



First 10 School-Community Partnerships in Action: Maine's Distinctive Approach to Community Schools

A Crucible of Practice Salon
February 11, 2024 / 12:30 – 2 pm EST

CONVERSATION LEADS



Steve Bussiere
Assistant Superintendent
Sanford School District, Maine

Steve Bussiere is the Assistant Superintendent of the Sanford School Department, a position he has held since 2018. Before this, he was Principal and Assistant Principal at Sanford's largest Elementary School, where he focused on improving student engagement and literacy. Starting his career as an elementary teacher, Steve understands the challenges of early education and is dedicated to helping students achieve grade-level reading skills.



Susan Inman, Ph.D.
Principal
Sanford Pride Elementary School, Maine

Susan Inman, Ph.D., has been an elementary school principal for 23 years. She's been the principal at Sanford Pride Elementary School for the last seven years. She received her Ph.D. from Lesley University in 2018 in adult development and growth.



Sue Gallant
First 10 Community School Specialist
Early Learning Team, Maine Department of Education

Sue Gallant is the First 10 Community School Specialist at the Maine Department of Education. She provides technical assistance to Maine's seven First 10 teams. These teams bring together elementary schools and

community organizations in partnership to support outcomes for children ages birth through 10 and their families. Gallant has been a public-school educator in PK – Third Grade for over thirty years. She began working with First 10 at the local level in 2018 and brings the experience she gained in developing family and community partnerships to her current position.



David Jacobson, Ph.D.
Director
First 10 Initiative
Education Development Center

David Jacobson, Ph.D. designed and leads EDC's [First 10](#) initiative, which supports a national network of school-early childhood-community partnerships. A widely published author, Jacobson has advanced the knowledge of [community-school partnerships](#), [bipartisan education priorities](#), [building state P–3 systems](#), and [professional learning communities](#). Jacobson holds a BA in History and an MA in Philosophy from Brown University and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago.



Lee Anne Larsen
Director of Early Learning
Maine Department of Education

Lee Anne Larsen is the Director of Early Learning in Maine's Department of Education. Holding a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and Family Studies, a Master's in Elementary Education and a CAS in Literacy Education, she has over 30 years of experience in early childhood and early elementary sectors, particularly school and community-based literacy education efforts in the birth- grade 5 span. In her current position, she coordinates state level initiatives related to early learning and develops policy, technical assistance, and professional learning to support early care and education improvement efforts that focus on whole-child development.



Shana Palmer
First 10 Coordinator
Sanford Pride Elementary School, Maine

Shana Palmer is the First 10 Coordinator for the Sanford School Department. Shana plays a vital role in guiding all the First 10 initiatives within our community. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Community Studies from the University of Maine at Machias. With over 12 years of experience

supporting children and families in the community, Shana brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to her work.

MODERATOR



Liletta Jenkins

**Director of Community Outreach and Engagement
Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education**

Liletta M. Jenkins serves as the Director of Community Outreach and Engagement and State Lead for Alabama Campaign for Grade Level Reading for the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education. Liletta has helped Alabama GLR campaigns secure funding for projects and supported their efforts to improve access to books through the development of mobile libraries, community lending library boxes, Dolly Parton Imagination Library expansion, and language access plans. She has also led state GLR strategies for Reach Out and Read Alabama and First 10 expansion and Born Ready University 0-5 parenting trainings across the state to support early language and literacy.

Liletta earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Master of Science degree in Management from Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama. She is a mother and resides in Montgomery, AL with her two children.