

GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

Learning Pods: How We Responded, What We Are Learning and What's Next

A Peer Exchange Learning Conversation

March 30, 2021

Moderator & Presenter Bios

Joi Chester, Ed.D., Program Officer, Children's Opportunity Fund, Greater Washington Community Foundation, Presenter



Dr. Joi Chester has over twenty years of experience in various educational settings; charter schools, k-12 public schools, higher education, nonprofit and for-profit educational organizations. She is a change agent in urban settings and a strategic leader of academic program development/management for large or small organizations. As a life-long learner with experience as a teacher, instructional coach, consultant, and researcher, Dr. Joi is an international presenter of strategy building techniques to influence gainful impact. She graduated with a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership to continue researching programs and analyzing data. When she is not educating others or herself, she likes to travel, spend time with family, and get her "adrenaline-fix".

Cierra Hall-Hipkins, Co-Founder and Director of Program and Partnerships, Network Connect, Presenter



Cierra Hall-Hipkins earned her Bachelor's Degree in Mental Health Counseling from University of Maryland Eastern Shore and focused her early career on mental health, spending her early career working in several roles at Sheppard Pratt Psychiatric Hospital. Since her time at Sheppard Pratt, Cierra has honed her expertise in managing youth programs and spent 10 years in leadership positions at three different nonprofit organizations. As Director of the Northeast Region for Humanim Inc, Cierra was so successful at expanding the organization's reach that she was sent to Delaware to start a new branch. After this, Cierra worked with Serviam Girls Academy in Wilmington, as Director of student affairs increasing admissions and attendance during her time there. Cierra has worked as Program Manager for an SEL non-profit and a Coordinator for an ACT team. Among many other professional experiences, she has also served as the State Supervisor, and worked to connect homeless populations with resources with a Maryland nonprofit. She serves as a board member for the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Barbara Hubbell, Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives, United Way of the Southern Tier, Presenter



Barbara Hubbell, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives with United Way of the Southern Tier (UWST), joined the United Way movement in April 2000. Serving as UWST's impact lead, she engages the partners of Southern Tier Kids on Track, the two-county initiative focused on early childhood development to improve long-term outcomes for children and families, as well as those in senior supports and basic needs. Barbara manages the annual allocation of nearly \$3 million in unrestricted UWST campaign proceeds in programs and initiatives across Chemung and Steuben Counties. She provides training and support in outcome measurement and logic model development for local agencies and programs, and is a practitioner in the framework and principles of Collective Impact. Ms. Hubbell holds an AAS in Business Administration from Corning Community College and a BS in Community and Human Services Management from SUNY Empire State College. She resides and volunteers in Watkins Glen, NY.

Maria Juarez-Stouffer, Chief Programs Officer, Children's Services Council of Broward County, Presenter



Maria Juarez-Stouffer is the Chief Programs Officer at the Children's Services Council of Broward County. She has extensive experience in designing and administering social service procurements, human service programs and in the coordination of data driven program funding processes. Mrs. Juarez-Stouffer has two Master's degrees; one in psychology and another in Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Florida State University. She serves as the President on the Broward Healthy Start Coalition and is the Chair of the Broward Funders Forum. She is a licensed mental health professional with over 25 years' experience serving children and families. Her clinical interests have focused on maternal-child health and child abuse prevention and treatment. Mrs. Juarez-Stouffer has presented at both national and state conferences on the topic of innovative maternal child health programs.

Ken Livingston, Director, Get Delaware Reading, United Way of Delaware, Presenter



Mr. Ken Livingston is the current Director for Get Delaware Reading with United Way of Delaware where his primary focus is addressing the issue in Wilmington where many children from its zip code within the 8 Promise Communities are identified as not reading proficiency when exiting the third grade. Get Delaware Reading major areas of focus include school readiness, afterschool/summer learning, connected to Delaware Department of Education literacy plan, creating home libraries for students, increasing school attendance and school connectedness for students, and providing family engagement opportunities. Since becoming the new director of Get Delaware Reading Ken is most proud of leading the United Way My Very Own Library initiative. Scholastic and the University of Chicago provide students attending 14 Delaware schools with free books to create their own home libraries. This school year My Very Library will provide over 70,000 brand new books to students from 7 school districts throughout 3 counties. He received his BS degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Delaware State University and his MS Degree in Human Services from Springfield College.

