



## Using Parent Coaching To Promote Kindergarten Readiness

A CGLR Funder to Funder Conversation  
Co-Sponsored by Overdeck Family Foundation

June 22, 2021 | 12:30-2 pm ET/9:30-11 am PT

### PANELIST BIOS



**Carly Roberts**  
**Senior Program Officer, Early Impact**  
**Overdeck Family Foundation**

Carly Roberts is the Senior Program Officer at Overdeck Family Foundation, where she has led the Foundation's early childhood grantmaking since 2014. Through her work, she aims to create strong foundations for early learning by funding organizations supporting families of young children.

Her career has centered on child development, education, and health in a variety of settings. Prior to joining the Foundation, she worked in consultative roles advising three urban school districts (including the NYC Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood Education) and the Robin Hood Foundation. She began her work in education as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Horton's Kids, providing comprehensive, wraparound services for children and families in Washington, D.C. Carly earned her Master of Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and Master of Public Health from Columbia's Mailman School. She also holds a B.A. from George Washington University.



**Malai Amfah**  
**Story County Reads Director**  
**United Way of Story County**

Malai Amfah has over 18 years of experience working in advocacy and program management serving children and youth. She joined the team at United Way of Story County in 2017 where she oversees the "Story County Reads" coalition associated with the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading. Her primary area of work involves leading teams using systems thinking and the collective impact model, analyzing programs implemented by partners, community and coalition building, public speaking, youth engagement and volunteer management. Malai is the co-chair of Early Childhood Iowa's Equity Advisory Committee where she leads a state level team with ensuring equity guiding principles are infused across the greater network. She is also a member of Mid-Iowa Health Foundation's HealthConnect Fellowship where she is concentrating on a

project involving equity in education. Malai has facilitated workshops and conducted presentations at national, state and local conferences through NeighborWorks America, the Iowa Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Iowa Afterschool Alliance, Early Childhood Iowa, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (Iowa AEYC), Iowa State University and United Way of Story County.



**Marena Burnett**  
**Chief Engagement Officer**  
**Centering Healthcare Institute**  
**@CenteringHealth**

Since joining the Centering Healthcare Institute team in 2015, Marena Burnett has been focused on increasing awareness and access to Centering group care. She has been a passionate driver of the prenatal through pediatrics continuity model (P - 2) and leads product development efforts to support CHI's healthcare partners in applying the model across the life course. Burnett provides leadership and oversight to the Engagement and Innovation department; working towards an equity lens and CHI's core values infused into all communications, products and services.



**Stephen M. Hannon, Ph.D.**  
**President and CEO**  
**LENA**  
**@LENAEarlyTalk**

Dr. Stephen M. Hannon is the President and CEO of LENA, a national nonprofit focused on increasing adult-child talk in order to improve child outcomes. Steve is privileged to lead a talented team in the shaping and scaling of the organization's caregiver-directed initiatives that integrate LENA's "talk pedometer" technology. Hannon leverages a wealth of technical and leadership skills honed over a 25-year career spanning multiple industries. He has been instrumental in transitioning LENA from an organization known solely for its research on early language to one known for putting research into action and positively impacting children and families around the world.

An expert in optical remote sensing and statistical signal processing, he played various strategic roles with laser radar touchstone Coherent Technologies, Inc., prior to his unusual pivot from aerospace to early childhood six years ago. Hannon earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois and a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**Suzanne Harbin**  
**Director, Early Childhood Initiative**  
**Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia**

For over 30 years, Suzanne has served in the Whitfield/Dalton community. In 2014, she became the Early Education Empowerment Zone (Race To The Top) Coordinator for the Northwest Georgia region, and the lead for the Get Georgia Reading campaign for that area.

Following that success, the Early Childhood Initiative of Northwest Georgia was formed. Made possible by the Anna Sue and Bob Shaw Foundation, the organization strives to assure that young children from the region have access to the highest quality, early education resources available. The organization works to put ALL children on the path to reading on grade level by 3rd grade.

Whitfield/Dalton has received numerous state and national recognitions and over 13.5 million dollars in funding including: the PBS Kids Family Initiative Grant; 21st Century Afterschool; and has been designated as both a Bright Spot and a Pacesetter community by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.