

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

Big Bets Working: Keeping the Commitment to Tutoring Alive and Strong

January 16, 2024

Moderator and Presenter Bios

MODERATOR

Pete Lavorini

Portfolio Manager, Innovative Schools, Overdeck Family Foundation



Pete Lavorini leads the Innovative Schools portfolio, which aims to expand access to tech-enabled, student-centered K-9 learning environments. As a former 6th grade teacher, Pete believes that every child deserves an education that both empowers and connects. He has experience leading district-level initiatives for both the New York City Department of Education and Pittsburgh Public Schools, and helping social impact organizations set and operationalize strategy at The Bridgespan Group. Most recently at OneGoal, a national college access and success nonprofit, he supported strategies to scale impact for the organization.

PRESENTERS

A.J. Gutierrez

Co-Founder and Chief of Marketing and Communications, Saga Education



AJ Gutierrez is the Co-Founder, Vice Chair & Chief of Marketing & Communications at Saga Education. Prior to this, they were with SAGA Innovations, Summer Search, and Match Education. AJ has also served as a Corps Member with City Year and as a Service Project Coordinator with the College Orientation Workshop. Their internships include one with the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office. AJ Gutierrez has a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Questrom School of

Business at Boston University and a BA in Philosophy from Union College.

Kevin Huffman

CEO, Accelerate



Kevin Huffman is the founding CEO of Accelerate, a national initiative that seeks to embed high-impact tutoring and personalized learning in public schools. Previously, Huffman was a partner with City Fund. Huffman is the former Tennessee commissioner of education, where he managed the state department of education in its effort to advance the academic progress of nearly one million students. During Huffman's tenure, Tennessee had the largest state gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Huffman began his

education career as a bilingual teacher in the Houston Independent School District. After attending law school, he represented school districts, state departments of education and universities. Huffman joined the senior management of Teach For America in 2000, serving as general counsel, senior vice president of growth strategy and development, and executive vice president of public affairs. Huffman graduated from Swarthmore College with a B.A., and from the New York University School of Law.

Linda Jacobson
Senior Writer, The74 Media



Linda Jacobson is a California-based senior writer for The 74, covering Congress, policy, courts, early education and more. Prior to The 74, Linda spent three years at Education Dive, writing and editing a blend of news and features with a special focus on school and district leadership. Continuing a longtime focus on early-childhood education, she also ran a monthly column on research, policy and practices related to young children. Linda began covering schools for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution; she has also worked as a reporter and associate editor at Education Week and served as assistant director of the Education Writers Association. Linda was a first-prize winner in the National Awards for Education Reporting, the winner of an Eddie Award for a School Library Journal package on news and media literacy in schools, and a 2018 fellow with the Center for Health Journalism at USC.

Susanna Loeb, Ph.D.
Founder and Executive Director, National Student Support Accelerator
Professor and Faculty Director, Education Policy Initiative
Graduate School of Education, Stanford University



Susanna Loeb is a Professor at the Graduate School of Education. She was Director of the Annenberg Institute at Brown University, where she was also Professor of Education and of International and Public Affairs and the founder and acting executive director of the National Student Support Accelerator, which aims to expand access to relationship-based, high-impact tutoring in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Susanna's research focuses broadly on education policy and its role in improving educational opportunities for students. Her work has addressed issues of educator career choices and professional development, of school finance and governance, and of early childhood systems. Before moving to Brown, Susanna was the Barnett Family Professor of Education at Stanford. She was the founding director of the Center for Education Policy at Stanford and co-director of Policy Analysis for California Education. Susanna led the research for both Getting Down to Facts projects for California schools. In 2020, she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is also an affiliate at NBER and JPAL and a member of the National Academy of Education.

Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.
Chief Impact Officer, Reading Partners



As a senior executive with experience and a positive track record working in the private, public and nonprofit sectors, Phillip M. Robinson, Jr. has always had a passion for service. As the chief impact officer, Phillip is responsible for coaching, supporting, and managing all regional executive directors; overseeing more than 400 site and national operations staff; and building external partnerships and business development opportunities. Prior to his current role, Phillip served as the managing director and chief operating officer for Education Board Partners. In this role, Phillip was responsible for operations, strategy development, and leading the team in developing and delivering programs. Previously, Phillip served as the senior vice president of regional and site operations at City Year, Inc. In this capacity, Phillip oversaw all aspects of operations for 28 U.S. sites, including five regional vice presidents, more than 700 site staff, 3,000 AmeriCorps members and a total budget of \$168 million. Prior to joining the national senior leadership team, Phillip was the executive director and vice president of City Year Cleveland. Under his leadership, City Year Cleveland underwent a complete turnaround, doubling its revenue, growing its operations by more than 20 percent, and winning Best of City Year three years in a row. Early in his career, Phillip served as a legislative aide for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and then as an executive for several Fortune 500 marketing and public affairs firms. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Phillip currently serves as a state representative (House District 6) in the Ohio House of Representatives. In this capacity, Phillip serves as the ranking member on the education committee and sponsored legislation to help create jobs that was signed into law in his first term. Phillip earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from The George Washington University and his Executive MBA from Case Western Reserve University. Also, he is a previous Pahara-Aspen Institute Next Gen Fellow, named a “Who to Watch in Education” in Cleveland and recognized as one of Crain’s Cleveland Business’s Forty Under 40. Phillip lives in Solon, OH with his wife, Elizabeth, and two young children.