

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar
National Summer Learning Association:
How Education Decision-Makers are Maximizing Summer to Accelerate
Learning Recovery

March 8, 2022

Moderator, Co-Presenter and Commentator Bios

MODERATOR

Polly Singh

Senior Program Officer, Wallace Foundation



Polly Singh joined The Wallace Foundation in 2002 and was named a program officer in 2012, and was named senior program officer in November 2017. Since she began at Wallace, she has worked in the afterschool program area. Singh oversees grants primarily in Wallace’s expanded learning and strengthening financial management initiatives. She also helps manage StrongNonprofits.org, a Wallace website that shares best practices in financial management for afterschool providers. Before joining Wallace, Singh worked at Morgan Stanley and The Century Foundation. She has a bachelor’s degree from Hamilton College, where she majored in Spanish and Latin American studies, and a master’s degree in public administration from the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College. Singh has studied in Spain and the Dominican Republic. In the latter country, she taught English while earning certification to teach English as a second language.

CO-PRESENTERS

Kathleen Airhart

Program Director, Special Education Outcomes, Council of Chief State School Officers



Kathleen Airhart has served at the Council of Chief State School Officers since 2018. She is responsible for leading the work of Recovery and Improvement within the strategic plan to “Ensure Each Student Benefits from College and Career Ready Expectations” including summer learning and enrichment, improving outcomes for students with disabilities, and inclusive leadership initiatives. Kathleen brings with her many years of educational experience, including Deputy Commissioner at the Tennessee Department of Education, superintendent, supervisor for special education, and teacher. Kathleen has built her educational career on a firm belief that all students can be successful regardless of personal circumstance if optimistic adults provide for their potential.

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Aaron Dworkin

Chief Executive Officer, National Summer Learning Association



Dworkin is a national leader in the education, out-of-school time (OST) and youth development fields. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), where he oversees NSLA's support to their network of 15,000 program partners and leaders in the areas of Program Quality, Partnerships, Policy, Public Awareness and Leadership Development. Prior to NSLA, he served as

President of the After-School All-Stars National Network and founded and directed Hoops & Leaders, an award-winning, grassroots youth mentoring and leadership program for low-income boys in New York City. He is a member of the American Camp Association National Board and a graduate of Tufts University, Harvard's Graduate School of Education, Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, and the Coro Fellowship and Leadership Greater Washington. He resides in Washington DC with his wife Lauren and two children.

COMMENTATORS

Melissa Castillo

Assoc. Superintendent of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



With over 27 years of experience in education as well as being a published author, **Dr. Melissa Castillo** is currently serving Arizona's educators and students as the Associate Superintendent of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Arizona Department of Education. Her professional career includes being a teacher in Dual Language and Bilingual programs, Instructional Coach, Professional Development Coordinator, Secondary Administrator, Curriculum Director and

Educational Lead Consultant for MelCast Educational Consulting. She is committed and passionate about her work with educators across the state and country on planning and implementing asset-based systems and evidence-based instructional practices that meet the needs of all students.

Brian Doran

Director of Expanded Learning Models, Texas Education Agency



Brian Doran is the Director of Expanded Learning Models at the Texas Education Agency, working to support districts in accelerating learning through additional time and use of high-quality curriculum and instruction. Brian began his career as a teacher in Miami, Florida and in rural Japan before moving to school and district operations at KIPP Austin Public Schools. Brian earned a bachelor's degree from Tulane University and a master's in Educational Leadership from The Broad Center.

Dawn Fitzhugh

Summer Learning Coordinator, Arizona Department of Education



Dawn Fitzhugh is the Summer Learning Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Education. She brings over 15 years of experience working in the education field, with a current focus on providing a wide range of opportunities to meet the needs of diverse and underserved communities in out-of-school time. Her experience includes teaching at Title 1 Elementary Schools for grades K-5, supporting future educators in the EdRising Program at Rio Salado College, and overseeing 21st CCLC

programs for the Arizona Department of Education. Dawn is incredibly passionate about supporting promising, evidence-based practices for summer learning programs to meet the needs of all students.