



## Accelerating Literacy Through Same Language Subtitling

A GLR Learning Tuesdays  
Emerging Models/Partner Webinar

February 8, 2022 | 3-4:30 pm ET/12-1:30 pm PT

### *Panelist Bios*

#### MODERATOR



**Kyle Zimmer**  
**President, CEO & Co-Founder**  
**First Book**  
**@FirstBook**

Kyle is the co-founder and President of First Book, a nonprofit social enterprise advancing educational equity for children in poverty, which disproportionately impacts children of color. First Book aggregates the knowledge and influence of formal/informal educators to create systemic change and uses market leverage to increase access to culturally relevant resources, including distributing more than 200 million books at a market value of \$2 billion. At the core of its model is the nation's largest online network of adults serving low-income children, currently numbering 525,000 and growing by thousands each month. A globally recognized social sector leader, Kyle is a Fellow with the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and a frequent presenter/author for the World Economic Forum. She is a member of the Forbes Nonprofit Council and serves on the boards of Dr. Seuss Enterprises, L.P., and of Ashoka.

#### PRESENTERS



**Brij Kothari**  
**Founder**  
**PlanetRead**  
**@PlanetRead**

Brij Kothari is on the faculty of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and the founder of PlanetRead and BookBox, committed to scalable solutions for reading literacy in a diversity of languages. In 1996, he conceived Same Language Subtitling (SLS) on mainstream TV for mass reading. Bill Clinton called SLS, "A small thing that has a staggering impact on people's lives." Following 2+ decades of research, pilots, and advocacy, SLS became India's national broadcast policy in 2019. Currently, Brij is leading the implementation of that policy under the 'Billion Readers' initiative. He is the recipient of the International Literacy Prize from the Library of Congress and has a Ph.D. from Cornell.



**Deborah L. Nichols, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor**

**Human Development and Family Studies, College of Health and Human Services  
Purdue University**

Dr. Deborah Nichols (Ph.D., 1998, University of Texas, Austin) is Associate Professor at Purdue University. She has developed, funded, and directed multiple research projects to understand how children and youth learn and to identify ways to facilitate learning within multiple contexts (e.g., educational media, literacy and science curricula, workforce development). She frequently collaborates or consults with industry groups and policy-makers (e.g., PBS/CPB, WGBH, Out of the Blue, Sesame Workshop, Nickelodeon, Disney, Edgenuity, members of Congress, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, UK National Literacy Trust). Recent scholarship includes an edited volume combining academic research with commentaries from industry and policy professionals.

## COMMENTATORS



**Kelly Butler**

**CEO**

**Barksdale Reading Institute**

**@MSReads1**

Kelly Butler is Barksdale Reading Institute’s Chief Executive Officer. She holds a bachelor’s degree in special education from the University of Alabama and a master’s degree in administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University. Prior to joining BRI, Kelly served as a teacher in the Greenwich, Conn. public schools, and has worked extensively with a variety of non-profit organizations in social service, health care and education in the areas of program development, support and evaluation.



**Kristal Moore Clemons, Ph.D.**

**National Director**

**Children’s Defense Fund Freedom School**

**@KrisClemonsPhD**

Dr. Kristal Moore Clemons has advanced racial and gender equity through her work in K-12 education, higher education, and nonprofit management. In her academic leadership, she has shaped curriculum and fostered positive academic experiences in face-to-face and online environments. She is the national director of the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® program. This program uses culturally relevant pedagogy and high-quality books to deepen scholars’ understanding of themselves and all they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural democratic society. Dr. Clemons is a native of Chicago, Illinois and a graduate of DePaul University having earned her B.A. in Women’s Studies and Political Science. She earned an M.A. from Washington State University in American Studies, her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Education-Culture, Curriculum and Change and a graduate certificate in Women’s Studies from Duke University. She and her partner reside in Virginia with their children.



**Michael H. Levine, Ph.D.**  
**SVP Learning & Impact**  
**Noggin/Nickelodeon**  
**@NOGGINKids**

Michael H. Levine is an internationally recognized social entrepreneur with a track record driving early childhood and K-12 education reform and transformation at public and private companies, foundations, and government agencies. 20+ years of experience researching educational, developmental, and socioeconomic implications of the emerging media and learning landscape to inform policy and legislation, fuel innovation, promote educational equity, and influence educational program decisions. He is an author of 40+ publications and policy briefs, co-author of *Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens*, keynote speaker, and board member for non-profit and double bottom-line social venture organizations. Named one of US' most influential leaders in family policy by Working Mother magazine.