



Panelist Bios

In partnership with:



Teddy Armstrong - Cottonwood Oak Creek School District, AZ

Teddy Armstrong is the 21st CCLC District Coordinator at Cottonwood Oak Creek School District. She works at bringing community partners to students during out of school time hours. Prior to this new role, she worked as a site coordinator for the 21st CCLC program at Oak Creek School where she watched the amazing benefits of community partners working with students and schools.

Brian Bannon - The New York Public Library

Brian Bannon is The New York Public Library’s first-ever Merryl and James Tisch Director. In this role, Mr. Bannon acts as the chief librarian, responsible for the operation and direction of NYPL’s 89 neighborhood branches. He focuses on the Library’s educational planning efforts to foster a culture of learning, reading, and education across the city. Mr. Bannon has over 20 years of library services experience, having worked at the Chicago Public Library (as CEO), San Francisco Public Library (as CIO), Seattle Public Library, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2016, Mr. Bannon was named one of Fast Company’s 100 Most Creative People in Business for his innovative approach to the 21st century library.

Miguel Cardona – U.S. Department of Education

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona was sworn in as the 12th Secretary of Education on March 2nd, 2021. Secretary Cardona previously served as the Commissioner of Education in Connecticut. He has two decades of experience as a public school educator from the City of Meriden, CT.

Brodrick Clarke - NSLA

Brodrick has extensive experience working with the K-12 student population, primarily in an out-of-school time setting. He has recruited and trained hundreds of youth workers and volunteers. As a seasoned professional development trainer, Brodrick incorporates research and best practices with interactive simulations to engage his audience in dynamic learning experiences.

Katari Coleman - NCASE

Katari Coleman, an early childhood education thought leader and expert, directs innovative efforts to advance all children’s school readiness and success. She has expertise in child development, early childhood and afterschool workforce development, family engagement, parent education, Adverse Childhood Experiences, strategic planning, and systems change. Coleman co-leads the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE), a resource and training hub that builds capacity to ensure children can access high-quality afterschool learning that supports their development and boosts their academic achievement.

Emma Dorn - McKinsey & Company

Emma leads knowledge development and dissemination for McKinsey’s education work around the globe. She also serves clients across the public, private, and social sectors including school systems, higher-education institutions, technology companies, bilateral and multilateral donors, foundations, and educational not-for-profit organizations.

Aaron Dworkin - NSLA

Aaron is a national leader in the education, out-of-school time (OST) and youth development fields. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), which works to ensure all young people in America, but especially the most vulnerable, can access and afford a high-quality summer learning experience every year. Aaron oversees NSLA’s support to their network of 15,000 program partners and leaders in the areas of Program Quality, Partnerships, Policy, Public Awareness and Leadership Development.

Dawn Fitzhugh - Arizona Department of Education

Dawn Fitzhugh, State Summer Learning Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Education, brings over 15 years of experience working in the education field. Her current focus is on providing a wide-range of opportunities to meet the needs of diverse and underserved communities in out-of-school time. Dawn's background experience includes teaching for Title 1 Elementary Schools - grades K-5, supporting future educators in the EdRising Program at Rio Salado College, and overseeing 21st CCLC programs at the Arizona Department of Education.

Stephanie Folkens - Common Threads

Stephanie Folkens serves as the Vice President of Programs at Common Threads, a national nonprofit focused on the celebration of culture and community wellness through culinary education. As VP, she oversees program design and implementation across 10 urban markets, strategic planning for the organization, and innovation projects.

Sergio Garcia – Big Thought

Sergio Garcia is Big Thought's Senior Manager of Learning Systems. Sergio describes himself as a creative person who seeks the opportunity for education in the everyday.

Deirdra Hawkes – American School Counselor Association

Deirdra Hawkes is Director of Programs and Advocacy for ASCA and supports school counselors' efforts to manage comprehensive school counseling programs. Prior to joining the staff, she supported high school students with academic, career and social/emotional development in a large high school setting for almost 20 years. She has a Master's degree in both School Counseling and School Administration.

Seton Hawkins - Jazz at Lincoln Center

Seton Hawkins serves as Director of Public Programs and Education Resources at Jazz at Lincoln Center. At JALC, Seton oversaw the creation and expansion of the Jazz Academy media library, creating the largest free video library in the world dedicated to jazz pedagogy. He leads the organization's Swing University teaching initiative, while also hosting all Listening Parties and public programs at Jazz at Lincoln Center and giving free pre-concert lectures before major shows in Rose Theater and in the Appel Room. In addition, Seton has worked as a producer, manager, publicist, radio DJ, and advocate in Jazz for more than a decade.

Rod Hsiao - InPlay

Rod Hsiao is the CEO of InPlay (www.inplay.org), a non-profit that helps school districts and intermediaries connect underserved families with out-of-school time learning programs by providing integrated communication and registration solutions. InPlay's mobile solution reduces the administrative work so staff can focus on programs and relationships. They support 67 school districts nationwide serving over 450,000 K-12 students.

