

# Parents as Curators of Their Children's Education: Supporting Parent Agency and Informed Decisions

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

September 9, 2025 | 3-4:30 pm ET/12-1:30 pm PT

## Panelist Bios

### PRESENTERS



#### Maya Martin Cadogan

Founder & Executive Director  
Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE)

**LinkedIn:** [Maya Martin Cadogan](#), [PAVE \(Parents Amplifying Voices in Education\)](#)

Maya is a proud 6th-generation Washingtonian who serves as the Executive Director of PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education).

Maya founded PAVE in April 2016 with an all-parent board in order to connect, inform, and empower parent leaders to give families in DC a voice and a choice in the vision for education in our city.

Maya was an Entrepreneur in Residence with New Schools Venture Fund from November 2015 to April 2016 as she founded PAVE. Maya received her bachelor's in Sociology and History from Dartmouth and a Master of Public Policy from Harvard University. Maya serves as the Board Chair of PIE Network and EmpowerK12, on the advisory committees of Bard DC Early College High School, Rocketship Public Schools, and Learning Heroes, and as a Board member of LEARN - DC.

#### Cristina González, Ed.D



#### Implementation and Advocacy Manager

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors (AP-OD)

**LinkedIn:** [Cristina González, Ed.D.](#), [AP-OD \(Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors\)](#)

Dr. González continues to build on 20 years of experience working in communities, community-based organizations, and schools. She is a first-generation graduate who holds a dual BA from the University of

California, San Diego in International Studies: Political Science and Spanish Literature. She also holds a Master's degree from UCLA in Latin American Studies with an emphasis on Public Health, Latino Families, and History. She received her Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership, Administration, and Policy at Pepperdine University. Her dissertation, titled, *Breathing: A Story of Lifelong Learners' Relationship to the Changing World* is directly aligned to her work at AP/OD and holistic learning.

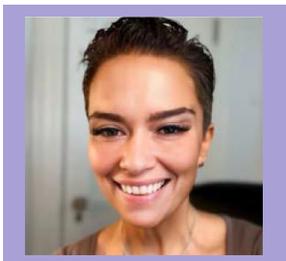
Dr. González is based in Los Angeles, California, and currently sits on the Whole Child Community Equity Workgroup as part of the Child Care and Development Division from the

California Department of Social Services. Dr. González is also an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University, where she teaches in the Graduate School of Psychology and Education. She is currently finishing up her PhD in Global Change at Pepperdine University and continues to engage in lifelong and active learning.



**Michael McShane, Ph.D.**  
Director of National Research  
EdChoice  
**LinkedIn:** [Michael McShane](#), [EdChoice](#)  
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Dr. Michael McShane is Director of National Research at EdChoice. He is the author, editor, co-author, or co-editor of twelve books on education policy, including his most recent *Getting Education Right* (w/ Rick Hess, published by Teachers College Press, 2024). He is currently an opinion contributor to *Forbes*, and his analyses and commentary have been published widely in the media, including in *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He has also been featured in education-specific outlets such as *Teachers College Record*, *Education Week*, *Phi Delta Kappan*, and *Education Next*. In addition to authoring numerous white papers, McShane has had academic work published in *Education Finance and Policy*, *The Handbook of Education Politics and Policy*, and *The Journal of School Choice*. A former high school teacher, he earned a Ph.D. in education policy from the University of Arkansas, an M.Ed. from the University of Notre Dame, and a B.A. in English from St. Louis University. He is also a senior fellow at the Show-Me Institute and an adjunct fellow in education policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute.



**Keri Rodrigues**  
President  
National Parents Union  
**LinkedIn:** [Keri Rodrigues](#), [National Parents Union](#)  
**X:** @NationalParents

Keri Rodrigues is Matthew, Miles, and David's mom and the Founding President of the National Parents Union. Called "arguably the most successful — parent organizer in education advocacy today," her outstanding commitment to social, economic, and educational equity for children and families spans decades. Following her own difficult experience surviving the Massachusetts public school system and receiving her GED from Boston Public Schools, Rodrigues was not surprised when she struggled to navigate the education system with her own children. Knowing that schools were not adequately meeting the needs of students and parents, she turned her focus to education activism, eventually helping other families across the Commonwealth identify and use their voice and place kids at the center of the education discussion. Rodrigues began her career as an award-winning journalist and continued her career in advocacy as a long-time labor activist, communicator, and organizer with the world's largest local labor union, 1199SEIU, leading major campaigns across the country. Armed with this experience and success, Rodrigues has served as founder and Mom-in-Chief of Massachusetts Parents United, the largest parent advocacy organization in the Commonwealth, reaching more than 250,000 families across Massachusetts since 2016. Rodrigues has also worked as a senior advisor on dozens of nonprofit, ballot-issue and political organizing campaigns both locally and nationally. Keri sits on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "Influence 100" advisory group to transform the pipeline

to education leadership to be more reflective of the composition of the Commonwealth as well as the Superintendent Rubric Refinement Project.



**Cindi Williams**

Co-Founder, Learning Heroes  
CEO, Waypoint Education Partners

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**X:** @BeALearningHero

Cindi Williams is the co-founder of Learning Heroes – a leading education nonprofit researching parent and educator mindsets, providing solutions for meaningful parent engagement at the state, district, and school levels - and the CEO of Waypoint Education Partners. [As a mom and evangelist for the power of meaningful parent engagement](#), Cindi works to ensure each parent has an accurate picture of their child's academic progress to fully engage as an informed advocate for their child's learning. Mrs. Williams' insights are grounded in decades of experience in research, advocacy, and communications as a senior official in the White House, US Department of Education, US House of Representatives, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and three presidential campaigns.

## MODERATOR



**Bruno Manno, Ph.D**

Senior Advisor  
Progressive Policy Institute

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Bruno V. Manno is Senior Advisor and leads the What Works Lab at the Progressive Policy Institute. He came to PPI from the Walton Family Foundation, where he was Senior Adviser for Education. Prior to that, he was Senior Associate for Education with the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

He has held senior positions with several education nonprofits and policy organizations, also serving as US Assistant Secretary of Education for Policy and Planning. He is a contributor writing about education on Forbes.com and the author or co-author of articles and books including Charter Schools in Action, Charter Schools at the Crossroads, and The Opportunity to Rise.