

## **Productive Parent/Teacher Partnerships Webinar Series**

Centering Parent-Teacher Partnerships on Student Learning | March 10, 2020

Presenter & Moderator Bios

### **MODERATOR: Roberto J. Rodríguez**

Roberto J. Rodríguez is President and CEO of Teach Plus where he spearheads the movement to grow and strengthen teacher leadership, by empowering excellent, experienced, and diverse teachers to advance change in education that will yield success for students. Roberto is nationally recognized for his expertise in education policy and governance and for his leadership in building multi-sector partnerships with schools, families, and communities to improve educational opportunities for all children.

Prior to joining Teach Plus, Roberto served in senior roles in the U.S. Senate and in the White House. From 2009 to 2017, he developed and led President Obama's education initiatives to build systemic change and improve opportunity and outcomes across the educational continuum, resulting in an increase of tens of thousands of additional children enrolled in early education; an expansion of the Pell Grant to boost participation in higher education; and passage by Congress of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.

Prior to his service in the White House, Roberto led legislative and education policy development efforts for the late U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy, former Chairman of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Roberto began his professional career at the nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, Unidos US, where he worked to elevate voice and further educational opportunity across the Latino community.

### **PRESENTERS**

#### **Maria Paredes**

Dr. Maria Paredes is a Senior Engagement Manager at WestEd with a focus on family engagement. Paredes works collaboratively with schools, districts, and state agencies to help build readiness and capacity for implementation of the Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT) model of family engagement. For 25 years, Paredes has been a teacher, district administrator, researcher and a parent educator focused on transforming the way families participate as partners in education. The APTT model she developed in 2009 has provided a system and opened doors for parents and teachers to work as a team to impact student learning and achievement. Paredes has dedicated her lifework to increasing equity in education and improve opportunities for students and families in underserved communities. The APTT model is currently being used in 26 states and over 1,500 schools across the US, offering systemic solutions and empowering educators and families to work hand in hand to improve academic outcomes for students.

#### **Meghan Wells**

Meghan Wells is the Senior Director of Programs and Research at PowerMyLearning, a national education nonprofit where she has served in various roles since 2012. Meghan was deeply involved in the launch and early development of Family Playlists, an innovative new tool to connect teachers, families, and students around learning content. In her current role she manages program development and evaluation for the organization and oversees national partnership implementation. She has over 12 years of experience in the education nonprofit sector including work with the Data Quality Campaign and Children's Literacy Initiative. She holds an MPA from the George Washington University and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania.