

**GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar**  
***Choosing and Implementing Evidence-Based Strategies:***  
***Read Charlotte (North Carolina)***  
**A Crucible of Practice Salon**  
November 10, 2020  
Moderator & Presenter Bios

**Munro Richardson, Ph.D., Executive Director, Read Charlotte, Moderator and Presenter**



Munro Richardson is Executive Director of Read Charlotte, a community initiative that unites families, educators and community partners with the goal of improving third-grade reading proficiency in Mecklenburg County to 80% by 2025. In this role, he is responsible for using research, data and strategic funding to coordinate, integrate and align the efforts of dozens of organizations across Charlotte-Mecklenburg to improve children’s language and literacy development from birth through third grade.

Munro has worked in philanthropy for most of the past 20 years. Read Charlotte is his fifth startup venture. He has received local and national recognition for his efforts at Read Charlotte. Munro holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kansas, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with Honors, master’s degrees from both Harvard University (where he was a Mellon Fellow) and Oxford University (where he was a Rhodes Scholar), and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He is co-author with Samantha Cleaver of *Read with Me: Engaging Your Young Child in Active Reading*, published by Rowman & Littlefield in November 2018.

Munro is married to his high school sweetheart, Teresa, and has three daughters who attend UNC Charlotte and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

**Sonya Castellino, Deputy Director, Read Charlotte, Presenter**



Sonya Castellino joined Read Charlotte as Deputy Director in July 2018. Sonya is a native Charlottean, who proudly and successfully attended Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. She has worked as an educator in New York City, Eastern North Carolina, and in Charlotte. She has served a variety of roles from classroom teacher to Resident Principal, since 2002. She co-founded a small high school in Manhattan, which continues to educate students today. She’s coached teachers to improve instructional practices in grades K-12, with subjects ranging from Music to Chemistry. Most recently, she was a Curriculum Coordinator for Project L.I.F.T. Sonya holds a bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College and two master’s degrees from Columbia University, Teachers College. Sonya lives in Huntersville with her husband, Sam, their bibliophile son, Dalton, and their dog, Chai. Sonya’s grandmother taught her to read, when she was three years old, using McGuffey primers. Her favorite childhood books are the Babar the Elephant and Curious George series.

**Kim Perkins, Charlotte Program Director, Helps Education Fund, Presenter**



Kim Perkins joined Helps Education Fund as the Charlotte Program Director in March 2019. She has more than ten years of experience partnering with established organizations in the non-profit sector. Throughout her career she has built and executed strategies that addressed challenging community obstacles, drawing on her strong commitment to social justice and equity. Kim's experience encompasses all aspects of business administration from fundraising / financial management, human resources operations, operational excellence, and the breadth of her experience provides a unique insight into the complex challenges of building strong non-profit organizations.

**Jenny Ward, Senior Vice President, Presenter**



Jenny Ward is Senior Vice President, Bank of America, and serves as a Community Relations Manager for the Charlotte Market President's office. She oversees foundation grants and sponsorships for the market and helps employees connect to volunteering and board service opportunities. Prior to her corporate career, Jenny spent 12 years in advertising and brand strategy with two firms. She currently serves on the boards of the Institute for Social Capital/Urban Institute at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, Community Building Initiative, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Foundation, A Way Home Endowment, and Charlotte Country Day School.

**Johanna Edens Anderson, Executive Director, The Belk Foundation, Presenter**



Johanna Edens Anderson is the Executive Director of The Belk Foundation, a family foundation based in Charlotte, N.C. The Foundation supports public education by strengthening teachers and school leaders, and ensuring that students are achieving on or above grade level by the third grade. Anderson is responsible for guiding the organization's relationships with community partners as well as managing communications, strategic planning, policy development, financial and grantmaking activities. Prior to joining The Belk Foundation in 2009, Anderson was Assistant Vice President of Client Services for Foundation For The Carolinas in Charlotte, N.C. Anderson began her career with the Association of Small Foundations in Washington, D.C. She is a past board chair of the North Carolina Network of Grantmakers and alumna of Leadership North Carolina Class XXV. Anderson holds a bachelor's degree in public policy studies from Duke University and an MBA from Wake Forest University. She and her husband Chris are parents to two girls, Nina and Margaret.