

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

GLR WEEK 2024 JULY 22-26

The Influence of Social-Emotional Learning: Closing Literacy Gaps in the Classroom

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

July 24, 2024 | 3:00-4:30 pm ET/12:00-2:30 pm PT

Panelist Bios

MODERATOR



Natalie Walrond
Vice President,
Whole Person, Family and
Community Systems
WestEd



Natalie Walrond serves as Senior Managing Director, Whole Person, Family, and Community Systems for the Early Learning, Health and Human Development division at WestEd. In this role, she partners with two other senior managing directors to oversee quality, impact, talent development, and business development for the division. Walrond brings to her work thirty years of experience in K-12 education, finance, and strategy, working with both for-profit and nonprofit organizations. Walrond speaks and writes on social and emotional well-being, system alignment and coherence, academic excellence, and equity.

Walrond also serves as the Associate Director of the Region 15 Comprehensive Center at WestEd, overseeing the focus area leads, the equity lead, and the center's visibility and eminence building efforts. Walrond served as Director of the national Center to Improve Social and Emotional Learning and School Safety, housed at WestEd, from 2019 – 2023. In this role she led the vision, strategic direction, and external engagement of the center. Walrond led a team of values-driven experts who worked nationally to build state and local capacity to integrate evidence-based approaches to social and emotional development and school safety with academic teaching and learning, school climate and culture, and all of the ways that children and youth experience school.

PRESENTERS



Christina Cipriano, Ph.D.

Director

Education Collaboratory

Yale University

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Christina Cipriano, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at the Yale Child Study Center and the Director of the Education Collaboratory at Yale.

Dr. Cipriano is an Applied Developmental and Educational Psychologist, and her research focuses on social and emotional learning intervention and assessment in the service of marginalized student and teacher populations through systematic examination of the interactions within their homes, schools, and communities to promote pathways to optimal developmental outcomes.

Chris is a national expert in SEL and has extensive experience working in classrooms with marginalized populations, providing training to teachers and support staff, and direct instruction to students. Dr. Cipriano is the Principle Investigator of several funded research to practice projects and regularly disseminate her science in both academic journals and professional development workshops for pre-service and in-service educators and school personnel. Dr. Cipriano currently manages a research portfolio of over \$12 million dollars in SEL research, including federal and foundation grant funding. She has published 90+ papers, commentaries, and reports, spanning top tier peer-reviewed journals, and media outlets such as The Washington Post, Education Week, PBS, The Greater Good Science Center, and EdSurge. Dr. Cipriano's leadership in the field has been recognized by the US Department of Education, earning her an appointment on the Social and Behavioral Panel of the Institute of Education Sciences in addition to other federal work groups that are informing the future of SEL research, practice, and policy.



Carol D. Lee, Ph.D.

Professor,

Learning Sciences

Northwestern University

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Carol D. Lee is professor emerita (the former Edwina S. Tarry Professor) of Education in the School of Education and Social Policy and in African-American Studies at Northwestern University. Lee, the president of the National Academy of Education, is best known in academia for her five decades of work helping students from minority backgrounds excel in an environment of low expectations, poverty, negative stereotypes, and other barriers. She was among the early scholars to scaffold children's everyday experiences as a resource for learning in school. Today her sophisticated ideas behind "cultural modeling" are a standard approach in the field.

In 2021, Lee received the McGraw Prize in Education, the 2021 James Squire Award from the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award from the American Educational Research Association, the premier acknowledgment of outstanding achievement and success in education research. She is a member of the National Academy of Education in the United States, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a fellow of the American Educational Research Association, a fellow of the National Conference on Research in Language and Literacy, a member of the Reading Hall of Fame, and a former fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences.



Lakeisha Steele

Vice President of Policy

The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)



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Lakeisha Steele is CASEL's Vice President of Policy. Before joining CASEL, Lakeisha served in the Biden-Harris Administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at the Department of Education. Prior to her service in the Biden-Harris Administration, Lakeisha served eight years on Capitol Hill in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, most recently as Senior Education Policy Advisor on the House Education & Labor Committee where she led K-12 education policy, including provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and the CARES Act, for House Democrats under the leadership of Chairman Bobby Scott (VA-03). Prior to her work on the House Education and Labor Committee, Lakeisha advanced priorities in K-12 and higher education for U.S. Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR1) and the Democratic Whip, United States Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL). She spent eight years working in the legal industry performing risk management for law firms. She holds a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University and a Master of Public Administration from American University. She is from Kankakee, Illinois and the beautiful southside of Chicago.