Why Shattering the Wall Between Home and School is a Good Thing

March 30, 2021 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

Presenter Bios

MODERATOR

Stephanie Sharp

Associate Program Officer, Early Impact
Overdeck Family Foundation
@StephanieLinka

Stephanie Sharp is an Associate Program Officer at Overdeck Family Foundation where she is responsible for sourcing and supporting grantee organizations for the Early Impact portfolio. Prior to joining Overdeck Family Foundation, Stephanie taught Pre-K in Baltimore City Public Schools and worked in EdTech, helping to scale platform and content models.

PRESENTERS

Dionne Aminata

Illustrative Mathematics Lead Curriculum Writer
& Curriculum Implementation Support Specialist
Los Angeles Unified School District
@dionnedance

Dionne Aminata is the Grades 2–5 Lead on the curriculum writing team at Illustrative Mathematics (IM). She is also supporting the IM K-5 Math curriculum implementation at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). She began her career in education as an elementary teacher at LAUSD in South Los Angeles, CA, then taught middle school math in Brooklyn, NY, and later served as an instructional coach to new teachers with New York City Teaching Fellows. Dionne then spent 6 years as a Math Content Specialist with Aspire Public Schools in Los Angeles, where she led teachers and leaders through the transition to CCSS, the adoption of a new math curriculum, and the implementation of equitable teaching practices.

Since 2016, Dionne has also worked as a facilitator at UnboundEd's Standards Institutes, helping teachers and leaders from across the country deepen their understanding of the Common Core

Standards and engage in critical conversations about systemic bias and racism in education. Following her NCTM ShadowCon talk in 2019, "Let's Trust Our Students to Do the Work," Dionne founded MathTrust (mathtrusted.com), a consulting firm dedicated to supporting math educators with practical ways to develop trust in their students.

Dionne earned her undergraduate degree in Sociology and Business at UCLA. She has an MBA in Entrepreneurship and Global Marketing from Babson College, and a Masters in Math Education from CUNY Brooklyn College.

Adrienne Austin

Acting Deputy Chancellor
Community Empowerment, Partnerships &
Communication
NYC Department of Education
@NYCschools

Adrienne Austin is the Acting Deputy Chancellor for Community Empowerment, Partnerships, and Communications. She leads the DOE's work to empower families and communities, while increasing the public's understanding of key policies to deepen support for them. The division includes the offices of Family and Community Empowerment, communications, press, marketing and branding, community affairs, intergovernmental affairs, and translation and interpretation services. She previously served as the division's Chief Operating Officer.

Before joining the division, Adrienne served in DOE's Office of General Counsel, where she provided legal counsel and representation on a wide range of matters and held legal seminars for school administrators. Prior to DOE, she worked in criminal justice policy at the Vera Institute of Justice. She began her career as a public defender at Bronx Defenders.

Alejandro Gibes de Gac

Founder and CEO
Springboard Collaborative
@SpringboardNTL

When Alejandro Gibes de Gac was 7, his family immigrated to the US escaping political persecution and seeking educational opportunities. In his upbringing, he learned firsthand that

parents' love for their children is the single greatest — and most underutilized — natural resource in education.

Alejandro founded Springboard Collaborative in 2012 to close the literacy gap by closing the gap between home and school. He was since honored as an Echoing Green Fellow in 2012; one of Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30 in 2014; one of two national recipients of the Claneil Emerging Leaders distinction in 2015; one of the Chronicle of Philanthropy's 40 Under 40 in 2016; a recipient of the People of Promise award from America's Promise in 2017; and a BHSI Fellow in 2018. Alejandro is an alumnus of Teach for America and McKinsey & Company. He holds a BA with high honors from Harvard University and an MS in Urban Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Heejae Lim
Founder & CEO
TalkingPoints
@TalkingPointsED

Heejae is the founder and CEO of TalkingPoints, an education technology nonprofit with the mission to drive student success by unlocking the potential of families to fuel their children's learning, especially in underserved communities. We do this by building meaningful connections between schools, teachers and families through accessible technology.

Heejae founded TalkingPoints based on her personal experience growing up as a Korean immigrant student and seeing her mother be able to make a difference in her education because she had the 'voice' to do so. Previously, Heejae advised the Gates Foundation and Teach First UK at McKinsey & Company, and worked on education reform to drive data-driven decision-making for public schools in the Middle East and served as chief of staff to a special advisor to the Secretary of Education in the UK. Heejae also worked on the development of Aspire Public Schools' teacher training program, which is now Alder Education. In addition, as a consultant at McKinsey & Company, she led multiple due diligence processes for consumer and retail M&A clients.

Heejae has earned a B.A. from Oxford University, an M.A. in International Development from the London School of Economics both with distinctive honors, and an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business, where she was an Arjay Miller Scholar. She has also been recognized as an Echoing Green Fellow, Stanford Social Innovation Fellow, Roddenberry Fellow, Ashoka Changemaker, and Forbes 30 Under 30 for education. Read about her work on EdWeek, Forbes and 74Million.

Vidya Sundaram
Co-Founder & CEO
Family Engagement Lab (FastTalk)
@vidya_sundaram

Vidya Sundaram, Co-founder and CEO of Family Engagement Lab, is a transformational education leader, having built diverse teams in nonprofit education and technology. Vidya has an extensive background in business leadership and program strategy, and most recently led GreatSchools' market research and social impact assessments. Prior to GreatSchools, she drove new investment opportunities in Internet media and also founded a teen media web site. Vidya has led software development at both consumer and enterprise Internet start-ups. She holds a degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University, a Masters in Public Policy from UCLA and her MBA from UCLA Anderson School of Management. Vidya is mom to two kids and proud to be part of a lively multigenerational household.