

## GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

### *Accelerating Reading Growth Through High-Dosage Tutoring in Mississippi Communities*

#### **A Crucible of Practice Salon**

January 11, 2022

Moderator & Presenter Bios

#### **Ashley Parker Sheils, Ph.D., Director, MiSsion Acceleration, Moderator**



Dr. Ashley Parker Sheils has 17 years of experience in literacy education as a teacher and an evidence-based, job-embedded literacy coach, which requires designing, delivering, and evaluating professional learning opportunities to improve literacy instruction and ultimately literacy achievement among PreK-12th grade learners. Always a middle-school teacher at heart, Ashley has served as Director of the Mississippi Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, as well as a project coordinator for a federal research study, and a literacy consultant for national organizations, state-level organizations, school districts, and non-profit agencies, specifically related to planning, implementing, and scaling evidence-based literacy practices and interventions, and currently serves as the Director of MiSsion Acceleration, a state-wide high dosage tutoring model to accelerate reading growth among K-5th grade learners. Ashley is passionate about designing and delivering quality learning experiences in the field of literacy instruction and was recognized for her dissertation work related to vocabulary instruction with a national award.

#### **Samantha Cox, Site Supervisor, Early Childhood Coalition, Tupelo, Mississippi**



Samantha Cox is a retired public school teacher. She taught with Tupelo Public Schools for twenty-six years. During that time, she taught second and third grade, supervised student interns from Mississippi State University, The University of Mississippi, and Blue Mountain College. Mrs. Cox also provided professional development for the district on technology, arts integration and teaching professionalism.

Keeping busy in retirement is important as she feels her dedication to the community and children are paramount. Samantha is currently serving as Site Supervisor for Mission Acceleration at partner site, El Centro, a Hispanic speaking support program for families in Tupelo. She also serves her community as a Community Impact Volunteer with The United Way and works as a storytelling teaching artist with Tupelo's Early Childhood Coalition's Start With The Arts (SWTA) program.

### **Andrea Milton, Academic Guide, MisSion Acceleration**



Originally from Jackson, Mississippi, Andrea is a junior at the University of Mississippi majoring in Biology with a Chemistry and Spanish minor. She is a member of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship program and has served as an Academic Guide for Mission Acceleration in Summer and Fall 2021, with plans to also serve Spring 2022. When asked about serving as a tutor while preparing to be a doctor, Andrea had this to say: "In my opinion, being a doctor is much more than being a person who will do check ups and write prescriptions. It has to do with serving your community. As a person who intends to serve in rural and underserved areas, I do so because I have a heart for helping those who may, unfairly, not be able to receive quality care whether it is for educational purposes or health purposes. **Everyone deserves and has a right to quality education and healthcare and being a rural physician and Mission Acceleration Academic Guide helps to close the gap!**"

### **Kimberly Price, Intervention Coordinator, Oxford School District**



As a passionate research-based instructional strategist with over 15 years of classroom experience, Kim Price currently serves as an Intervention Coordinator for the Oxford School District. Over the past few years, her main focus has been increasing student achievement through cross-curriculum student engagement strategies, activities, and strategic interventions that support both students and teachers.

### **Rachel Scott, Evaluation Associate, Center for Research Evaluation, University of Mississippi**



Rachel Scott is an evaluation associate at the Center for Research Evaluation (CERE) at the University of Mississippi. Scott's focus at CERE is working with education clients to help them determine if their work is having a positive impact. Her previous roles in education have been at all levels of K-12 schools including Director of Magnet Programs for a small-urban school district in the South, instructional facilitator/magnet coordinator for a nationally recognized design-themed magnet school, district instructional technology specialist, and AP science teacher. She earned her Bachelor of General Studies (2010) and Master of Science in instructional technology (2014) from Texas A&M University –Texarkana and her Education Specialist in educational leadership (2017) from Arkansas State University. Scott received her Doctor of Education in curriculum and instruction – educational technology (2020) at the University of Florida, with a research focus on technology integration in magnet schools. She has presented locally and nationally on building

capacity for technology integration in schools, theme-based learning and course design, and educational change models to support strategic planning.

**Kari Lynn Somers, Director of Community Impact, United Way of Southeast Mississippi**



Kari Lynn Somers manages the grant funding process for partner agencies of United Way of Southeast Mississippi as well as internal programs in the areas of education, health and economic mobility such as the MiSsion Acceleration program. She earned her Master's in Higher Education Administration from Indiana University and her Bachelor's in Chemistry from the University of Alabama where she has published and presented on her work in civic engagement motivation and the ethics of global service.