

## GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

### *Tutoring Works! Lessons & Insights From Local Programs & Practitioners*

January 20, 2026

Moderator and Presenter Bios

#### MODERATOR

##### John Gomperts

##### **Executive Fellow, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**



John Gomperts is a long-time leader in non-profits and government organizations devoted to civic engagement and to creating greater opportunity for children and youth. From 2012 - 2020, Gomperts served as President & CEO of America's Promise Alliance. Prior to that, John served as the Director of AmeriCorps in the Obama Administration. Earlier in his career, John worked in the US Senate (Sens. Wofford, Kerry, Daschle), practiced law and served as a judicial clerk.

Gomperts earned his JD from Georgetown University Law

Center and his AB in History from University of California, Berkeley. Gomperts has served on a wide range of boards including FoodCorps (Chair), Points of Light, Presidio Institute, News Literacy Project, and others.

#### PRESENTER

##### Liz Cohen

##### **Vice President of Policy, 50CAN**

##### **Author, *The Future of Learning: Lessons from 10,000 School District Tutoring Initiatives***

Raised in Portland, Oregon, Liz stumbled into education policy more than 20 years ago.

In 2003, she signed up as a volunteer summer-school teacher in DC's Anacostia neighborhood. She then changed her career plans and never looked back. Liz has worked as an analyst and advisor for foundations, districts, and nonprofit organizations in the K-12 education space, first at the District of Columbia Public Schools' Office of Data and Accountability and then at the Office of the State Superintendent in the District of Columbia. She has also worked at FutureEd at Georgetown University, Whiteboard Advisors, the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, the Urban Institute, and was a strategic data fellow at Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research. She currently serves on the Strategic Data Project Alumni Advisory Board and the Maryland READS Expert Advisory Delegation; she previously served on the board of Sela Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. Liz is the author of *The Future of Tutoring: Lessons from 10,000 School District Tutoring Initiatives* (Harvard Education Press, September 2025). Cohen graduated from the University of Pennsylvania summa cum laude and holds a master's degree in public policy from



Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy. She lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland with her husband and three children.

**COMMENTATORS**

**Johnny Blount**

**Director of Collaborative Action, Literacy Mid-South**



Johnny Blount is the Director of Collaborative Action for Literacy Mid-South. In previous work with the City of Memphis, Youth Villages, and Christian Brothers University, he has pursued his passion for Memphis and the communities that make it up. Johnny joined the Literacy Mid-South team in 2016 as an AmeriCorps VISTA to support out-of-school time providers in incorporating high quality literacy interventions into their programming. As Director of Collaborative Action, he serves in four roles at Literacy Mid-South: network facilitator, LMS representative, literacy advocate, and

AmeriCorps sponsor. Johnny previously served as Literacy Mid-South’s Community Resources Manager. Johnny received a BA in Religion & Philosophy from Christian Brothers University and a MPA from the University of Memphis.

**Becca Eastman**

**Director of Iowa Reading Corps, United Way of Iowa**



Becca Eastman serves as Director for Iowa Reading Corps and has spent her career advocating for education and community outreach. Becca earned her degrees from Scott Community College and University of Northern Iowa and is a proud AmeriCorps Alumni. Becca resides in Bettendorf with her husband, Lee, and is the proud mother of two sons, Lane and Hayden.

**Sherri Flagg, Ed.D.**

**Read United Program Manager, United Way of Central Georgia**

Dr. Sherri Flagg became involved in UWCG's Read United program as a volunteer. Dr. Flagg is a 30-year retired educator who served as Principal with the Bibb County School District. Throughout her career, she has been inspired by her love for children. In addition to her Bachelor's degree in education from Mercer University, she earned a Master's degree in guidance and counseling from Fort Valley State University, and a Specialist's degree in educational leadership from Georgia College and State University. Dr. Flagg earned her doctorate from NOVA Southeastern University in Educational Leadership and Organization. Her certifications include Leadership, Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Special Education, Teacher Support Specialist, and School Counselor. Dr. Flagg now leads the Read United team as Program Manager. "My goal is to continue to provide support with getting kids reading on grade level. I would like for



us to continue to expand our Read United footprint into other Central Georgia counties." Dr. Flagg is married to Allen Flagg, and mother to Kandis Moore and Jennifer Clements. She is also a loving grandmother of five. Dr. Sherri Flagg enjoys learning and serves her community and church in every way she can.

**Crystal Rountree**

**Chief Executive Officer, Jumpstart for Young Children**



Crystal Rountree leads Jumpstart, a national early education nonprofit where volunteers deliver research-based curriculum to children in underserved communities. As CEO since January 2024, she brings over two decades of expertise in education leadership and revenue development. Rountree previously served as Chief Revenue and Development Officer at Teach For America, where she led philanthropic partnerships and diversified revenue strategies to sustain organizational impact. She also led two Teach For America regions, Jacksonville, and Charlotte-Piedmont Triad, as (Founding) Executive Director,

and served as a Regional Field Executive. A 2024 Promising Venture Fellow and summa cum laude graduate of Clark Atlanta University, Rountree began her career as a first-grade teacher in Metro Atlanta. Her work has been featured in *Teaching As Leadership* and *Switch*.