



Utilizing Learning Science to Reach Every Reader

A CGLR Funder-to-Funder Conversation

May 18, 2021 | 12:30-2 pm ET/9:30-11 am PT

Panelist Bios

PRESENTERS



Jessica Tsang, Ph.D.
Senior Manager of Research Applications
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
@ChanZuckerberg

Jessica Tsang is Senior Manager of Research Applications at the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. There, she focuses on bringing insights from research together with insights from practice, to spur progress toward more effective and equitable learning environments. Jessica holds a PhD in Educational Psychology from Stanford University and is co-author of the book *The ABCs of How We Learn*.



Elizabeth A. City, Ed.D.
Executive Director, Reach Every Reader
Senior Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education
@ReachReaders | @hgse | @liz_city

Elizabeth City is Senior Lecturer on Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), where she is Executive Director of Reach Every Reader. Liz has served as a teacher, instructional coach, principal, and consultant, in each role focused on helping all children, and the educators who work with them, realize their full potential. She is currently focused on accelerating the development of equitable, learning-rich environments. She has authored and co-authored several books for educators, including: *Meeting Wise*; *Data Wise*; *Strategy in Action*; *Instructional Rounds in Education*; *Resourceful Leadership*; and *The Teacher's Guide to Leading Student-Centered Discussions*.

Liz holds an A.B. in History and Literature from Harvard University, an M.A.T. in English from Brown University, and an Ed.D. in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her favorite childhood book was *Anne of Green Gables*.

COMMENTATORS



Adriana Chavarín-López, Ed.L.D.
Strategy & Instructional Support Officer
San Diego Unified School District
@AChavarinlopez | @sdschools | @LMECSD

Dr. Adriana Chavarín-López currently serves as a Strategy and Instructional Support Officer in the San Diego Unified School District.

Dr. Chavarín-López is the daughter of Mexican immigrant parents that always stressed to her the value of an education. Inspired by her teachers and principal at Harborside Elementary School (Chula Vista, CA), Adriana knew from an early age that she wanted to be an educator. Adriana obtained her teaching degree from the University of Southern California and became a bilingual teacher in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Seeking to have a larger impact on students' lives, she obtained her M.A. in Education Administration and Policy Analysis from Stanford University and an Early Childhood Management Certificate from the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Believing that the purpose of education is to educate the whole child, as a school principal Adriana led the development of a number of school-wide initiatives, including art, music, yoga, and an award-winning school garden education program. In preparing students to be global citizens, Adriana was at the forefront of implementing an Apple Distinguished 1:1 iPad program, a social and emotional curriculum and a dual language immersion program. Knowing that schools cannot do the work alone, Adriana fostered community partnerships with foundations, businesses and local government to improve academic and social outcomes for students. She also facilitated the process for parent leadership teams to collaborate on common goals, always with a focus on educating all children.

Adriana obtained her Doctor of Education Leadership degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Education where her doctoral studies focused on designing and implementing systems and structures for transforming prenatal-12th grade education in school districts. She was a recipient of Harvard's Education Entrepreneurship Fellowship for her work on redesigning early childhood education in San Diego.



Beth Duda
Director, Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
The Patterson Foundation
@duda_beth | @suncoastcglr

Since May of 2015, Beth Duda has been one of the driving forces of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR). SCGLR is a four-county effort in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties to help children from birth through 3rd grade, especially those from asset-limited families, succeed in life by ensuring they read on grade level.

As the director of SCGLR, Beth works closely with local lead partners— Community Foundation of Sarasota County, United Way Suncoast, and United Way of Charlotte County—to drive progress in the region. To embed lasting change, the future-focused partners strive to collaborate with every sector: people, business, nonprofits, government, and the media.

Multiple Pacesetter Honors from the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (annually since 2014) affirm the success of SCGLR's collaborative effort and its work. Pacesetter Honors highlight communities that make measurable progress on key indicators of early school success, including early literacy and school readiness, chronic absenteeism and its effects on reading progress, and mitigating summer learning loss by connecting children with quality educational opportunities and programs.

Beth is a proud member of Leadership Florida's Education Class IV, a statewide community of leaders working for a better Florida. She has written, co-written, and created several one-act plays performed for thousands of school-aged children. Recently, she used her playwriting skills to write *Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass, A Walk to Respect*, which The Patterson Foundation produced in partnership with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe as part of TPF's 10th-anniversary celebration, Honoring & Onward.

An award-winning playwright and educator, Beth spent more than twenty years working with students and educators in elementary schools as part of the Education Department of Florida Studio Theatre. These experiences fueled her commitment to deepening community connections to improve reading proficiency in our region and beyond. In her twenty-plus years of arts education, Beth's sensitive and visionary education and learning approach continues to inspire students, parents, and educators. Beth was raised in Central New York and received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from SUNY-Oswego.



Jenn Faber

Director, Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign

Florida Children's Council

@FloridaGLR

Jenn Faber, Director of the Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign has worked in the field of education for over 30 years in various state-level positions. She currently serves as the Florida State Lead to the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and has lead the Florida GLR Campaign since its inception in early 2015. This statewide campaign is strategically designed to address three networks of key supporters, including Community Leaders, State Agency Leaders, and Business & Philanthropic Leaders. Under Jenn's leadership during the past 6 years, the Florida campaign has grown from 10 local campaigns, to now 24 campaign communities serving 34 counties throughout Florida, and representing about 75% of the state's population. The campaign also produces community resources and serves as the technical assistance support system for local campaigns, developing and providing free reading instruction resources, services, webinars, mini-grants, and best practice documents.



Michael Veal, Ed.L.D.

Strategy & Instructional Support Officer

San Diego Unified School District

@veamichael | @LMECSD

Dr. Michael Veal, of San Diego, holds a Doctor of Education Leadership degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Michael served as the doctoral resident at Transcend – a national non-profit organization that supports communities to create and spread extraordinary and equitable learning environments. Michael's career in education began in 2001 when he joined the ranks of Teach For America as a 5th grade teacher at P.S. 128 in New York City's Washington Heights community. In 2005, he co- founded KIPP Infinity Middle School in Harlem where he taught 5th Grade Nonfiction Studies, 7th Grade American History, and Journalism. After 14 years in the classroom, Michael served as an education consultant at LitLife PD. His portfolio included the Fort Zumwalt School District in O'Fallon, MO, the Dinuba Unified School District in Dinuba, CA, and the NYC Department of Education's District 8 in the Bronx. A son of Filipino immigrants, Michael is also committed to expanding educational opportunities for children in the Philippines. In 2012, he served as the Co- Director of U.S. Strategy and Recruitment of Teach for the Philippines, a partner of Teach For All. Michael is the recipient of the Harriet Ball Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Sontag Prize in Urban Education.