

Not Without Teachers: Intentional Teacher Development for Improved Student Outcomes

GLR Learning Tuesdays

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 | 3 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

PANELISTS



Leslie Connelly

Coordinator of Moonshot Professional Development: Acceleration & Coaching
School District of Indian River County
Educational Consultant
The Learning Alliance

Leslie Connelly received her BA in Elementary Education from Flagler College, is a certified K-6 Florida Educator, and earned a MA in Educational Leadership from the American College of Education. She has a strong background in foundational literacy and has received certifications in evidence-research based programs, such as Wilson Reading System. Her experience includes teaching kindergarten through fifth grade, school-based Literacy Coach, District Literacy Specialist, and currently serving as Coordinator of the Moonshot Acceleration Team at Vero Beach Elementary, A Moonshot School. She is employed by Indian River School District and works in partnership with The Learning Alliance to develop teacher knowledge, skill and implementation of The Science of Reading. Her passion lies in providing students with high quality literacy experiences such that they develop the love of reading and are reading on grade level by 3rd grade.



Cynthia Hadicke, Ed.D.

Senior Director Implementation and Client Success
AIM Institute for Learning and Research
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Dr. Cynthia Hadicke is the Senior Director of Implementation and Client Success at AIM Institute for Learning and Research. Dr. Hadicke studied elementary education, curriculum and instruction, and has a doctorate in education leadership. She has served as a teacher, school leader, state Department of Education consultant, and implementation specialist. In her current role, she influences school leaders with implementation science methodology to improve teacher practice in literacy instruction. Her passion is ensuring that every teacher has the tools to teach literacy skills to all children effectively.



Jill Hoda

Assistant State Literacy Coordinator
Mississippi Department of Education
#MsEdu

Jill has served in the field of education for over 20 years. Her experience as a classroom teacher includes teaching Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten through

third grades, as well as K-2 Alternative Education, lead teacher, literacy model teacher, grade-level chair, and teacher mentor. She has been privileged to teach in Mississippi, Delaware, and Ohio. Mrs. Hoda previously served as a Literacy Coach, Regional Literacy Coordinator, and currently serves as one of the Mississippi Department of Education's Assistant State Literacy Coordinators. In her role, she provides on-going support to promote grade-level reading to teachers, administrators, literacy coaches, and professional guidance and resources to regional literacy coordinators. Her greatest strengths include empowering coaches, administrators, and teachers to increase their literacy capacity and instruction; nurturing collaborative leadership; fostering strong working relationships; promoting strategic planning and goal setting; developing innovative literacy resources; and implementing the Literacy Based Promotion Act through continuous state-wide professional development and district/school site visits.



Kira Orange Jones
CEO
Teach Plus
Elected Board Member, District 2
Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)
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Kira Orange Jones is the Chief Executive Officer of Teach Plus. She sets the organization's vision and impact strategy and leads its work to develop and advance teachers as leaders in education policy and practice, build a more equitable and excellent education for students through change and innovation, and elevate the teacher leadership movement and the profession. Prior to joining Teach Plus, Kira served as a Senior Vice President at Teach for America. In 2019, she founded the TFA Systems Impact Lab, managing ten regions across the Midwest and South while advising TFA regions nationwide on strategy and systems change. Kira spent the decade prior at the helm of Teach for America's Greater New Orleans region, leading it through one of TFA's most ambitious growth and impact efforts and expanding the organization's presence from 100 to over 1,000 alumni. In 2011, Kira was elected to her first term on Louisiana's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and was subsequently re-elected in 2015 and 2019. As a state policymaker, she has helped increase teacher pay, strengthened the state's public charter schools, expanded quality early childhood education for families, and grown the number of students prepared for post-secondary success. Kira is one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People In The World and last year, was honored by her alma mater, Wesleyan University, as a Distinguished Alumna.



Elizabeth "Liz" Woody-Remington
Co-Founder and Chief Academic Officer
The Learning Alliance
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Elizabeth Woody-Remington is one of the three original founders of the Learning Alliance. She has a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Delaware and a Masters in Special Ed- Learning Disabilities from American University and is a former member of the Board of Directors for the International Dyslexia Association. She lives in Vero Beach, Florida, and is the mother of two boys who have struggled with LD issues.

MODERATOR



Griselda Young-Ojeda
Senior Manager
EdSurge Partner Success
[LinkedIn](#)

Griselda Young-Ojeda's background is in Bilingual Education & Interdisciplinary Studies. For over a decade she's had the privilege of being an elementary school bilingual educator. Griselda was honored as Bilingual Teacher of the Year and became a District-Level Specialist for the Second Language Education Department in Alief ISD in Houston, TX. She has a wide range of expertise in Educational Technology having worked for EdTech companies, including DreamBox and Ellevation. Griselda now serves as Sr. Manager, EdSurge Partner Success, an editorially independent project of ISTE and ASCD. Through partnership with Edtech companies and their philanthropic work, EdSurge connects thought leaders and engaged consumers in the education community. Her mission is to facilitate professional learning communities, maximize student impact and learning success, all through the use of technology.