

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

**GLR WEEK 2024 JULY 22-26**

Ready Set Go:  
Two-Generation Approaches to Kindergarten Success

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

July 22, 2024 | 12:30-2:00 pm ET/9:30-11 am PT

*Panelist Bios*

MODERATOR



**Marjorie Sims**  
**Managing Director**  
**Ascend at the Aspen Institute**

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Marjorie has more than 20 years of experience in advancing the status of women and families at local, state, national, and international levels, as well as in expanding women's roles in leadership positions within philanthropy. Before joining Ascend in 2018, she served as program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation with a specific focus on family economic security programs and managed a \$65M grant portfolio. Prior to joining the Kellogg Foundation, Marjorie held the positions of chief operating officer, interim president, and vice president of programs and operations at the Washington Area Women's Foundation, where she helped launch Stepping Stones, a \$5 million, multi-year, regional initiative to increase the income and assets of women-headed families. In addition, Marjorie served as the executive director of the California Women's Law Center and as a policy analyst with the International Center for Research on Women. She is a co-founder of Women's Policy, Inc., an organization that emerged from the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to provide unbiased analyses and educational briefings about federal legislation affecting women and families.

## PRESENTERS



**Ayeola Fortune**

**Vice President, Impact Team  
United Way Worldwide**



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Ayeola Fortune is the Vice President of the Impact Team at United Way Worldwide. She provides oversight, strategic guidance, and support to team members managing key initiatives in education, economic mobility, health, human trafficking, and disaster relief. She leads UWW's efforts to support local United Ways to advance equitable community impact by developing frameworks, strategies, peer learning and training opportunities and developing resources and tools. She also leads UWW's efforts to collect and aggregate data from local United Ways to demonstrate collective impact across communities.



**Roweena Naidoo**

**Vice President, Policy and Community Initiatives  
Mile High United Way, Colorado**



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Roweena Naidoo serves as Vice President for Policy and Community Initiatives at Mile High United Way. In partnership with nonprofit organizations, her work focuses on using social justice strategies to provide communities with access to opportunity. Roweena leads the organization's policy initiatives to address systems challenges. Roweena also oversees the organization's Bridging the Gap program, supporting youth who have aged out of the child welfare system, and their Community Schools initiative. Roweena received her MPA degree at Baruch College, New York, and holds a BA degree from the University of Natal, in her hometown of Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.



**Pam Romero**

**Vice President, Community Schools United  
United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley**



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Pam Romero is the Vice President of Community Schools with United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley where she leads the educational equity strategies through implementation of Community Schools United. Pam joined UWCV in the Fall of 2020 to launch the first Community Schools strategy in the Chattahoochee Valley, which has grown into 4 schools across two states (Georgia & Alabama). Pam holds an extensive background of over 10 years in Community

Schools, as well as lived experience as a proud product of a Community School. Pam is active within her community and passionate about serving youth and bridging gaps



**Jennifer St. John**

**Senior Vice President, Impact  
United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley**

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Jennifer St John is dedicated, high-performing professional with a passion for aligning and connecting partners, people, and projects to achieve community change. Jennifer has served United Way for 26 years in progressively responsible roles and demonstrates her ability as a results-driven and forward-thinking community leader. She is committed to the United Way mission and network, strives to use her knowledge, skills, and values to make a positive impact internally and externally. Jennifer has a passion for early literacy and is dedicated to advancing equitable outcomes for children, families, and our community.



**Vivian Tseng, Ph.D.**

**President and CEO  
Foundation for Child Development**

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Vivian is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for Child Development, a private foundation that works at the nexus of research, policy, and practice to advance equity and justice for young children and their families. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Tseng served as senior vice president, programs, at the William T. Grant Foundation where she pioneered initiatives to advance evidence-informed policy and practice. She is widely recognized for her leadership role in building an interdisciplinary field of research on research use in policy and practice, expanding research-practice partnerships, and supporting a broader movement to democratize evidence. She regularly speaks to international and domestic audiences on equity-centered and evidence-informed policy and practice. Her research on racial, cultural, and immigration influences on child development have been published in *Child Development* and her research on promoting social change through research and philanthropy have appeared in the *American Journal of Community Psychology*, *American Psychologist*, and *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. Dr. Tseng's career reflects an abiding commitment to racial equity. She has fostered greater equity in grantmaking, developed funding programs to support researchers of color and nonprofit leaders from racially minoritized and LGBTQ communities, and mentored countless junior colleagues throughout her career. Dr. Tseng received her Ph.D. from NYU and her B.A. from UCLA. She recently completed her service as Board chair of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy and currently serves on the Boards of Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees and the Federation of Associations in the Behavioral and Brain Sciences. She is co-founder of the Transforming Evidence Funders Network and the Learning Community on Using Evidence for Change (affectionately called "The Nerd Herd").