoor is an innovative community where people of modest means can live, learn, commune, and work in a safe, healthy, culturally diverse, and sustainable environment." This directs and summarizes Rev. Simmons and the work. They could both be summarized in the Brightmoor Alliance – Vision Remix: "Building Abundant Food, Shelter, Clothing, and Hope."

Representing Christ and our community, Rev. Simmons has been honored to serve on two of the most significant commissions for our future, the Coalition for the Future of Detroit School Children, led by the Skillman Foundation and the Hope Starts Here Coalition for Early Childhood by the Kresge and Kellogg Foundations. He also serves on the Board of the Michigan Education Excellence Foundation (MEEF), which organizes funding for the Detroit Promise education scholarship program. Simmons is a co-founding member of the Detroit Residents First fund, focused on locating and growing grass roots leaders and organizations in the city, as well as Every School Day Counts Detroit, a coalition of organizations dedicated to reducing chronic absence in Detroit. He is the co-chair of Every School Day Counts Detroit. Rev. Simmons also serves with 482 Forward, a community-based education advocacy organization channeling the power of youth and community to lead and participate in creating the community we envision.



Leah van Belle, Ph.D.
Executive Director
313Reads

Dr. Leah van Belle serves as the Executive director of 313Reads. A proud Detroiter and first-generation high school and college graduate, she was previously a classroom teacher, literacy coach, university faculty in urban teacher education, and consultant to the Michigan Department of Education on literacy education, literacy equity, and growing educator diversity. Passionate about the need for diverse educators in and out of school, she serves as the Vice-Chair of the Board of the Black Male Educators Alliance. Leah serves as the President of the Michigan Reading Association and on the state's Early Literacy Task force. Most importantly, she is the mama of a neurodiverse little human who is a student in a Detroit public school and is teaching her how to build with LEGOS. She is teaching him about old school jazz in return.