

MEET THE MOMENT:
FOCUS OnThe Gap(s)!
GLR WEEK 2024 JULY 22-26

Ready on Day One: Strategies and Tools to Support CGLR Communities With School Success

July 25, 2024 | 12:30 – 2 pm ET

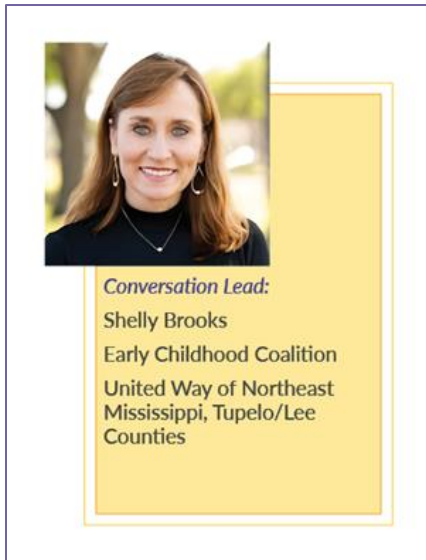
Breakout Room 1: High Impact Tutoring



Jenny Atkinson
Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
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Jenny Atkinson is a senior consultant with the Smarter Learning Group, a national consulting firm that helps organizations build stronger partnerships, attract more investment and achieve better results in improving educational outcomes for low-income children. In this capacity, she has worked with clients ranging from the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading to many national youth service organizations including YMCA, 4-H and Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Prior to joining the Smarter Learning Group, Jenny worked with Boys & Girls Clubs for over

twenty years, serving as the executive director with Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and the senior director of education and the arts at Boys & Girls Clubs of America where she created education and arts programs for Clubs and trained and advised Club staff around the country. Jenny served on advisory committees for PBS shows including Design Squad and The Secret Life of The Brain and was a jurist for The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, Coming Up Taller Awards. She has taught college courses on child growth and development, human development and sociology at Newbury College. Jenny holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Shelly Brooks

United Way of Northeast Mississippi

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Shelly Brooks is the director of the Early Childhood Coalition – Tupelo/Lee Counties, which is an initiative of United Way of Northeast Mississippi. This position includes being the community lead for the local coalition with the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. She has held this position since August 2017. Shelly possesses a Masters in Education in Curriculum and Instruction and an Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Mississippi. She worked as a teacher and administrator in the Lee County School District for 25 years. During the last ten years of her career with the district she served as an assistant principal and principal.

Shelly's passion is early childhood education. She actively works with the local childcare centers, school districts, and community organizations to ensure children are ready for school and have the tools to succeed.

She resides in Tupelo, MS with her husband, who is also a retired educator. She is an active member of her church and enjoys serving the community through several local service organizations.



Renada Chandler

Smart Kids Inc.

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[Smart Kids Inc., Missouri](#)

Renada Chandler is an alumnus of the University of Missouri St. Louis. Renada is a former educator and understands the importance of a good education for underserved students. Early in her career, she knew she wanted to help meet the needs of K-12 grade students in her community and surrounding areas through 1:1 and small group tutoring/mentoring services. In 2013, Renada founded Smart Kids, Inc., a public 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that provides 1:1 small group tutoring and mentoring services to students who live and

attend school in underserved demographic areas within the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area.



Conversation Lead:

Lisa Greening
Executive Director
Turn the Page STL
St. Louis, Missouri

Lisa Greening
Turn the Page STL
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In 2020, **Lisa Greening** started St. Louis' chapter of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Turn the Page STL, to improve third grade reading proficiency in the lowest performing school districts in St. Louis. For ten years, she was the Executive Director of Ready Readers, a St. Louis nonprofit dedicated to preparing preschool age children from low-income communities to become readers.

Starting in 1995 until April 2020, she was co-owner of Left Bank Books, St. Louis' independent bookstore. Lisa has her Bachelor of Arts in international studies and her Master of Arts in teaching from John Hopkins University. She was a "30 Under 30" Awardee of the St. Louis Business Journal, and the 2017 Business Leader Awardee by the state of Missouri in recognition of her dedication to improving the lives of Missouri's children. She resides in her hometown, St. Louis.



Conversation Lead:

Alissa Hobart
Director, Mississippi
Campaign for Grade-Level
Reading
Center for Excellence
in Literacy Instruction,
University of Mississippi

Alissa Hobart
University of Mississippi
[@msglreading](#) | [@olemiss](#)
[MS Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#)
[Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction](#)

Alissa Hobart is the Director of the Mississippi Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Prior to this role, Alissa was an elementary school teacher and served as a literacy coach with the Mississippi Department of Education. Alissa is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and began her teaching career as a Teach of AmericaCorps Member in Mississippi. She completed her master's degree in Elementary Education from Delta State University. She has presented professional development for schools, districts, and at the Mississippi Literacy Association Conference. Alissa also serves on

the Region 7 Comprehensive Center Advisory Board.

Outside of work, Alissa finds joy in reading, baking, and spending time with her husband and their two rescue dogs.



