



The Way Forward: Guided by Lessons Learned the Hard Way Educators Respond

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

January 12, 2021 | 3-4:30 pm ET/12-1:30 pm PT

Presenter Bios

PRESENTERS



Jeimee Estrada
Executive Director
Educators 4 Excellence
@JeimeeEstrada | @Ed4Excellence

Jeimee, a proud product of Los Angeles' education system, brings a lifelong passion for educational equity to E4E that began with her own journey as an LAUSD student in Watts, South Los Angeles and continued through her time at the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. In her most recent role as regional vice president - Los Angeles at Innovate Public Schools, Jeimee headed up the organization's local expansion effort, leading parent organizing efforts informed by her experience as both a researcher and former high school English and Spanish teacher.

Before joining Innovate, she was a researcher at the American Institutes for Research, legislative advisor at the California Legislative Analyst's Office, and taught in California universities. Throughout her career, Jeimee's focus has been on uplifting community voices in education throughout California and focusing on how our policies and systems are designed to ensure there are world-class schools for students of color from low-income families.

Jeimee joined E4E because she believes in the community organizing principle: "The greater distance you are from the problem, the more you can philosophize about it." Our education system does not need more philosophizing. She believes teachers, students, and parents should be at the forefront and at the heart of education change.



Priscilla Forsyth
Vice President, Programs
Teach For America New York
@TFANewYork

Priscilla Forsyth is the head of programs for the New York region of Teach For America. She began her career as a 1998 TFA corps member, teaching second grade in Compton, California. After five years teaching and leading in Compton, Priscilla attended Cornell Law School, where she served as Editor-in-

Chief of the Journal of Law and Public Policy and President of the Black Law Students Association. After graduating from Cornell in 2006, Priscilla practiced law at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLC, completing banking and securities rotations. Priscilla left Cravath in 2009 to join the leadership team of Lighthouse Academies, a national non-profit charter management organization. At Lighthouse Academies Priscilla served as the Regional Director and then Regional Vice President for the East Coast before re-joining TFA in 2013. Priscilla is a born and raised New Yorker and graduate of New York City public schools.



Sanford Johnson
Mississippi Executive Director
Teach Plus
@TeachPlusMS

Sanford Johnson (he/him/his) is the Mississippi Executive Director of Teach Plus. He leads the Mississippi Teaching Policy Fellowship and an Advisory Board in Arkansas. Prior to joining Teach Plus, Sanford co-founded Mississippi First (MSF), an education policy research and advocacy organization. As MSF's Deputy Director of Advocacy, Sanford led an advocacy campaign that led to sex ed policy adoption in over 30 school districts. He also worked with educators to advance policy solutions in charter school development, school funding, and testing.

Beyond his work in ed policy, Sanford is a founding board member for Teen Health Mississippi and the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy. As a member of the Mississippi Sex Ed Training Cadre, he has facilitated teacher training sessions for 7 years. He also chairs the Clarksdale Municipal Elections Commission.

Sanford was born in the Mississippi Delta and returned to the region after college to teach high school Social Studies. He holds a B.A. from Auburn University and a M.P.S from the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. He lives in Clarksdale with his wife, Amanda, and their two daughters, Lorelei (9) and Ava (6).



Calvin Moore, Jr., Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Council for Professional Recognition
@cdacouncil | @Cal1Moore

Dr. Calvin Moore, Jr., an accomplished and experienced early childhood education leader, was appointed interim CEO of the Council for Professional Recognition in May 2020; he's the first CEO of the Council to also hold its early education credential, the Child Development Associate® (CDA). He previously served on the Council's governing board.

Moore earned his CDA® nearly three decades ago. His connection to Head Start began when he participated in the program as a child; he also has vast professional Head Start experience, having served in large and small, urban and rural, and center-based and family childcare-based programs, as well as programs focused predominantly on Hispanic families.