Alan Ingram – Former Superintendent of Public Schools in Springfield, MA

Alan Ingram served for three years as Deputy Commissioner at the state education agency in Massachusetts where he provided executive level leadership to the Commissioner and Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on all policy matters related to advancing the Commonwealth's education agenda to prepare all public school students for success in college, career and life. Previously, Dr. Ingram served for four years as Superintendent of Public Schools in Springfield, Massachusetts, a district serving nearly 26,000 students in 44 schools.

Roslyn Johnson - Baltimore County, MD Department of Recreation and Parks

Roslyn Johnson, CPRP is the first female to lead the Baltimore County, MD Department of Recreation and Parks. She was unanimously confirmed three weeks before the County transitioned to teleworking due to COVID-19. She has a tenured past with the Rec and Parks profession and is a national leader having served on the Board of NRPA, taught at Directors School, has been a keynote around the world, and speaker at conferences to list a few. She's also on the Board of Directors of the prestigious American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

Steven Kahn – Math Corps

Professor Steve Kahn is the Director of the WSU Center for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics, a series of programs designed to produce success for Detroit students as they pursue their education from elementary and middle school through high school and college. Built by Dr. Kahn, the two cornerstone programs of the Center, the WSU Math Corps at the middle and high school levels and the WSU Emerging Scholars Program at the college level, have received not only local, but national recognition for their dramatic results.

Gene Kerns – Renaissance Learning

A third-generation educator, Dr. Gene M. Kerns was born with a passion for learning—and he’s carried that flame throughout his long career in education. Over the past two decades, he’s served as a public school teacher, adjunct faculty member, professional development trainer, district supervisor of academic services, and academic advisor at one of the nation’s top edtech companies. For his work, Dr. Kerns has earned several awards and recognitions, including Merit Awards from the Delaware Department of Education and Order of Excellence Awards from the Delaware State Board of Education, and was even named a “Kentucky Colonel” for his contributions to education.

Megan Kuhfeld - NWEA

Megan Kuhfeld seeks to understand students’ trajectories of academic and social-emotional learning and the school and neighborhood influences that promote optimal growth. She completed a PhD in quantitative methods in education and a master’s degree in statistics from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Cecelia Leong - Attendance Works

Cecelia Leong is the Vice President of Programs at Attendance Works. Since joining Attendance Works in 2011, she has helped expand the technical assistance resources available to communities across the country. In addition to providing high quality professional development through webinars and online learning modules, Cecelia works closely with the Attendance Works team to identify emerging technical assistance needs in reducing chronic absence and creating innovative tools to address those needs.

Andrew Maxey – Tuscaloosa City Schools

Andrew Maxey is director of strategic initiatives in the Tuscaloosa City Schools in Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Erik Peterson - Afterschool Alliance

Erik Peterson joined the Afterschool Alliance in July 2009 and coordinates and advances the Afterschool Alliance’s policy efforts at the federal level by helping develop policy goals and implementing strategies that advance access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs for all. Erik works to build and strengthen relationships with policy makers and allied organizations to increase public support and funding for out of school time programs.

Angelica Portillo – National AfterSchool Association

Angelica Portillo’s passion for education and public policy led her to advocate for the Out-of-School Time (OST) field. She has spent nearly a decade working in afterschool programs and providing OST programs with quality assistance, which ultimately led her to serve as NAA’s Director of Advocacy and Workforce Development.

Christina Russell - Policy Studies Associates

Christina Russell is a Senior Managing Director at Policy Studies Associates, a research, evaluation and capacity-building organization that helps nonprofits, government agencies, and foundations learn about and improve initiatives and programs to strengthen opportunities and outcomes for youth, their families, and their communities. She has over 20 years’ experience evaluating and advising summer learning programs and is leading an NSLA Professional Learning Community intended to bridge research, practice, and policy—launching soon!

Carlos Santini - Mizzen by Mott

As CEO of Mizzen by Mott, Carlos Santini leads and helps grow the Mizzen app as a key resource in elevating the quality of afterschool programs for young people across the United States. For nearly two decades, Santini has worked closely with school districts, foundations, corporations, and local, state and national leaders to expand the scope and improve the quality of afterschool programming for young people.

Dorothy Weintraub - Scholastic

Dorothy Weintraub is Vice President of National Accounts at Scholastic where she has worked for 26 years managing all facets of sales, marketing, operations, and account services for educational and non-profit organizations.

Katie Willse - The Learning Agenda

Katie Willse is Engagement Manager and a Senior Consultant for The Learning Agenda (TLA), focusing on initiatives in the education, out-of-school time and youth development fields. Katie leads TLA’s partnership with the Texas Education Agency’s Additional Days School Year Planning and Execution program (ADSY PEP), a four-year program which supports education agencies across the state in summer learning planning and program design. Katie was also a lead developer of the Wallace Foundation’s Summer Learning Toolkit and shares the resource with summer learning advocates, practitioners, and partners.