Conversation Lead:
Caroline Mitchell
Executive Director,
Community Development
Gateway Region YMCA
St. Louis, Missouri

Caroline Mitchell
Gateway Region YMCA
[@gwrymca](#) | [Gateway Region YMCA](#).

Caroline is the Executive Director of the Community Development YMCA. This branch of the Gateway Region YMCA provides programs focused on academics, well-being and civic engagement that help youth to graduate high school ready for the next step in their lives. This Y works collaboratively with the YMCA of Belize which also focuses on high school completion. Caroline enjoys learning and teaching.

Prior to working for the Y, she was a teacher for the Hazelwood School District. She has a Masters Degree in education from Webster University and is trained in Reading Recovery. In her role with the Y, she serves as a Y-USA trainer and has also presented at many national conferences including the World Urban Network Conference on Adult Basic Education, and National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Breakout Room 2: School Attendance



Moderator:
Cecelia Leong
Vice President of Programs
Attendance Works

Cecelia Leong
Attendance Works
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Cecelia Leong is the Vice President of Programs at Attendance Works. Since joining Attendance Works in 2011, she has helped expand the technical assistance resources available to communities across the country. In addition to providing high quality professional development through webinars and online learning, Cecelia works closely with the Attendance Works team to identify emerging technical assistance needs in reducing chronic absence and creating innovative tools to address those needs.

Prior to joining Attendance Works, Cecelia worked for a variety of organizations that focus on district and school reform initiatives such as Pivot Learning Partners and Berkeley Policy Associates. Cecelia has an AB from Harvard University and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley.



Conversation Lead:
Khushboo Jain
Director, Community School Network
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
Pennsylvania

Khushboo Jain

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
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Khushboo has close to a decade of experience in education, healthcare, community nutrition and social work. She currently serves as the Director of the Community School Network with the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. The United Way Community School Network supports 20,000 students across 5 school districts in 3 counties –covering urban, suburban and rural communities. In her role, she primarily looks to improve synergy amongst all of the

different roles and layers in the Community School Network – that is Community School Coordinators, Lead Partners, Principals, and School Districts ultimately advance regional outcomes. Khushboo was born in India, grew up in Egypt and then lived in India and Malaysia for 6 years while attending high school. She enjoys cooking and boxing as hobbies (not at the same time).



Conversation Lead:
Angela Logan
Principal, O.C. Johnson Elementary School
Yuma Elementary School District
Yuma, Arizona

Angela Logan

Yuma Elementary School District
[@YumaDistrict1](#) | [Yuma Elementary School District](#)
[Yuma Elementary School District](#)

Angela-Rose Logan was born and raised in San Diego, CA and became a proud Yuman when she moved to Arizona in 2006. She became the principal of O.C. Johnson in 2015 and knew that she found her new home and a place where she wanted to help have a positive impact on the staff, students, families, and community. Helping to develop Yuma’s first ever community school is one of her biggest accomplishments thus far in her career. Angela believes that relationships are the key to any success in a school community. She cherishes every student and gets to know them and their families so that she can help them

thrive. The OCJ staff understands that in order to help students be successful in the classroom, they have to help strengthen their families and address any barriers that may be present. A legacy of love and community is what Angela wants to leave behind when she leaves OCJ.

Breakout Room 3: Community Supports and Services



Moderator:
Malai Amfahr
Senior Program Officer,
Constituency Outreach and
Engagement
Campaign for Grade-Level
Reading

Malai Amfahr

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
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Malai Amfahr has over 20 years of experience working in advocacy and community engagement in the nonprofit sector, primarily focused on youth. She is currently the Senior Program Officer for Constituency Outreach and Engagement with the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR). In her role, she supports macro-level systems change within the education sector across CGLR's 380+ coalition communities across the nation. This work involves supporting community backbone agencies with deeper engagement and learning opportunities

around CGLR's shared agenda to ensure more hopeful futures for children with literacy as the primary driver. Prior to her role with CGLR, Malai was with United Way of Story County (UWSC) where she provided oversight of UWSC's work in education. She has served on several committees and non-profit board of directors focused on youth. Her current board appointments include Raising Readers in Story County and ArtForce Iowa. Malai is a Fellow in Cohort 2 with Mid-Iowa Health Foundation's HealthConnect Fellowship and served as co-chair of the state's Equity Advisory Committee with Early Childhood Iowa. She has facilitated workshops and conducted presentations at national, state, and local conferences.



