

**Supporting Parents at Home—
An Essential Step to Mitigating Learning Loss**
June 9, 2020 | 3:00 – 4:30pm ET

Moderator, Presenter & Commentator Bios

MODERATOR



Johanna Edens Anderson
Executive Director
The Belk Foundation

Johanna Edens Anderson is the Executive Director of The Belk Foundation, a family foundation based in Charlotte, N.C. The Foundation supports public education by strengthening teachers and school leaders, and ensuring that students are achieving on or above grade level by the third grade. Anderson is responsible for guiding the organization’s relationships with community partners as well as managing communications, strategic planning, policy development, financial and grantmaking activities. Prior to joining The Belk Foundation in 2009, Anderson was Assistant Vice President of Client Services for Foundation For The Carolinas in Charlotte, N.C. Anderson began her career with the Association of Small Foundations in Washington, D.C. She is a past board chair of the North Carolina Network of Grantmakers and alumna of Leadership North Carolina Class XXV.

Anderson holds a bachelor’s degree in public policy studies from Duke University and an MBA from Wake Forest University. She and her husband Chris are parents to two girls, Nina and Margaret.

CO-PRESENTERS



Alejandro Gibes de Gac
CEO & Founder
Springboard Collaborative

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. After graduating from Harvard in 2009, Alejandro joined Teach for America and spent two years as a 1st grade teacher in Philadelphia. There, he became frustrated that the school system treats low-income parents as liabilities rather than as assets. Alejandro founded Springboard Collaborative in 2011 to close the literacy gap by closing the gap between home and school.



Dr. Claudia Miner
Executive Director and Co-Founder
Waterford UPSTART
@DrClaudiaMiner

For more than a decade, **Dr. Claudia Miner** has helped families prepare their children for kindergarten as the Executive Director of Waterford Upstart. Dr. Miner worked closely with the Utah Legislature to secure initial and ongoing support for the program before expanding to states across the nation. Since 2009, 60,000 children have prepared for kindergarten through Waterford Upstart with another 20,000 graduating in 2020. Omidyar Network named Miner one of their “Women Entrepreneurs Changing Education.” She received her undergraduate degree from Colgate University, her master’s degree from the College of William and Mary, and her Ph.D. from Washington State University.



Benjamin N. York, Ph.D.
Founder and CEO
ParentPowered Public Benefit Corporation

Benjamin N. York is the founder and CEO of ParentPowered Public Benefit Corporation and the creator of Ready4K, an evidence-based family engagement curriculum delivered via text messages. Prior to starting ParentPowered, Ben was the Executive Director of CEPA Labs at Stanford University's Graduate School of Education, and he's spent over a decade researching innovations in early education and family engagement. Ben's career spans education research, public education, philanthropy, and finance. He has a B.A. in economics from the University of Colorado, summa cum laude, as well as an M.A. in political science and a Ph.D. in education from Stanford.

COMMENTATOR



Sheetal Singh
Executive Director
Early Learning Lab

Sheetal Singh works to build the capacity for innovation and the use of new technologies for schools and community-based organizations working with families of children, birth to age 5. Her work at the Lab builds upon 15 years of experience in digital media and technology to solve social problems. Prior to joining the Early Learning Lab, she helped advise the global NGO sector on the use of technology to accelerate impact as the Senior Director of Global Media at TechSoup Global, where she also managed the NetSquared social innovation community, connecting technologists with the social sector to develop new products and through monthly meetups, hackathons and online technology challenges. She also worked to develop digital media for parents to support their children's education as the Director of Program Development, GreatKids at GreatSchools. She holds a Masters Degree in Anthropology from the University of London, SOAS, with a focus on the use of technology in cross-cultural contexts.