

MEET THE MOMENT:
FOCUS On The Gap(s)!

GLR WEEK 2024 JULY 22-26

Building Brighter Futures:
National Funders Share Insights on Place-Based Strategies

A GLR Learning Tuesdays webinar

July 24, 2024 | 12:30-2 pm ET/9:30-11 am PT

Panelist Bios

MODERATOR



Debra M. Jacobs

President & CEO

The Patterson Foundation

Twitter: [@DebraMJacobs](#) | [@ThePattersonFdn](#) | **Facebook:** [The Patterson Foundation](#) | **LinkedIn:** [Debra Jacobs](#) | [The Patterson Foundation](#)

In January 2009, Debra Jacobs became the President and CEO of The Patterson Foundation (TPF), based in Sarasota, Florida. The Patterson Foundation strengthens the efforts of people, organizations and communities. The Foundation focuses on issues that address common aspirations and foster wide participation, along with ways organizations learn and share as they evolve.

Prior to transitioning to TPF, Debra was President of the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, based in Sarasota, Florida. In addition to the Selby Foundation, Debra was responsible for the administration of eight other independent foundations. Prior to joining the Selby Foundation in May 1998, Debra was the Vice President for Institutional Advancement for Ringling College of Art and Design. Debra came to this position after 11 years as Executive Vice President for SunTrust Bank, Gulf Coast. Prior to joining SunTrust in December 1985, she was Senior Vice President and Retail Division Administrator of Central Trust Company in Rochester, New York.

Debra received her undergraduate degree summa cum laude from Utica College of Syracuse University in 1971 and earned her MBA in 1981 from the University of Rochester.

PRESENTERS



Deirdre Johnson Burel, Ed.D, MPA

Senior Program Officer

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

LinkedIn: [@dr-deirdre-johnson-burel-2297a0b](#) | [@kelloggfoundation/](#) |

Twitter: [@wk_kellogg_fdn](#)

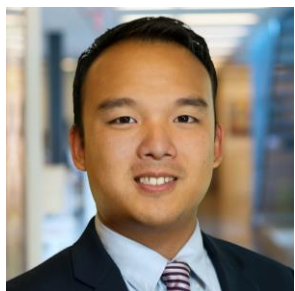
Deirdre Johnson Burel is a senior program officer for the New Orleans team with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan.

In this role, she leads the Foundation's place-based strategy in New Orleans providing leadership for the New Orleans team, ensuring strong execution of grant portfolio development, and approving grants for funding as recommended by a team of program officers. She also develops and maintains strategic relationships to leverage participation of other foundations, businesses, communities, governmental agencies, and other key decision makers in alignment with WKKF core values and program interests.

Prior to joining the foundation, Johnson Burel spent nearly two decades working in government and nonprofits advancing educational equity through work on policy, advocacy, and building catalytic partnerships between national and community-based programs. She has published on participatory action research, educator and leader diversity and the role of racial socialization in shaping praxis. Over the span of her career, her commitment to community voice and civic engagement has garnered her numerous recognitions.

Johnson Burel is an alumna of the inaugural cohort of the W.K. Kellogg Community Leadership fellowship. She is an active member of the New Orleans community where she is involved in civic life including serving on several nonprofit boards, most recently Propeller and Compassion Outreach of America. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

She holds a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in organizational and educational leadership, an MPA from New York University, Robert F. Wagner, Graduate School of Public Service and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science (with a minor in African American Studies) from the University of California, Berkeley.



Jonathan Hui

Senior Program Officer

The Kresge Foundation

Twitter: [@kresgefdn](#) | **Facebook:** [@TheKresgeFoundation](#) |

LinkedIn: [Hui LinkedIn](#) | [Kresge LinkedIn](#)

Jonathan Hui is a senior program officer at The Kresge Foundation. He supports the Detroit Program's work in early childhood and neighborhood development. He joined the foundation in 2017.

Previously he served as director of strategy and planning at the Education Achievement Authority of Michigan, where he was involved with leading talent recruitment, development/evaluation efforts, organizational strategic planning and systems design at the state-run school district. Jonathan started his career as a social studies teacher at Denby High School in Detroit, Michigan, as a Teach for America corps member and later led community initiatives on behalf of the school, where his work focused on the intersection of education and community development.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and sociology from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University.



Thomas Parker

**Executive in Residence/Program Officer
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**

Twitter: [@MottFoundation](#) | Facebook: [@mottfoundation](#) |

LinkedIn: [Parker LinkedIn](#) | [Mott LinkedIn](#)

Thomas Parker joined the Mott Foundation to help guide grantmaking and partnerships aimed at strengthening the education continuum in Flint. He previously served as superintendent of the Allentown School District in Pennsylvania from 2017 to 2021. There he helped develop a strategic framework that is still driving a collective vision of success for the district.

From 2013 to 2017, he served as superintendent of Ecorse Public Schools near Detroit, where he led an academic and fiscal turnaround for the district, increasing student enrollment and achievement while eliminating the district's budget deficit. He began his career as a teacher in Detroit Public Schools and served as a turnaround principal in the Detroit and Harper Woods school districts.

Parker is a Head Start alum and proud native of Tillatoba, Mississippi. He holds an education specialist degree in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University; a master's degree in education foundation and policy from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; and a bachelor's degree in history and secondary education from Howard University.



Rubye K. Sullivan, Ph.D.

**Senior Associate, Education Achievement
Annie E. Casey Foundation, Atlanta Civic Site**

Twitter: [@AECFNews](#) | Facebook: [@AnnieECaseyFndn](#) |

LinkedIn: [Sullivan LinkedIn](#) [AECF LinkedIn](#)

Rubye K. Sullivan is currently the Senior Associate for Education Achievement at the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Atlanta Civic Site. In this role, Rubye is responsible for the portfolio of education-related investments in the communities that make up NPU-V, the school district and the state. Rubye was formerly the Executive Director (ED) of Data + Information in Atlanta Public Schools and began her career as a middle grades math teacher in southwest Atlanta. In her role as ED, Rubye was responsible for the Research & Evaluation, Assessment, and Student Information teams. Rubye led the district in the production of actionable data to inform strategic decisions at the classroom, school, and district levels leveraging both student and teacher level data, including the production of the district's first equity audit in 2014. Rubye completed a fellowship with the Harvard Strategic Data Project in 2015. Dr.

Sullivan received her Bachelor of Science (BS) in Secondary Mathematics Education from Boston University in 1994 and her Masters of Education (MEd) in Secondary Mathematics Education from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. In December of 2010, Rubye completed her doctoral degree (PhD) at Emory University in Educational Studies. Her research interests include measuring the effects of teachers on student learning outcomes within urban learning contexts and the equitable distribution of effective teachers across student race and class. Methodologically, Dr. Sullivan has received extensive training in Item Response Theory, specifically the Rasch measurement model, and inferential statistics with a focus on hierarchical linear modeling. Rubye is a member of the visitors' board for the Bagwell School of Education at Kennesaw University and a founding member of the Center for Equity & Social Justice in Atlanta Public Schools.