

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Partners Webinar
Parent Teacher Home Visits and the Power of Trusting Relationships: 25 Years of Impact
September 20, 2022 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

Moderator



Helen Westmoreland
Director of Family Engagement, National PTA

Helen Westmoreland leads the Center for Family Engagement at National PTA. The Center for Family Engagement empowers grassroots parent leaders to be champions for more transformative family engagement policies and practices. In her role, Helen oversees the development of the Center's partnerships, initiatives, and multi-media resources, including co-hosting *Notes from the Backpack: A PTA Podcast*. Previously, Helen was founding staff and Deputy Director at Flamboyant Foundation where she co-led their family engagement strategy and built, grew, and evaluated an innovative approach to parent-teacher collaboration. Prior to Flamboyant, Helen provided research and technical assistance with the Harvard Family Research Project and started her career supporting community-based afterschool programs. Through her career, Helen has provided consulting services and authored publications on family engagement, education organizing, out-of-school time, and scaling impact. Helen is a proud public school graduate and also received an MEd from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a BA from Duke University. She lives in the DC area with her rambunctious toddler.

Speakers



Dena Booker
School and Family Resource Facilitator, Stamford Public Schools, CT

Dena Booker is the School and Family Resource Facilitator for Stamford Public Schools, CT. She spent five years in the Office of Family and Community Engagement for the district and overseas Family and Community Engagement Facilitators for all schools, and family engagement initiatives. She is also the Parent Teacher Home Visits (PTHV) coordinator for the district.



Judy Chang
Educator, Sacramento City Unified School District

Judy Chang is a 3rd grade teacher from Sacramento City Unified School District. She recently graduated with her Master's from UC Davis, where she also received her teaching credential. This school year 2022-2023 is her first year of teaching, where she is excited to connect with all of her students and build a positive, inclusive classroom community. Judy is actually teaching at her old elementary school, alongside one of her elementary school teachers.



Don Diehl
Trainer, Parent Teacher Home Visits

Don Diehl is a retired 5th grade teacher from Denver, CO. He began teaching 32 years ago in Honduras as a Peace Corps volunteer. Don has taught internationally, in Detroit Public Schools, and Denver Public Schools, in mostly classrooms in Title 1, severe needs schools, with students that were survivors of severe trauma, and so were their families. Don was originally trained in the Parent Teacher Home Visit model 21 years ago. Since then, it has been the primary tool he has used to build strong, honest, and real relationships with the families of his students. This tool is what kept him teaching for all these years. Since retiring, he has continued teaching and working with families as a private tutor/mentor. I started my own tutoring business 8 years ago. He is also an National trainer for Parent Teacher Home Visits, both remotely and in person.



Dr. Alex Marrero
Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

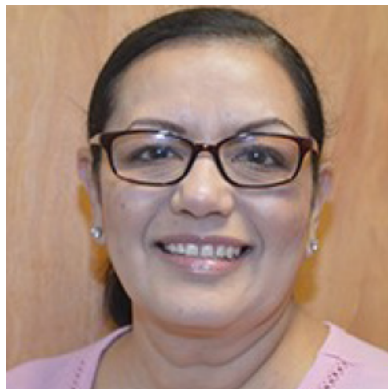
Dr. Marrero is proud to serve as the superintendent of the Denver Public Schools where he leads with a vision of supporting students the way educators supported him growing up and into his career. As the child of a Cuban refugee and an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, Alex prides himself on representing many of the Latinx students in the communities he has served as a school leader and in district leadership positions. Alex has been honored as an outstanding administrator by the Latino Caucus of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators and inducted into the New York Academy of Public Education. He received a Leadership and Excellence in Education Award from the Association of Dominican-American Supervisors and Administrators and was recognized as the national Latino Administrator of the Year by the Association for Latino Administrators and Superintendents. In January 2020, Alex joined the City School District of New Rochelle as the Assistant

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. In September, he became the first Latinx head of the city's school system, serving as acting and then interim superintendent. Prior to that, as Assistant Superintendent at East Ramapo Central School District, Alex supported schools into Good Standing and increased graduation rates.



Gina Martinez-Keddy
Executive Director, Parent Teacher Home Visits

Gina Martinez-Keddy is the executive director of Parent Teacher Home Visits (PTHV), a national family engagement model in twenty-eight states that strengthens relationships between teachers and parents – the primary co-educators in a child's life. As a community organizer in 1997-1999, Gina worked with parents and other organizers to help launch PTHV in Sacramento, CA, then rejoined PTHV as executive director in June 2017. In the intervening years, she continued her organizing career across California, serving as the executive director of Congregations Organizing for Renewal and Orange County Congregation Community Organizations. At PICO National Network she served as director of professional development and statewide consultant. She earned her BS from Cal Poly Pomona, her MBA from UCLA, and her MA in Social and Cultural Studies in Education from UC Berkeley. She comes from a proud line of courageous mothers who, within a racially segregated education system, advocated publicly for their children's rights to a high-quality public education.



Yesenia Ramirez
Founding Parent & Senior Advisor, Parent Teacher Home Visits

Yesenia Ramirez helped lead the community organizing effort that launched PTHV in 1997. As a parent who felt disconnected from her children's school, and whose own daughter was struggling, she brought critical expertise to the development of the PTHV model. Yesenia is responsible for developing a certified training team and leading national PTHV trainings. Her story has inspired tens of thousands of educators, families, and community members across the country. She has six daughters and eight grandchildren and has lived in Sacramento for over 25 years.