

**GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar**  
**B-flation:**  
**New Data Reveals Parent-Teacher Disconnect on Student Learning**

November 21, 2023 \* Moderator and Panelist Bios

**MODERATOR**

**Tracie Potts**

**Executive Director, Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College**  
**Advisory Board Chair, Learning Heroes**

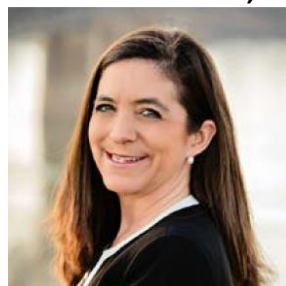


Tracie Potts is the Eisenhower Institute’s Executive Director. Potts spent three decades as an award-winning broadcast journalist, most recently as senior Washington Correspondent for NBC News Channel, the affiliate service of NBC News. Based on Capitol Hill, she covered four Presidential administrations, Congress and the federal government for 200+ local morning news programs, MSNBC, CNBC and foreign news organizations. Outside politics Potts reported abroad from the 2012 Olympics, the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Princess Kate, the selection of Pope Benedict and the death of Nelson Mandela. Potts serves as vice chair of the USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism Advisory Board, after being selected as a 2017 National Fellow. Her “Forgotten Voices” project on the Affordable Care Act was honored with a Dateline Award from the DC chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Potts was an instructor for NBC University and the News Literacy Project. Potts was appointed to the National PTA Board of Directors and serves as a family engagement trainer, facilitator and speaker on its governance team. She is currently an advisor for Learning Heroes and the federally-funded Statewide Family Engagement Center for Maryland and Pennsylvania. Potts completed Northwestern University’s Accelerated Masters Program, earning Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the Medill School of Journalism.

**PANELISTS**

**Michele Connelly**

**Executive Director, United Way of West Central Mississippi**



Michele Connelly is the Executive Director for the United Way of West Central Mississippi, serving 15 partnering agencies in a five-county area. With sixteen years of experience in the local education system and nine in the nonprofit world, she brings passion and a unique set of skills to her service area. Michele acquired a B.S. from Mississippi State University, a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Mississippi College and a Masters in Catholic School Leadership at Marymount University. A Vicksburg native, she is a current member of the Excel by 5 Coalition, the Campaign for Grade Level Reading Coalition, and the local Emergency Food and Shelter Committee, among others. Michele also serves as the statewide co-chair for the ALICE: Financial Hardship Study, along with serving as a Board Member for the Mississippi Head Start Association.

## **Lisa Greening**

### **Executive Director, Turn the Page STL**



In 2020, Lisa Greening started St. Louis' chapter of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Turn the Page STL, to improve third grade reading proficiency in the St. Louis community. For ten years, she was the Executive Director of Ready Readers, a St. Louis nonprofit dedicated to preparing preschool-age children from low-income communities to become readers. Starting in 1995 until April 2020, she was co-owner of Left Bank Books, St. Louis' independent bookstore. She was the Director of

Development for AmeriCorps St. Louis from 2003-2005, and the Founder and Chair of The Big Read Festival in Clayton from 1996 – 2000. Lisa has her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and her Master of Arts in Teacher from The Johns Hopkins University. She was a "30 Under 30" Awardee of the St. Louis Business Journal, and the 2017 Business Leader Awardee by the state of Missouri, in recognition of her dedication to improving the lives of Missouri's children. She is currently on the Board of the St. Louis Regional Literacy Association and a member of the Israel and Overseas Allocation committee for the Jewish Federation of St. Louis. She is from St. Louis, Missouri.

## **Kim Myers**

### **Director, Get Troup Reading, Troup County, Georgia**



Kim Myers is currently the Director of Get Troup Reading in LaGrange, Georgia. She is a graduate of The University of Georgia where she earned a degree in Middle Grades Education. She earned her master's degree in Library Science from Georgia State University and her Specialist Degree in Education from The University of West Georgia. She retired from teaching with 32 years of service where she spent 22 of those years as the media specialist at Hollis Hand Elementary. She also taught school in

Dekalb County and Henry County before returning to LaGrange to raise her family. During her career she was Teacher of the Year at McDonough Elementary, Teacher of the Year at Hollis. In 2020 she was hired to be the first Director of Get Troup Reading. Get Troup Reading is a community-based and locally funded initiative made up of a large group of stakeholders who have a vested interest in early literacy rates.

## **David Park**

### **Senior Vice President, Strategy and Communications, Learning Heroes**



David has extensive experience in communications, strategic planning, community engagement, and development. Prior to Learning Heroes, David was Vice President of Mission Advancement at America's Promise Alliance, where he helped develop and implement the GradNation campaign to increase the national high school graduation rate. David also held senior level positions at several communications firms including Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide and Porter Novelli International,

and taught communications at Georgetown University. David graduated from American University with a BA in communications.

## **Rachel Powers**

### **Partner, Communications and Community, The Opportunity Trust, St. Louis**



Rachel Powers is a proud St. Louis native and has spent her career elevating the voices of communities to recognize and actualize their power to make change. In her previous role, she served as Communications Manager for Noble Schools in Chicago, Illinois. There, she managed external and internal communications, public and media relations, social media, and brand management for the organization's 17 high schools and one middle school. Rachel also served as Dean of Students at Muchin College Prep, where she guided high school students to their goals through academic and social-emotional counseling; and led strategic partnership development to enhance learning outside of the classroom. Previous to working in Chicago, Rachel was a Consultant at Vector Communications in St. Louis, where she galvanized communities to address public policy issues in Missouri and Illinois. In this role, she managed marketing, public relations, community, and stakeholder engagement in the areas of health and human services, transit, transportation, and education. Rachel serves on the board of JADASA, a local non-profit, serving women and children victims of domestic violence. She holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a master's degree in Social Work with a concentration in social and economic development and management, from Washington University in St. Louis.

## **John Robinson, Sr.**

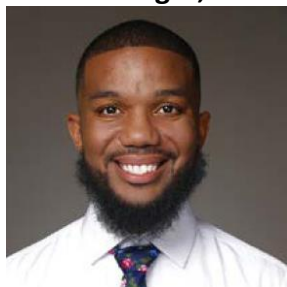
### **Director of Education, Urban League Houston**



As Director of Education for Houston's Urban League, John Robinson is responsible for the development and management of education strategy for "all programs" within the Education and Youth Development Department of the Houston Area Urban League communities and schools. As part of this, he oversees Houston's national award winning National Urban League banner program, "Project Ready Post-Secondary College Access Programs." Robinson continues to be one of the nation's most powerful voices in early and sustained literacy. In addition to leading the education work at the Houston Area Urban League, John is also a national consultant, solutions trainer, facilitator and keynote for Scholastic, Inc.

## **Howard Winchester**

### **Senior Manger, Communications, Learning Heroes**



Howard has a vested interest and focus in digital and social media development, with a variety of prior experience in communications and public relations. Prior to Learning Heroes, he served as a Senior Communications Associate at NASTAD and uses his out-of-the-box and creative thinking to help inform and engage different audiences. Howard received his B.A. in Public Relations, Media Sales, and Advertising, from Morgan State University and graduated with his M.S. in Communication Studies at Stevenson University.