

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar
Implementation, Replication, Fidelity:
How to REALLY Scale High-Impact Tutoring

April 16, 2024

Moderator and Panelists Bios

MODERATOR

Kevin Huffman, J.D.
CEO, Accelerate



Kevin Huffman is the founding CEO of Accelerate, a national initiative that seeks to embed high-impact tutoring and personalized learning in public schools. Previously, Huffman was a partner with City Fund. Huffman is the former Tennessee commissioner of education, where he managed the state department of education in its effort to advance the academic progress of nearly one million students. During Huffman’s tenure, Tennessee had the largest state gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Huffman began his education career as a bilingual teacher in the Houston Independent School District. After attending law school, he represented school districts, state departments of education and universities. Huffman joined the senior management of Teach For America in 2000, serving as general counsel, senior vice president of growth strategy and development, and executive vice president of public affairs. Huffman graduated from Swarthmore College with a B.A., and from the New York University School of Law.

PANELISTS

Eric Duncan, J.D.
Director of P-12 Policy – Educator Diversity, The Education Trust (EdTrust)



Eric Duncan is the director for P-12 policy, specializing in policies related to educator quality and increasing the racial diversity of the educator workforce. Eric previously was a state policy advisor at WestEd, where he supported the organization’s federal and state policy strategy. Prior to that, Eric worked as a senior program associate at CCSSO, where he supported state efforts to diversify the teaching workforce and ensure that teachers are culturally responsive in practice through the Diverse and Learner-Ready Teachers Initiative. He also worked as the director of district initiatives at the National Council on Teacher Quality, and before that, worked at the U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Secretary, as a LEE public policy fellow. He was a member of My Brother’s Keeper Task Force and supported the Department’s work on teacher diversity. Eric started his career in Atlanta as a high school social studies teacher. He received his undergraduate degree at Emory University and has a juris doctor from Wake Forest University.

Maryellen Leneghan
Chief for State & District Partnerships, Saga Education



Maryellen Leneghan has been in the education field for 10+ years. She was an Algebra 1 teacher for 6 years before joining Saga Education. She worked under Saga's Direct Services department for 5 years as a Site Director, then as Director of Program in Chicago, and later as Senior Director of Programs where she launched Saga in Washington, DC, and Broward County, FL. This work led to the establishment of Saga's District Partnerships department in 2021. Maryellen has since been overseeing all state & district contracts for technical assistance & quality assurance where Saga is currently supporting over 300 schools across the country.

Patrick Steck
Vice President, External Affairs, Deans for Impact



Patrick Steck, DFI's Vice President of External Affairs, is a leading voice on the issue of expanding access to practice-based, instructionally-focused pathways into teaching. With a keen focus on accelerating student learning, solving local educator shortages, and diversifying the teaching profession, Patrick has positioned DFI as a national policy and advocacy leader. Through his work at DFI, and former work in the Texas Legislature, Patrick has refined skill and experience developing human-centered policies, building advocacy coalitions, and steadfastly advocating for the transformation of longstanding systems to promote equity and justice, particularly for marginalized communities.

David Weinstein
Founder and Executive Director, Joyful Readers, Philadelphia



David Weinstein is the founder of Joyful Readers. His parents will tell you that he entered kindergarten claiming he would never learn to read, but by 2nd grade he was voraciously consuming Goosebumps books faster than R.L. Stine could write them. David attended public schools his whole life, and is a graduate of the College of New Jersey, where he could often be found working in the college's tutoring center. In 2007, he moved to Philadelphia to do a year of AmeriCorps service with City Year, spending a life-changing year working at Kensington High School. That 1-year program turned into a 15-year career, with David ultimately managing all of City Year's school-based services. His experiences (and the research!) inspired his belief that well-trained and well-supported AmeriCorps members can make a tremendous difference in the lives of students.

Adeola Whitney
CEO, Reading Partners



Adeola (“Ola”) Whitney brings 20+ years of education leadership experience to the CEO role. Ola joined Reading Partners from iMentor where she led the expansion and implementation of the college-success program and managed executive leadership in the Bay Area, Baltimore, Chicago, and New York City. In a prior role at Reading Partners as chief regional operations officer from 2013 - 2016, Ola oversaw 85 percent of the organization while managing over a dozen executive directors across the country. Ola has also held leadership and management roles with Playworks, Kaplan, and McGraw Hill. Ola earned a bachelor’s degree from Oberlin College in English and African-American studies.

Tess Yates
Senior Director of Learning Acceleration, Tennessee Department of Education



Tess Yates is the Senior Director of Learning Acceleration at the Tennessee Department of Education. In her role, Tess oversees both Tennessee’s statewide summer programming, which serves approximately 100,000 students annually, and statewide tutoring program. TN ALL Corps, Tennessee’s high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring program has served 200,000+ students over the last 3 years across 90+ districts and community partners, working to rapidly accelerate students to grade-level. Tess started her career teaching 7th grade special education math and holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Southern California and a Master’s in Education from Boston University.