

Assume Collaboration:
A Consultative Conversation on Aggregating for Impact
July 30, 2021

Moderator and Discussant Bios



Brenda Blasingame

Program Manager

Pritzker Children's Initiative, J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation

bblasingame@pritzkerfoundation.org

Brenda Blasingame joined the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation in 2020 as a Program Officer on the Pritzker Children's Initiative team. The initiative is a national effort focused exclusively on expanding high quality supports and services to families during the foundational period of the first 1000 days, which is prenatal to 3 years of age of their child's life. Her work is focused on strategy development in the following areas: child well-being and child welfare prevention, work with and in the Latino/x and Native American communities, lived experience and parent/community leadership and justice equity diversity and inclusion efforts. She also holds a portfolio of grants supporting and working with five states (NE, NV, WI, SC and TX) as well as a group of community innovation grantees and national grantee partners.

Since 2000 Ms. Blasingame's work has been focused on early childhood development and education issues with a strong emphasis on issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. Most recently, Ms. Blasingame served as the Executive Director for HealthConnect One where she was responsible for leading this national organization's work on peer to peer support during the first 1000 days encompassing pregnancy, birth and early parenting. This work focused on developing strategies to achieve birth equity, community level systems change and advocacy for maternal, infant and early childhood health and wellness in communities that are marginalized as a result of social oppression. Prior to joining the staff at HealthConnect One she worked over the past 20 years on early childhood development in California as the founding Executive Director First Five Contra Costa; in Washington as a founding staff member of Thrive Washington and nationally as the Senior Director of Programs and Partnerships with Save the Children in its United States division overseeing educational (prenatal through elementary school) and psychosocial programming.



Naila Bolus
President and CEO
Jumpstart
Naila.Bolus@jstart.org

Naila Bolus is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Jumpstart, a national early education organization that provides language, literacy and social-emotional programming for preschool children from underserved communities and promotes quality early learning for all children.

Naila joined Jumpstart in October 2011 with more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector. During her tenure, Jumpstart has significantly expanded its scale and impact: increasing the number of children served annually by 68%, revising its curriculum to improve academic and social-emotional outcomes for children, and developing new programming to increase the number of high-quality early educators and influence the adoption of policies that promote equitable early education opportunities. Naila has focused on diversifying Jumpstart's funding base and increasing brand visibility and has worked in partnership with an expanded board of directors to strengthen Jumpstart's national reputation as a thought leader in the early childhood field.

Before Jumpstart, Naila served as Executive Director of Ploughshares Fund, the largest grant-making foundation in the United States dedicated exclusively to security and peace funding. At Ploughshares Fund, she transformed the organization from a small funder to a national, influential policy player. During her tenure, Naila led a successful \$25 million endowment campaign and tripled the foundation's budget and staff.

Prior to Ploughshares Fund, she served as co-director of 20/20 Vision, a grassroots organization that sought to promote democracy through helping members communicate with national decision makers. She also helped found the Women Legislators' Lobby and served as the organization's political director, successfully recruiting one third of female state legislators to lobby for environmental protection, human services, and peace.

Naila graduated from Tufts University in 1987 with a degree in International Relations and is delighted to be living in her home state of Massachusetts with her husband and three daughters after stints in Washington, DC; San Francisco; and Charlottesville, Virginia.



Barbara Chow
Education Program Director
Heising-Simons Foundation
bchow@hsfoundation.org

Barbara Chow is the director of the Education program at the Heising-Simons Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, she completed an eight-year term as the director of the Education program for the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Before that, Barbara was the policy director of the House Budget Committee and the executive director of the National Geographic Education Foundation. During the Clinton administration, she served as

deputy director of the Domestic Policy Council, associate director for Education, Income Maintenance, and Labor programs at the Office of Management and Budget, and special assistant to the president for White House Legislative Affairs. Previously, she also worked for the Senate Democratic Policy Committee and the Senate Budget Committee. Barbara earned a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in government from Pomona College.



