

Early Childhood Workforce: Where and How Can AI Support?

GLR Learning Tuesdays

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 | 3 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

PANELISTS



Michelle Kang

CEO

NAEYC

Michelle serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), a global association dedicated to high quality early learning for all children.

Prior to becoming CEO, Michelle served as NAEYC's inaugural Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer where she oversaw the strategy and daily operations for Membership, Early Learning Program Accreditation, Publications, Conference, Market Solutions and Global Engagement. She has guided the substantial system adjustments necessary to support child care and preschools attaining and maintaining accreditation through the pandemic and shepherded the development and launch of the fourth edition of NAEYC's Developmentally Appropriate Practice book.

Drawing on her experiences as the daughter of Korean immigrants, Michelle is committed to creating belonging within organizations, and developing inclusive leadership and mentoring opportunities.



Isabelle Hau

Executive Director

Stanford Accelerator for Learning

Isabelle Hau is the executive director of the Stanford Accelerator for Learning, a Stanford-wide initiative to connect scholars and students across disciplines, and bridge research, practice, and policy, to bring quality, scalable and equitable learning experiences for all learners and throughout the lifespan.

Prior, she was a founding partner at Imaginable Futures, a venture of the Omidyar Group, the philanthropic investment firm of eBay founder Pierre Omidyar and his wife Pam. She led the U.S. education initiative, portfolio and team. Her work has directly impacted millions of learners and families.

Isabelle earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and graduated from ESSEC and Sciences Po Paris.



Celia Stokes
President, Product
Teaching Strategies

Celia leads the product and education teams for Teaching Strategies--the leader in assessment, curriculum and professional development in early childhood. supporting hundreds of thousands of educators and 4 million children annually. She is passionate about helping educators by putting technology to use for them without getting in the way: to help them manage admin tasks, to receive expert guidance in the moment, to more quickly recognize opportunities to individualize instruction, and to save them precious time. Celia has more than 25 years in CEO, executive leadership, board, and consulting roles for mission-driven companies. Her work has focused on SaaS-based transformations to drive ease of use, behavioral changes, and improved outcomes in ed-tech and health/wellness.

COMMENTATORS



Dana Clarkson, M.Ed.
Learning Experience Designer
Design39Campus, a Tk-8 Learning Lab School
Poway Unified School District

Dana Clarkson is a lifelong learner and Learning Experience Designer at Design39Campus. She has a passion for human-centered design and creating meaningful learning experiences that matter to children. Her approach to teaching and learning blends real-world relevance with inquiry, fostering curiosity and critical thinking. She values community partnerships in her design of learning experiences and is committed to design thinking, deeper learning, and inclusive practices.



Jay Lee
Early Childhood Teacher

Jay Lee is an Early Childhood Teacher, working with the coolest, funniest, crankiest 2-year olds you'll ever meet. He teaches at an Early Head Start center in Oakland, California.

Jay came to the early learning classroom after a decade of operational leadership roles in the larger tech-for-good and non-profit space. He served on the founding team and executive leadership of Rippleworks Foundation, which funds and supports innovative social ventures around the world, and itself has been named one of Fast Company's Most Innovative Organizations in the World.

Jay previously served on the Board of Directors for Peninsula Family Service, another Early Head Start provider in the Bay Area. There, he got a first-hand glimpse into the challenges of increasing early childhood access, namely the severe shortage of teachers. Inspired by this need, he has since gotten his Child Development Associate credential and his California Teacher's Permit to be more hands-on with helping advance abundant, equitable early childhood access.



Keri Rodrigues
Founding President
National Parents Union

Keri Rodrigues is Matthew, Miles and David’s mom and the visionary founder and president of the National Parents Union (NPU) – a groundbreaking organization that unites parents from diverse backgrounds to advocate for the rights, economic and educational needs of America’s children. Called “arguably the most successful parent organizer in education advocacy today,” her outstanding commitment to social, economic and educational equity for children and families spans decades. Under her leadership, NPU has become a formidable force, driving policy reforms and fostering parental empowerment across the nation to dismantle economic and educational barriers that keep America’s children from achieving economic mobility and prosperity.

Rodrigues has served on the US Department of Education’s National Parent and Family Engagement Council, the Children’s Equity Project Family Advisory Committee at Arizona State University and the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee and the Ethnic Council of the Democratic National Committee. Her work, impact and perspective has been featured in the New York Times, NBC Nightly News, the Wall Street Journal, CNN, Fox News, the Washington Post, POLITICO and the Boston Globe and has been a guest lecturer at Stanford, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Columbia University, Harvard, MIT and Georgetown Law.

In 2022, the National Parents Union was honored as the National Advocate of the Year by UnidosUS and the ERN Change Agent of the Year.

MODERATOR



Ariel Gilreath
Early Childhood Reporter
The Hechinger Report

Ariel Gilreath is a reporter at The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit education news outlet, covering early childhood and K-12 education with a focus on the South. She also writes a biweekly newsletter on national early childhood research and topics.