

## How Early Childhood Educators Build Bridges with K-3 Teachers and Parents

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Series

October 6, 2020 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

### PRESENTER BIOS

#### MODERATOR



**Cynthia D. Jackson,**  
**Executive Director, Educare Learning Network**  
**Senior Vice President, Ounce of Prevention Fund**

Cynthia D. Jackson is dedicated to producing high quality early learning that achieves positive outcomes for all children and parents. As Executive Director of the Educare Learning Network and Senior Vice President at the Ounce of Prevention Fund, she leads a generative, coast-to-coast network of high quality birth-to-five schools that function as innovative learning hubs for the field of early childhood education. In collaboration with the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Educare Learning Network school leaders, and early childhood stakeholders, Cynthia advances practice, research and policy solutions to create greater system-wide impact. Prior to joining the Educare Learning Network and the Ounce, Cynthia was national director of training and technical assistance for Healthy Families America at Prevent Child Abuse America and Director, Midwest Learning Center for Family Support. She received her Master of Science in counseling and health education from the University of North Texas and Bachelor of Science in community and school health education from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.



**Maria Harris**  
**Principal**  
**Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach**  
**@EducareLALB | @educarelonbeach**

Maria Harris is the School Principal for Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach, which is an early childhood education school that leverages federal, state, and private dollars to offer high quality early childhood education to prevent the achievement gap. Educare ensures that children are prepared academically, socially and emotionally for kindergarten.

Before coming to Educare, Maria was an Elementary School Principal leading staff through continuous improvement and reflective teaching to improve student outcomes. She received her Master's Degree in Educational Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Social Behavior. Her work with staff, families, and children has focused on creating growth opportunities for children of diverse backgrounds and low socio-economic status. Now, as the School Principal of Educare Los Angeles at

Long Beach, she is committed and excited to bridge the elementary early years to an early education model program for children six weeks to five years old.

The first of its kind in Southern California, Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach is located on the campus of Barton Elementary School, near the Carmelitos Housing Project neighborhood of Long Beach. The Educare School serves up to 182 infants, toddlers and preschoolers in 16 classrooms in three one-story modular buildings. A two-story administration building, 19-space drop-off area and a unique developmentally appropriate playground is in place for Long Beach families and children. Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach is part of the Educare network of 25 early education programs nationwide, the school is the result of a public/private partnership, including funding from private foundations, Head Start and State Preschool. At Educare, Maria leads staff in delivering daily care and education services, and researched based practices that demonstrate the belief that everyone deserves a fair chance to achieve their dreams, and it starts by leveling the playing field from the day we are born. This is done by offering daily intensive family engagement along with high quality teaching and learning practices. Maria continues to lead the approach that extends beyond the classroom to help children, families, and communities thrive.



**Ryan Lee-James, PhD, CCC-SLP**  
**Director of Rollins Center for Language & Literacy**  
**Atlanta Speech School**  
**@CoxCampus**

Ryan Lee-James is an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist and published author with expertise in language development, language disorders, and literacy in the context of linguistic differences and socioeconomic disadvantage. In her current role as the Director of the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School, Dr. Lee-James is responsible for working collaboratively with community-based organizations and key stakeholders to impact language and literacy achievement for our most vulnerable children. Before joining the team at the Atlanta Speech School, Dr. Lee-James had the privilege of training and mentoring graduate level speech-language pathologists as a member of the Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty at Adelphi University in New York.



**Calvin Moore, Jr., Ph.D.**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Council for Professional Recognition**  
**@cdacouncil | @Cal1Moore**

Dr. Calvin Moore, Jr., an accomplished and experienced early childhood education leader, was appointed interim CEO of the Council for Professional Recognition in May 2020; he's the first CEO of the Council to also hold its early education credential, the Child Development Associate® (CDA). He previously served on the Council's governing board.

Moore earned his CDA® nearly three decades ago. His connection to Head Start began when he participated in the program as a child; he also has vast professional Head Start experience, having served in large and small, urban and rural, and center-based and family childcare-based programs, as well as programs focused predominantly on Hispanic families.

Throughout his career, Moore has held senior roles directing complex public departments at both the federal and state level, focused on improving outcomes for underserved children and families. Most recently, Moore was the regional program manager in Atlanta for the Office of Head Start within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His responsibilities included leading the largest region in the country, providing oversight, monitoring, training and technical assistance to over 350 Head Start and Early Head Start grantees with a portfolio of over \$1.6 billion. Prior to joining ACF, he was a senior technical analyst for ICF International, a federal contractor for the Office of Child Care within ACF.

He previously served as the child care administrator for the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR), where he was responsible for implementing strategic goals and objectives. This included oversight of child care licensing, child care subsidy program, Early Head Start–Child Care Partnership, quality initiatives, training and technical assistance projects. The annual budget was over \$100 million and DHR served over 30,000 children. Moore expanded the child care services division by securing public funding for the DHR Early Head Start–Child Care Partnership program and private funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to establish Alabama Quality STARS, a quality rating and improvement system.

At an earlier point, Moore served at the federal level as the deputy director of the Office of Child Care (OCC) in the ACF. OCC supports low-income working families by providing access to affordable, high-quality early care and afterschool programs. OCC administers the Child Care and Development Fund and works with state, territory and tribal governments to provide support for children and their families juggling work schedules and struggling to find child care programs that will fit their needs and that will prepare children to succeed in school. As the OCC deputy director, Moore was responsible for supervising the regional program managers in the 10 ACF regional offices.

Moore holds a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a master's degree in education and a Ph.D. in early childhood education, both from Walden University. He's the author of an early childhood curriculum supplement, "The Thinking Book Curriculum: For Early Childhood Professionals," as well as "Men Do Stay: Recruiting and Retaining Qualified Male Early Childhood Teachers" and many other books.

In 2016, Moore received a literary award from AIM and New Light Ministries for his book, "Agape Declarations" and the Maria Otto Award for Leadership from the National Family Child Care Association (NAFCC), a national membership organization devoted to making sure that the profession of family child care is recognized, visible and firmly part of the larger early care and education field; he was the first African American elected NAFCC president. In 2011, Moore received the Billy McCain, Sr., Memorial Award from the Alabama Head Start Association for his work as an advocate for family child care programs.