

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

Promotion Policies in 2021: Ensuring Students Are Ready, Not Retained

December 14, 2021

Moderator, Presenter and Commentator Bios

MODERATOR

Kelly Butler

Chief Executive Officer, Barksdale Reading Institute



Kelly Butler is Barksdale Reading Institute's Chief Executive Officer. She holds a bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Alabama and a master's degree in administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University. Prior to joining BRI, Kelly served as a teacher in the Greenwich, Conn. public schools, and has worked extensively with a variety of non-profit organizations in social service, health care and education in the areas of program

development, support and evaluation.

PRESENTER

Kymyona Burk, Ed.D

Senior Policy Fellow, ExcelinEd



Kymyona Burk is a Senior Policy Fellow at ExcelinEd. In this role, she supports states pursuing a comprehensive approach to K-3 reading policy by assisting state leaders in building new or improving existing K-3 reading policies, with a heavy focus on supporting successful policy implementation. Burk most recently served in Mississippi as the Executive Director for the Jackson Public School District's Office of Teaching and Learning and led all aspects of the district's instructional programming.

Prior to this, she was the State Literacy Director at the Mississippi Department of Education where she led the implementation of Mississippi's Literacy-Based Promotion Act. Burk began her career as an elementary reading teacher and has also taught middle and high school English. At Jackson State University, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Master of Arts in Teaching English, Master of Science in Education Administration and Supervision and a Doctor of Education in Early Child Education.

COMMENTATORS

Todd Collins, California Reading Coalition



Todd Collins is an organizer of the California Reading Coalition, a movement of educators, advocates, parents and policymakers committed to improving reading instruction and outcomes for California's six million students. He is also a school board member in Palo Alto, CA. After a career in technology and finance, his primary focus is on supporting and improving California public education.

Shavonne Gibson Ed.D

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning



Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Washington, DC

Shavonne Gibson is the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning in the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) of Washington, DC. In this role, Shavonne has oversight of training and technical assistance for educators, educator quality and effectiveness, including educator licensure and approval of teacher preparation programs, English learner education policy, and educator awards. Prior to entering this role, Shavonne served as the Managing Director of Schools at public charter school network in Washington, DC. In that role, she had direct supervisory and evaluation responsibility for the school principals and oversight of the academic program of the PK-8 school network. Shavonne previously served as a school principal and during her tenure the school was awarded the National Title I Distinguished School Award for closing the achievement gap.

Shavonne is a career educator having taught and led in New York City and Washington, DC. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Rochester, a master's degree in Secondary Education-Social Studies from Long Island University, and second master's degree in Educational Leadership from George Mason University and an EdD in Learning and Organizational Change from Baylor University. Shavonne lives in Maryland with her husband and two sons.

Cari Miller

Vice Chancellor for Literacy Achievement, Florida Department of Education



Cari Miller serves as the Vice Chancellor for Literacy Achievement at the Florida Department of Education. Her main role is to implement comprehensive and cohesive literacy policy and practices birth through grade 12 to improve literacy outcomes for all students. Cari is a former elementary teacher, reading coach, and served as the Deputy Director of Just Read, Florida!, Governor Jeb Bush’s statewide literacy initiative. At Just Read, Florida! she served in various capacities: Reading Specialist, Director of Reading First and Director of Elementary Reading. Most recently, Cari was the Early Literacy Policy Director for ExcelinEd where she worked with state policymakers pursuing comprehensive K-3 reading policy, and supported state departments with effective policy implementation. She is certified in elementary education and educational leadership, and has earned her reading endorsement.