

## GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

### Building Stronger Teacher Pipelines through University-District Partnerships

October 22, 2024 \* Moderator and Panelist Bios

#### MODERATOR

**Valerie Sakimura**

**Executive Director, Deans for Impact**



As Executive Director of Deans for Impact, Valerie Sakimura (she/her/hers) brings a belief that great teachers have incredible power to honor and lift up children and 15 years experience supporting leaders and teams in education, non-profit, and for-profit organizations to strengthen their impact. She previously served as Vice President of Program at Deans for Impact, Associate Partner at NewSchools Venture Fund, and a consultant at Monitor Group. Valerie holds an AB in Social Studies from Harvard College, an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and an MPA from the

Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Valerie is: from Hawaii originally but currently Colorado-based, proudly hapa and sansei, a wife and mother to two multiracial daughters, and a lover of the outdoors and elaborate home-cooked meals.

#### PANELISTS

**Tracy Huziak-Clark, Ph.D.**

**School of Inclusive Teacher Education, Bowling Green State University**



Tracy Huziak-Clark is the Director of the School of Inclusive Teacher Education at Bowling Green State University (BGSU). She is passionate about collaborating with others to develop well-prepared educators to serve all children in our classrooms. She has spent 30 years in education as a science teacher, teacher educator, and advocate for teachers. Dr. Huziak-Clark has led various initiatives to support practicing science teachers and to build university and K-12 school partnerships, through grant funding and opportunities. She has extensive experience in curriculum development and program accreditation. She serves on

several state-wide committees and is a board member of the Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Dr. Huziak-Clark graduated from Bowling Green State University with her undergraduate and Masters' degrees (earning her both falcon wings) as well as her Ph.D., from The Ohio State University.

**Melody Hackney Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent, Hopewell City Schools, Virginia**



Dr. Melody D. Hackney, Superintendent of Hopewell City Schools, was named Virginia's Superintendent of the Year in 2021. As the chief education leader of her small impoverished school division, Dr. Hackney faced many challenges from the start of her service as Hopewell's superintendent. The school division's culture of having low expectations for its students, students' negative attitudes toward school, and a poor track record of only one accredited school and stagnant SOL test scores were just a few of the problems she faced. In order to turn Hopewell's situation around, Dr. Hackney focused her

students and staff members on three things: what was being taught and how; keeping what was working and eliminating what was not; and creating success by providing students with new opportunities and experiences. The strategy that proved most effective was to provide real-life experiences for her students so that they could see the connections between the knowledge and skills they were learning and how they were being applied.

**Zeb Kellough**  
**Principal, Crim Elementary School, Bowling Green City Schools, Ohio**



Zeb Kellough is a principal in Bowling Green City Schools at Crim Elementary in Bowling Green, Ohio. He is a graduate from Bowling Green State University with a degree in Administrative Specialist in Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Development. He has served 8 years in Bowling Green City Schools. His first three years he was an Elementary Curriculum Director. During his tenure in Bowling Green City Schools, he was a leading member for their equity work within the district. The Ohio Leadership Advisory Council recognized Bowling Green City Schools for the district of the year for the state of Ohio in 2018. Before

his time in Bowling Green, he was an assistant high school principal in Fremont, Ohio. He was also a science teacher in Perrysburg Junior High and Toledo School for the Arts. His continued work with school culture and equity continues to drive him professionally.

**Willis Walter, II, Ph.D.**

**Dean, College of Education, Virginia State University**



Willis Walter II, is currently the Dean/Associate Professor for Virginia State University's College of Education. Prior to joining the faculty at Virginia State University, he served as a public school classroom teacher in Leon County, FL and Vestavia Hills, AL. He also served as a school administrator in Childersburg and Birmingham, AL. Dr. Walter has extensive experience in program accreditation and curricular development activities. He has served as a member of the Technical Assistance Team for the Florida Department of Education in the area of Teacher Education Program

Approval. He has served on several statewide committees and participates in both folio and site visit reviews for peer reviewed teacher education program approval. He is currently a national examiner for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Born in Chicago, IL, Willis received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Florida A&M University and his PhD in Child Development/Curriculum & Instruction with certification in Administration and Supervision from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.