

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar
Not Just Nice but Necessary:
Family Engagement = A Big Bet that's Paying Off for Kids

May 21, 2024

Moderator and Panelist Bios

MODERATOR

S. Kwesi Rollins

**Senior Vice President for Leadership and Engagement
Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)**



A member of IEL's Senior Leadership Team, Kwesi Rollins guides IEL's portfolio of programs designed to develop and support leaders with a particular emphasis on Family and Community Engagement, Early Childhood Education and Community-based Leadership Development. Kwesi directs the District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement and Leaders for Today and Tomorrow, an initiative that designs and delivers professional learning and support opportunities for school and district leaders. Kwesi has years of experience working with

local communities and state agencies to improve cross-sector collaboration and service delivery systems supporting children, youth and families. Mr. Rollins provided technical assistance and training to a range of state and county agencies, school districts, local schools and community-based organizations in projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. He has been recognized as the Big Brother of the Year in the District of Columbia and is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the National Capitol Area. He holds an MSW degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Social Work where he was a Maternal and Child Health Leadership Training Fellow.

PANELISTS

Vito Borrello

Executive Director, National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)



Vito J. Borrello is the first Executive Director for the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE), appointed in September 2014. Since its founding, NAFSCE has addressed systemic issues to advance family, school and community engagement as a strategy for child development, student achievement and school improvement. Prior to his current position, Mr. Borrello served as the 19-year president of Every Person Influences Children, a New York-based organization providing parenting education, and family engagement in education programs. Current National Advisory Board Member roles include Scholastic, and the Center for Education Equity. He is co-founder and Chairman Emeritus for the NY State

Family Engagement Coalition. Prior to his NAFSCE appointment, Mr. Borrello was Chairman of the NY State PTA Urban Initiatives Task Force, Steering Committee member of the NY State Parenting Education Partnership, and a past appointee to NY State Education Department workgroups for Teacher Standards, Striving Readers, and Safe Schools. In his home community of Western New York, Mr. Borrello is a past Board Member for the State University of NY at Buffalo's Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention; past Chairman for the Care Management Coalition of Western New York, and past Board member for Buffalo's Read to Succeed literacy initiative. He is a graduate of the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York Fellowship program and a 1998 graduate of Leadership Buffalo. Mr. Borrello has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Wittenberg University and resides in East Amherst, New York with his wife, Maria, and has two daughters, Marisa and Samantha. He commutes to the NAFSCE offices located in Alexandria, Virginia.

Yolie Flores

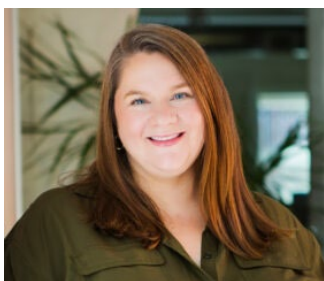
President and CEO, Families in Schools



Yolie is the daughter of working-class immigrant parents, was an English learner, and spent most of her childhood overcoming challenging medical conditions. As the first in her family to graduate college, Yolie has spent her 30-year career working to dismantle systemic barriers that deny children the opportunity to succeed in school and in life. She has held various leadership, management, consultant, and policy positions in city and county government, non-profit organizations, philanthropy, and elected office. As President and CEO, Yolie is building on FIS' legacy and taking FIS to new horizons in its commitment to ensuring equitable partnerships between families, schools, and community partners to ensure children are on the path to success, from birth through college and career.

Emily Garcia

Senior Managing Director, Program, Flamboyant Foundation



Emily leads Flamboyant's Program team, overseeing the organization's work to expand REAL Family Engagement with partners both locally and nationally. Emily is deeply committed to education because she believes that as a product of public education, all students should have access to high-quality education and opportunities, regardless of their background. Prior to joining Flamboyant, Emily spent more than a decade working at DC Public Schools – both at the district level overseeing the redesign of the teacher selection model and recruitment process, and as a school-level administrator. She began her career in education with TNTP (formerly The New Teacher Project) supporting Prince George's County, MD and the state of Delaware with alternative route teaching programs. Emily is a proud graduate of the University of Maryland and was introduced to the education world more than 15 years ago as an intern with DC Public Schools during the summer of 2007.

Roxanne Saldaña Jones
President and CEO, United Way of Texas



Roxanne oversees all United Ways of Texas' statewide initiatives, grants and projects and is responsible for organizational operations. She has many years experience with combined campaigns, facilitation, consultative services, and currently leads statewide contract work focusing on coalition building across Texas.

Shareeda Jones
Flamboyant Parent Ambassador



Shareeda is a Flamboyant Parent Ambassador as part of their **REAL** Family Engagement Trainer Cohort: **R**elationships, **E**xperiences, **A**cademic Support and **L**eadership. She's been working with Flamboyant since 2013 when her daughter received a home visit as part of their work with District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). Her five daughters attend DCPS and DC Public Charter Schools.

Lisa Levasseur
Executive Director, School Support, Elk Grove Unified School District, California



Lisa Levasseur is the Executive Director of School Support for Elk Grove Unified School District. In this role she oversees the Department of Family and Community Engagement, the Educational Equity Department, and the Communications Department. Before coming to Elk Grove, she was the Associate Director of Parent Teacher Home Visit. Lisa was also a classroom teacher for 11 years. She has her Administrative Credential and Master's in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. In 2015

Association of California Administrators Partner in Educational Excellence Award.

Sarah Parker
Engagement Officer, District of Columbia Public Schools



For nearly 25 years Sarah has served the community that raised her, either through direct community engagement and outreach with the District of Columbia Government or through direct service with local and national nonprofit organizations in Washington, DC. Sarah currently serves as the Engagement Officer for DC Public Schools where she leads a team responsible for ensuring that every student's success is

accelerated by partnerships with families and communities. Prior to joining DCPS in 2013 as the Chief of Staff for the Office of Engagement and Partnerships, Sarah served as the Director of Operations for Community Impact at United Way Worldwide.

Kierstan Schwab
Executive Director, Texas PBS



Kierstan Schwab serves as executive director of Texas PBS. Under her guidance, the 10 Texas stations build collaboration with each other and partners to provide educational media and services to parents, schools and communities. She directs the association’s partnership with the Texas Education Agency and was appointed by the Governor to the Texas Early Learning Council. In 2016, Schwab produced the Emmy-nominated *National Parks of Texas: In Contact with Beauty*. Before joining the Association, she worked for Austin PBS.