Philip A. Fisher, Ph.D.

Philip H. Knight Chair & Professor of Psychology;
Director, Center for Translational Neuroscience, University of Oregon
philf@uoregon.edu

Dr. Fisher is Philip H. Knight Chair and Professor of Psychology at the University of Oregon, where he serves as Founding Director of the Center for Translational Neuroscience. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Center on the Developing Child and a member of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, both based at Harvard University. His research, which has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1999, focuses on developing and evaluating early childhood interventions in socially and economically marginalized communities, and on translating scientific knowledge regarding healthy development under conditions of adversity for use in social policy and programs. He is particularly interested in the effects of early stressful experiences on children's neurobiological and psychological development, and in prevention and treatment programs for improving maltreated children's functioning in areas such as attachment to caregivers, relationships with peers, and functioning in school. He is also interested in the brain's plasticity in the context of therapeutic interventions. Dr. Fisher is the developer of a number of widely implemented evidence-based interventions for supporting healthy child development in the context of social and economic adversity, including Treatment Foster Care Oregon for Preschoolers (TFCO-P), Kids in Transition to School (KITS), and Filming Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND). He has published over 200 scientific papers in peer reviewed journals. He is the recipient of the 2012 Society for Prevention Research Translational Science Award, and a 2019 Fellow of the American Psychological Society.



Yolie Flores, Moderator

National Campaign Director
Parent Parent Nation at the TMW Center, The University of Chicago
yolie@bsd.uchicago.edu

Together with Dr. Dana Suskind, Yolie is laying the groundwork to mobilize parents to demand a society that supports them in doing the most important job there is: raising children. Previously, Yolie served as Chief Learning Officer with the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading where she led the Successful Parents initiatives and supported more than 350 communities across the nation in their efforts to ensure early school success for more children from economically-challenged families.



John Gomperts, Moderator

Former President & CEO, America's Promise Alliance
Senior Fellow, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
johncomperts@gmail.com

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



Stephen M. Hannon, Ph.D.

President and CEO
LENA
@LENAEarlyTalk
stevehannon@lena.org

Dr. Stephen M. Hannon is the President and CEO of LENA, a national nonprofit focused on increasing adult-child talk in order to improve child outcomes. Steve is privileged to lead a talented team in the shaping and scaling of the organization's caregiver-directed initiatives that integrate LENA's "talk pedometer" technology. Hannon leverages a wealth of technical and leadership skills honed over a 25-year career spanning multiple industries. He has been instrumental in transitioning LENA from an organization known solely for its research on early language to one known for putting research into action and positively impacting children and families around the world.

An expert in optical remote sensing and statistical signal processing, he played various strategic roles with laser radar touchstone Coherent Technologies, Inc., prior to his unusual pivot from aerospace to early childhood six years ago. Hannon earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois and a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Anu Malipatil

Vice President, Education

Overdeck Foundation

amalipatil@overdeck.org

Anu Malipatil is vice president, education at the Overdeck Family Foundation. Prior to joining the foundation, Anu was a Regents Research Fund Fellow at the New York State Education Department, where she architected the RFP for the \$70 million Race to the Top statewide effort to build P-12 math and ELA curriculum, training, and aligned professional development resources. She also managed the development of EngageNY.org and the first open source P-5 math curriculum in K-12 education, which has been adopted by over 30 percent of classrooms in the country.