Throughout his career, Moore has held senior roles directing complex public departments at both the federal and state level, focused on improving outcomes for underserved children and families. Most recently, Moore was the regional program manager in Atlanta for the Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

His responsibilities included leading the largest region in the country, providing oversight, monitoring, training and technical assistance to over 350 Head Start and Early Head Start grantees with a portfolio of over \$1.6 billion. Prior to joining ACF, he was a senior technical analyst for ICF International, a federal contractor for the Office of Child Care within ACF.

He previously served as the child care administrator for the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR), where he was responsible for implementing strategic goals and objectives. At an earlier point, Moore served at the federal level as the deputy director of the Office of Child Care (OCC) in the ACF. As the OCC deputy director, Moore was responsible for supervising the regional program managers in the 10 ACF regional offices.

Moore holds a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a master's degree in education and a Ph.D. in early childhood education, both from Walden University. He's the author of an early childhood curriculum supplement, "The Thinking Book Curriculum: For Early Childhood Professionals," as well as "Men Do Stay: Recruiting and Retaining Qualified Male Early Childhood Teachers" and many other books.



Evan Stone
Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer
Educators for Excellence
@EvanRStone | @Ed4Excellence

Evan Stone is the Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Educators 4 Excellence (E4E), a teacher-led organization that seeks to ensure that teachers' voices are meaningfully included in the policy decisions that impact their classrooms and careers.

Launched in 2010, E4E has quickly grown into a national movement of over 22,000 teachers learning about education policy, networking with colleagues and policymakers, and taking action around policies that will lift student achievement and the teaching profession. Evan was recognized in Forbes 30 under 30 for Education. In his role, Evan helps to lead E4E's advocacy, organizing, and growth strategies. Evan has worked with teachers across the United States to help them identify, draft, and advocate for recommendations on education policy.

As the son of a teacher, Evan was always interested in education. He began his teaching career as a coach - running the VIP soccer team for children with special needs and coaching both a boys and girls AYSO team while in high school. While in college at Yale University earning a bachelor's degree in political science, Evan continued to work with students as the head of the Luther House Tutoring Program and focused his studies on education policy, writing his thesis on the impact of No Child Left Behind on urban school systems. After graduating, Evan became a 6th grade teacher in the Bronx through Teach for America while earning his master's degree in teaching from Pace University.



Jessica Tang
President
Boston Teachers Union
@jessjtang | @btu66

Jessica Tang was elected President of the 10,000 member Boston Teachers Union, Local 66 of the American Federation of Teachers in June of 2017. She began teaching middle school social studies in Boston Public Schools in 2005 and has served as the first Director of Organizing at the Boston Teachers

Union since 2013. She has served as a Vice President for the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts since 2016 and is also currently a Vice President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. In addition, she is a founding member of the Massachusetts Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance chapter and was appointed as the AFT Representative on the national APALA Executive Board in 2017. She is the first person of color, first openly bisexual/LGBTQ leader, and first woman in over thirty years to serve as President of the BTU.

Throughout her years in BPS, she served in many teacher-leader positions including on Governor Deval Patrick's Teacher Advisory Board, on the BPS Teacher Diversity Work Group, and as a BPS History and Social Studies Fellow. She is a co-founder of the Teacher Activist Group-Boston, former co-chair of the Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association, founding member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Massachusetts chapter, and board member of Citizens for Public Schools. As a teacher-activist, she has been involved in many different community organizations that are working to advance racial, social and economic justice. She earned her Bachelors at Harvard University and holds a Masters in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Jessica began working in Boston Public Schools as a college student volunteer tutor and then tutoring program director at the Mather Elementary School in 2000 and then began her teaching career as a student teacher at the McCormack Middle School in 2004 before teaching at the Gavin and Young Achievers. As the founding Director of Organizing, she spearheaded both internal and community organizing efforts at the BTU. These efforts included the co-founding and creation of the Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA) and Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance (MEJA). The MEJA coalition then housed the Save Our Public Schools/No on 2 campaign to defeat the charter expansion ballot question in 2016. In addition to the successful No On 2/Save Our Public Schools campaign, she has successfully led the "Everyone is Welcome Here" campaign, the Annual Back to School Fair, "Less Testing, More Learning" campaign and all of the BTU Organizing Committees.