Conversation Lead:
Kate Bennett
Community Impact Officer,
Early Childhood Success and
Education Success
United Way of Central Iowa

Kate Bennett

United Way of Central Iowa
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[United Way of Central Iowa](#)

Kate Bennett began her career at United Way of Central Iowa in 2002 as the Executive Director for Polk County Early Childhood Iowa. In that position, Kate worked to create a collaborative system for government and local nonprofits to support at-risk children from ages 0-8 and their families. The outcome of that work was a much more collaborative system and higher quality early childhood services in central Iowa. Kate has served as the Community Impact Officer, Education Success since 2012. She spearheaded the 2020 goals to raise the graduation rate in Polk, Dallas, and Warren counties from

83.4% in 2008 to 93.6% in 2019. This increase of 10.2% means 6,300 more students graduated opposed to if the graduation rate remained at the 2008 statistic. For the last

two years, Kate has been a part of the team who created the United to Thrive framework, which UWCI officially launched in May 2021. This framework maintains a strong education focus while looking through an equity lens and COVID recovery. Kate is the staff lead for two volunteer cabinets who guide this work: Early Childhood Success and Education Success. Kate is looking forward to this next exciting chapter in central Iowa.



April Hopson
Columbus Technical College
[@columbustechcol](#) | [Columbus Technical College](#)
[Columbus Technical College](#)

April Hopson has served as the Vice President of Adult Education since 2015. She previously held the position of Paralegal Studies Program Director. Mrs. Hopson held previous education positions in Alabama at Chattahoochee Valley Community College and Southern Union State Community College. Prior to moving into post-secondary education, Mrs. Hopson worked in the non-profit and legal communities.



Corrine Kroger
Vision to Learn
[@VisionToLearn](#) | [Vision To Learn](#)
[Vision To Learn](#)

Corrine Kroger currently serves as both a national Director of Operations and the Iowa Regional Director for the non-profit Vision to Learn. With a Masters in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University, she began her career working within Illinois Park Districts where she developed and administered recreation programs for youth in the Chicagoland area. Corrine later served as Superintendent for multiple districts focusing on process improvement and efficiencies before taking

on a consultant role as a Senior Planner working with government agencies to develop strategic and master plans for their communities. When Kroger moved to Iowa with her husband and four children, she began working with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque where she was instrumental in launching local Campaign for Grade-

Level Reading initiatives in two rural communities. Corrine brought her expertise and passion to Vision to Learn when she joined in 2016. Inspired by her own vision health history, she recognized the importance and need for accessible vision care in her own community. Since the program launch in Iowa, almost 20,000 students across the state have received vision services from Vision to Learn. Corrine is passionate about systems change and recognizes the power that true community collaboration has to enact meaningful and lasting change.



Katharine Sullivan

San Mateo County

[The Big Lift San Mateo](#) | [The Big Lift San Mateo](#)

Katharine joined San Mateo County in October of 2023. She brings over 20 years of experience in the public sector, primarily addressing the intersection of education, equity and health. Her experience ranges from direct service roles to administrative and policy-level work within large public-school districts and local policy teams. She earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from San Francisco State University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Cal State University in East Bay.

Her recent work leading quality improvement initiatives in Oakland and West Contra Costa Unified School District has resulted in long-standing improvements in the way thousands of students and families receive school-based services including, expanded learning programs, health and dental services, behavioral healthcare, academic interventions, and family literacy programs. This work includes extensive experience leading collaboratives between local government, community-based funding models, and implementing programming that strengthens communities through the collective impact model.



Conversation Lead:
Martha Ann Todd
President
Columbus Technical College
Columbus, Georgia

Martha Ann Todd
Columbus Technical College
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[Columbus Technical College](#)

Martha Ann Todd is currently the president of Columbus Technical College and was previously the Deputy Commissioner of Adult and Technical Education for the Technical College System of Georgia. Before joining TCSG in 2018, she was Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, Associate Superintendent of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness at the Georgia Department of Education, and Assistant Superintendent in Meriwether County Schools.

With more than forty years of experience in education, in both public and private schools, Pre-K through 12th grade and now postsecondary, Mrs. Todd has served in a wide range of teacher positions and leadership roles at multiple levels throughout her career. She is an alumna of Emory, Columbus State, and Georgia College & State Universities.



Conversation Lead:
Cheryl Werner
Community Impact
Coordinator
United Way of Central Iowa

Cheryl Werner
United Way of Central Iowa
[@UnitedWayCI](#) | [United Way of Central Iowa](#)
[United Way of Central Iowa](#)

Cheryl Werner joined United Way of Central Iowa in August 2017. She works closely with Kate, UWCI colleagues, and community partners coordinating UWCI's initiatives while supporting education goals & strategies to maximize the collective impact in Central Iowa. She began her career in education as a classroom teacher and coaching girls' basketball and softball. Cheryl's classroom experience spanned grades 2, 3, 4, & 6 before becoming a learning

resource center teacher (technology, library, and GT). Her leadership experiences included serving as an instructional coach and finally as Dubuque Schools K-12 District Coordinator of Gifted & Talented, Advanced Placement, Measures of Academic Progress, and the Arts. Cheryl also coordinated the UD for Kids Summer Enrichment Program for the University of Dubuque. Cheryl was an instructor through the Keystone

Adult Learning program. She ended her school career as a principal in Waterloo. Cheryl earned her BA at Loras College and her MAE in the Education of Gifted and PK-12 Principalship, Director of Special Education from the University of Northern Iowa.