GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar
Making Kids a Major Public Priority:
Changing the Narrative

December 5, 2023 * Moderator and Panelist Bios

MODERATOR

John Gomperts
Executive Fellow, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

John Gomperts is a long-time leader in non-profits and government organizations devoted to civic engagement and to creating greater opportunity for children and youth. From 2012 - 2020, John served as President & CEO of America's Promise Alliance. Prior to that, John served as the Director of AmeriCorps in the Obama Administration. Earlier in his career, John worked in the US Senate (Sens. Wofford, Kerry, Daschle), practiced law and served as a judicial clerk. John earned his JD from Georgetown University Law Center and his AB in History from University of California, Berkeley. John has served on a wide range of boards in including FoodCorps (Chair), Points of Light, Presidio Institute, News Literacy Project, and others.

PANELISTS

Isaiah Bailey
Senior Fellow, Topos Partnership

Daniel Isaiah Bailey specializes in education policy, political communication, and race politics. He has served in numerous research roles, including as Survey Research Manager within the Tennessee Department of Education and more recently at the Hub Project. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond (B.A.), and a graduate of the University of Michigan (M.P.P.; M.A.).

Bob Farrace, CAE
National Director, Public Affairs, Children's Defense Fund

Bob Farrace is National Director of Public Affairs at the Children's Defense Fund, where he directs communications, public policy, and research efforts to build a movement for all young people grow up with dignity, hope, and joy. He specializes in narrative development, branding and brand communications, and advocacy communications on behalf of the nation's 74 million children under 18 and additional 30 million young people under 25. Having begun his career as a high school teacher, Bob spent two decades in education advocacy, where he worked to advance transgender

student rights and reduce racial disparities in school discipline. He holds a master's and bachelor's degree both from La Salle University in his native Philadelphia.

Kali Thorne Ladd
Chief Executive Officer, Children's Institute, Oregon

Kali Thorne Ladd is Children's Institute's chief executive officer. Previously, Thorne Ladd was the co-founder and executive director of KairosPDX, a culturally specific organization dedicated to eliminating educational opportunity and achievement gaps for historically underserved children. Through that work, and as a visionary leader in multiple capacities in the region, Thorne Ladd has a long track record of working to transform early learning and healthy development for children and families in Oregon. This has included serving as the chair of the board for Portland Community College, serving on Governor Brown's Early Learning Council, and serving on the board at the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation based in Portland. Thorne Ladd has also worked on education strategies in the mayor's office in the City of Portland and at the Oregon Department of Education. She holds a master's degree in education policy from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in elementary education and psychology from Boston College.

Morgan Shannon
Director of Strategic Partnerships, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice

Morgan Shannon is a crusader for communities of color. Morgan's passion has allowed her to build connections amongst various stakeholders including youth, advocates, organizers, and philanthropy. Morgan served as Program Manager at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation where she worked with the Mississippi, New Orleans, and Boys and Men of Color portfolios. She also served as Program Associate at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where she supported the Health and Climate Justice programs. Morgan is deeply committed to youth development and racial equity, having worked in both and as frontline staff for CommonHealth Action and Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association in South West section of Atlanta, GA.

Andrew Volmert, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President of Research, FrameWorks

Drew Volmert is Senior Vice President of Research at FrameWorks. In this role, Drew leads a multi-disciplinary team of social scientists and oversees FrameWorks' mixed-method research. In this research, Drew and his team examine the tacit assumptions that structure public thinking and develop and test reframing strategies that can drive progressive social change. In addition to overseeing FrameWorks' research across social issues—including economic justice, health equity, children and

youth, and environmental sustainability—Drew has led major initiatives to ground and strengthen mindset shift and narrative change efforts by synthesizing knowledge from across disciplines and fields. He has been with the organization since 2013. In earlier academic research, he explored the relationship between political tradition, national identity, and democratic legitimacy, and he continues to have a strong interest in the relationship between public culture and democracy. Drew's work has appeared in publications such as the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *Political Studies*, and *The Good Society*. Prior to joining FrameWorks, he taught at Georgetown University and held appointments as Postdoctoral Research Associate and Visiting Scholar with the Political Theory Project at Brown University. He holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Brown University and master's and doctoral degrees in political science from Yale University.