Dr. Nicole Patton Terry

Professor and Director of Florida Center for Reading Research

Florida State University

npattonterry@fsu.edu

Nicole Patton Terry, PhD., is the Olive & Manuel Bordas Professor of Education in the School of Teacher Education, Director of the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR), and Deputy Director of the Regional Education Lab — Southeast at Florida State University (FSU). Prior to joining FSU in 2018, she was an Associate Professor of Special Education and the founding Director of the Urban Child Study Center at Georgia State University. She founded The Village at FCRR, a division that takes a collective impact approach to creating and maintaining research partnerships with diverse community stakeholders to promote reading achievement, school readiness, and school success among vulnerable children and youth. She currently serves as vice president for the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Associate Editor for the Journal of Learning Disabilities, and a member of the National Academies' Committee on the Future of Education Research at the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Terry earned a Ph.D. from Northwestern University's School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, with a specialization in learning disabilities, in 2004. She was as a special education teacher in Evanston Public Schools in Evanston, IL. Dr. Terry's research, innovation, and engagement activities concern young learners who are vulnerable to experiencing poor language and literacy achievement in school, in particular, African American children, children growing up in poverty, and children with disabilities. Her research and scholarly activities have been supported by various organizations, including the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Institute of Education Sciences, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Spencer Foundation.



Nikki Shearman, Ph.D.

Chief of Strategic Initiatives

Reach Out and Read

nikki.shearman@reachoutandread.org

Nikki Shearman, Ph.D., Moderator Chief of Strategic Initiatives Reach Out and Read Nikki Shearman is responsible for guiding the planning process to build out Reach Out and Read's strategic road map, Next Chapter, and for taking the lead in implementing the plan around Reach Out and Read's leadership role in shaping pediatric primary care to promote nurturing family-child relationships. As Chief of Strategic Initiatives, she leads the organizational strategy to continue development of the program through strategic initiatives, and works closely with medical leadership to offer training and skill-building opportunities for clinicians implementing the Reach Out and Read program. She also coordinates the strategy for research and evaluation that demonstrates Reach Out and Read's impact. Nikki brings a combined experience of research, operational strategy, and communications to this position, starting with 10 years' experience in medical research in laboratories in the UK, Japan and Germany, and publication of her work in international journals. Subsequently, Shearman has worked within the management of a variety of non-profit organizations in the UK and the US. Shearman earned her Ph.D. in cancer research from the University of Southampton, UK.



Ralph Smith

Managing Director

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

rsmith@qlrcenter.org

Ralph Smith is the managing director of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, an effort to increase rates of third-grade reading proficiency for children from low-income families that includes a network of more than 350+ communities, representing 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada — with 5,200 local organizations and more than 500 state and local funders (including over 200 United Ways).

Previously, as Senior Vice President for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Smith led the Making Connections initiative, a comprehensive effort to help communities improve outcomes for children by strengthening families and neighborhoods. Smith served on the Foundation's Senior Leadership Team from 1994 through 2016.

Smith taught Corporations and Securities Law and Education Law and Policy as a member of the Law Faculty at the University of Pennsylvania for two decades, during which time he also served as Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer for the School District of Philadelphia. and as a senior advisor to Philadelphia's mayor on children and family policy. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Council on Foundations from 2000 to 2010 serving as board chair from 2008 to 2010. In addition, Smith has served on the boards of the Foundation Center, Wells Fargo Regional

Foundation, Venture Philanthropy Partners, the Clinton Center on Community Philanthropy and the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. His private-sector board service includes Leapfrog Enterprises, Nobel Learning Communities and BookNook.

Among Smith's recent honors are the Fred Rogers Leadership in Philanthropy Award from Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Family and the Jane Addams Distinguished Leadership Award from the United Neighborhood Centers of America.



Michelle Torgerson

President & CEO

Raising a Reader

mtorgerson@raisingareader.org

Michelle Torgerson joined the Raising A Reader family in 2018 as President and CEO. Both personally and professionally, Michelle has made a longstanding commitment to children's literacy. Her career in the nonprofit sector spans more than 20 years. Michelle experience includes leadership roles with nonprofits focused on education equity, and her expertise is in scale and replication through community partnership. Previously Michelle was senior executive director of Reading Partners, a San Francisco-based literacy intervention organization. She also held executive positions at College Possible, a national nonprofit that makes college admission and success possible for low-income students. She is proudly the co-chair of the National Urban Fellows Alumni Advisory Board, focused on increasing racial equity in public sector leadership. Michelle earned an MPA from Baruch College in New York City and a BS from Arizona State University.