

## GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

### *Smart Start:*

### *Leveraging Technology to Detect & Support Learning Differences Early*

July 1, 2025

Moderator and Presenter Bios

#### MODERATOR

##### **Carla E. Small**

##### **Founder and CEO, Sprout Labs**



Carla E. Small is CEO and founder of Sprout Labs, providing an AI-powered personalized reading assistant for the whole family. Sprout Labs is an offshoot of EarlyBird Education, which Carla co-founded with Drs. Nadine Gaab and Yaacov Petscher. The EarlyBird dyslexia screener (now Imagine Learning Plus) used today in districts in half the states nationwide, was a breakthrough as a software game that's engaging, predictive of reading risk, comprehensive and evidence-based. Prior to this role, Carla was Executive Director of the Digital Health

Accelerator at Boston Children's Hospital, where she was responsible for startup and new technology incubation – spinning out five companies with portfolio venture funding totaling over \$200 million. Carla has served on the School Board of the Codman Academy Public Charter School. She received her MBA from Harvard Business School and her Bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College.

#### PRESENTERS

##### **Nadine Gaab, Ph.D.**

##### **Associate Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of education**



Nadine Gaab is an associate professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the director of the GaabLab. Her work focuses on typical/atypical learning trajectories from infancy to adolescence with an emphasis on language/reading development within a learning disabilities framework. Her work is at the intersection of neuroscience, psychology, learning sciences, EdTech, and policy. She is the 2024 awardee of the Translation Award from the International Society of Mind, Brain, and Education and the 2023 recipient of the Academic Research Recognition Award from the World Literacy Foundation. Furthermore, she received the Learning Disabilities Association America Award in 2019 and has received the Norman Geschwind Memorial Lecture in 2020, and the Alice Garside Award in 2017 from the International Dyslexia Association.

**Loui Lord Nelson, Ph.D**  
**Founder, The UDL Approach**



Loui Lord Nelson, Ph.D., is an internationally recognized Universal Design for Learning (UDL) leader, best-selling author, podcaster, CAST postdoctoral fellow, and the recipient of CAST's inaugural Anne Meyer Design Award in 2024. Loui is a former special education teacher who has also led UDL implementation at the district level. Loui has influenced change at the national level and consistently helps shift mindsets across the globe. She has worked with educators across the U.S., Africa, Australia, Asia, Canada, and Europe and proudly worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implementing partners to clarify their application of UDL across low- and middle-income settings. She has continued that work on her own. More information about Loui and her work can be found at [www.theudlapproach.com](http://www.theudlapproach.com)

**Ola Ozernov-Palchik, Ph.D.**  
**Research Assistant Professor, Wheelock College of Education & Human Development**  
**Boston University**



Dr. Ola Ozernov-Palchik is a research assistant professor at Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development and core faculty at the [AI & Education Initiative](#). She is also a research scientist at MIT's McGovern Institute for Brain Research. Dr. Ozernov-Palchik's multi-disciplinary research centers on the cognitive neuroscience of language and literacy development, with a strong emphasis on translational work aimed at advancing learning for all students and promoting educational equity. Her recent line of research includes harnessing and advancing AI to create effective, personalized, and scalable tools for literacy.

**Glenna Wright-Gallo**  
**Vice President, Policy, Everway**



Glenna Wright-Gallo is Vice President of Policy at Everway, a global technology company dedicated to unlocking everyone's full potential. In this role, she leverages her extensive experience in special education to drive impactful policy changes, shape innovative solutions, and influence systemic improvements that support learners and educators worldwide. With over 25 years of experience in special education, Wright-Gallo brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to Everway. She most recently served as Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of

Education, managing the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) under the outgoing administration. Prior to her role at the federal level, Wright-Gallo held key positions in state and local education, including serving as State Director of Special Education in Utah and Assistant Superintendent of Special Education in Washington State.

**Tina Zampitella**

**Director of Curriculum and Instruction, AIM Academy**



Tina Zampitella serves as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at AIM Academy. She began her tenure at AIM as a student teacher while earning her B.S. in Special Education from West Chester University. After teaching for many years, Tina transitioned into an instructional leadership role, supporting teaching and learning across AIM Academy. She holds a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Literacy and is both a Wilson® Dyslexia Therapist and a Wilson® Credentialed Trainer. Tina has engaged in extensive professional development in research-based instructional practices and is committed to ensuring their effective translation into classroom instruction. Outside of her professional work, she enjoys spending time with her family and traveling. She is the proud mother of three children: Austin, Ava, and Hailey.