Tammy Malich, Ed.D., Social Innovation Director, Las Vegas Department of Youth Development, Presenter



Dr. Tammy Malich was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. As long as she can remember, she wanted to be a teacher. After graduating from the Clark County School District, she married her high school sweetheart and started her educational journey. Dr. Malich earned her undergraduate degree in business administration with a minor in economics and finance and went on to complete the requirements for an education endorsement allowing her to apply for her teaching license. Dr. Malich began her teaching career in the Clark County School District teaching sixth grade at Paradise Elementary School. The following year, sixth grade was moved to junior high school to begin the middle school philosophy and so, Dr. Malich moved to middle school with her students. She taught middle school English and reading to sixth and seventh grade students at Orr Middle School and following the advice of her principal began working on her masters degree in curriculum and educational leadership.

In 2013, Dr. Malich accepted a new challenge as the Assistant Superintendent of Education Services Division. In this new position, she oversaw Adult Education, Adult ELL, Adult Corrections, Juvenile Corrections, Credit Recovery Schools, Alternative Schools, Attendance Enforcement, Safe and Drug Free Schools, and Indian Education Opportunities Program.

In February 2020, Dr. Tammy Malich accepted a new role as Director of the City of Las Vegas Department of Youth Development and Social Innovation. In this role she champions the mission of ensuring children are healthy, safe, successful in school, and connected to caring adults; that every student in every neighborhood has access to a 21st Century education; and new ways to address social needs and problems are developed through strategic public/private partnerships. In this capacity, she manages \$8 million in programs and services related to preschool development, youth development, out of school time programs, workforce development, and multi-cultural community relations.

Dr. Malich and her husband have two children, both graduates of the Clark County School District. Her daughter, a graduate of UNLV and Boyd School of Law, is a District Attorney for the Juvenile Division and her son, a college athlete and recent graduate of the Dominican University in Chicago, Illinois, is a computer technician and programmer. Dr. Malich also has one grandson who keeps her busy when she is not at the office.

Karen Mann, Program Manager, First State Community Action Agency, Presenter



I have a passion for people and a burning desire to give what I can for their benefit based on my capabilities and skillsets. I joined FSCAA in September 2020 as the Program Manager. In this position I oversee Learning Pods, After-School Programs as well as Virtual Tutoring assistance. In this job, I have and continue to work towards bridging the gap of communication in various sectors for the benefit of “our” children who are experiencing the challenges created by the COVID circumstances. Prior to this employ, I have had managerial positions in prior jobs in banking and a local nursing facility. Those positions consist of fields in Risk Management, Customer Service, Loan Management, Environmental Services, Admissions, Collections, Regional Student Loan Liaison and most recent After-School Programs. I spent most of my working career in the banking industry. However, a merger happened which caused me to review “what next”? I then started nursing classes and landed a position at a Nursing Facility, until COVID happened! So, I was back to the “what next” question. Due to my genuine love for others, wanting to do more and continue to make a difference in the lives whomever I come in contact with, I explored and landed a position that allows me to breath positivity and motivate others to be as innovative as possible. Taking the negative experiences in life and allowing them to be the brick foundation to their next level of accomplishments. In my spare time, I enjoy time with family, church, bible reading, praise dance, reading, and vacationing.

Jenny Atkinson, Senior Consultant, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading; Senior Consultant, Smarter Learning Group, Moderator



Jenny Atkinson is a senior consultant with the Smarter Learning Group, national consulting firm that helps organizations build stronger partnerships, attract more investment, and achieve better results in improving educational outcomes for low-income children. In this capacity she has worked with clients ranging from the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading to many national youth serving organizations including YMCA, 4-H and BGCA. Prior to joining the Smarter Learning Group, worked with Boys & Girls Clubs for over twenty years, serving as the executive director with Boys & Girls Club in Boston and the senior director of education and the arts at Boys & Girls Clubs of America where she created education and art programs for Clubs and trained and advised Club staff around the country. She has taught college courses on child growth and development, human development and sociology at Newbury College. Jenny holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a master’s degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.