

Virtual Workshop on Alliance Formation

Call to Action for Science Education

July 14, 2022

Moderator:

Nancy Hopkins-Evans is the associate director for program impact at BSCS Science Learning. Previously she was the senior director of state partnerships at Instruction Partners where she used her expertise and experience in science and education from kindergarten through graduate school to partner and support state education departments and regional service providers as they work to lead and guide their staff and district colleagues through operational, instructional and policy changes in the midst of a pandemic. As director of science and a former college chemistry professor, she understands and cares deeply about students having exceptional learning experiences in science that leverage their communities and cultures while building conceptual understanding as they figure out science ideas instead of learning about science through memorization of facts and theories. She has worked in large and small school systems developing and implementing curriculum, professional learning and assessment aligned to state standards, the common core state standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. She presents at conferences and leads professional learning experiences for teachers, principals, directors and superintendents focused on ensuring all students have access to high quality standards and curriculum that supports effective teaching and learning. Her work in science education has been supported by grants from the Carnegie and Gates foundations to develop, test and refine a tool for observing and improving science instructional practice. Hopkins-Evans holds degrees in chemistry from Chestnut Hill College and Villanova University and earned a Ph.D. in biological chemistry from the University of Michigan.

Alliances, Ecosystems, and Partnerships for STEM Education

Levi Patrick is the executive director at Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance. He is a 7th generation Oklahoman with experience as a teacher, instructional coach, and curriculum writer. After teaching in Putnam City and Oklahoma City schools, Levi worked at the K20 Center for Education and Community Renewal as a Mathematics Specialist. Most recently, he worked at the Oklahoma State Department of Education for more than eight years as the Director of Computer Science and Secondary Mathematics and Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. Levi holds his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics Education from Oklahoma State University and his Master's Degree in Instructional and Academic Leadership from the University of Oklahoma.

Patsy Richards is the director of Long-Term CareWorks at RISE Partnership. She has 20-plus years of workforce development experience. Before taking on her role at RISE Partnership, Patsy played an intricate role in developing and implementing the state of Alabama's apprenticeship program. Her multicultural background and love for a thriving community has led to numerous

opportunities to successfully ready the workforce. Patsy is native of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. She has a Bachelor's in Marketing, Management and Research and a Master's in Human Resource Management from Troy University.

Jessie Herbert-Meny is the director at University of Montana SpectrUM Discovery Area. Jessie serves as the liaison with spectrUM's advisory committee SciNation on the Flathead Reservation. She co-directs the Montana Girls STEM Collaborative and is passionate about increased access to hands-on science opportunities for kids and families across Montana. Herbert-Meny holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master of education degree from the University of Montana.

Nathan Inouye currently serves as the assistant director of Instructional Services for the Moorpark Unified School District. He has been an educational leader for over 20 years. He has provided science professional development and facilitated professional learning communities at the district, county, and state level as the Ventura County Office of Education science coordinator and region 8 (Kern, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties) science lead. He has contributed to toolkits for the implementation of Next Generation Science Standards, summative and formative assessments, lesson study, health instructional materials, and environmental literacy. Inouye has been an informal and formal educator in the K-college setting in his earlier years. He began teaching college algebra as an instructor's assistant at the University of Colorado before serving for two years as a US Peace Corps volunteer in Jamaica providing elementary environmental education and youth development training. He taught secondary science in Los Angeles and Ventura county areas including all levels of integrated science, chemistry, and biology. Nathan has experience supporting English Language Learners in the classroom and developing school-site programs. He is trained in developing English language development lessons using the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol and Content Area Language and Literacy. Nathan has coordinated school-site gifted and talented education and Advanced Placement programs. Inouye received his secondary teaching credential and MS at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Building Alliances and Partnerships

Felicia Cumings Smith is the President & CEO at National Center for Families Learning (NCFL). She is a lifelong educator and national thought leader for teaching and learning. Smith brings decades of valuable experience to advance NCFL's mission of working to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families. Having served in a variety of leadership roles in P-12, higher education, nonprofit, and philanthropy, her career has allowed her to experience leading systems and develop a unique vantage point of a learner's educational trajectory from preschool to adulthood. Smith holds an Ed.D. in education leadership and administration from the University of Kentucky, and an M.A. in elementary education with an emphasis on K-12 literacy development and B.S. in elementary education from the University of Louisville.

Jennifer Iriti, Research Scientist and Director of the [Evaluation for Learning Group](#) and Co-Director of the [Partners for Network Improvement](#) at the University of Pittsburgh has led strategy, research and evaluation initiatives for PK-20 education improvement efforts for 25 years. Her team infuses field knowledge with practitioner expertise to support policymakers and

practitioners in real-time decision-making. Most recently, she has focused on programs that support broadening participation in postsecondary access and success, such as her work as external evaluator for the Pittsburgh Promise and as Co-PI for a \$10 million, 5-year NSF INCLUDES Alliance grant in which she and her team are designing a networked improvement community of precollege STEM programs to increase STEM college access and success for Black and Brown students. She holds a doctoral degree in Developmental and Educational Psychology and a certificate in Interdisciplinary Policy and Evaluation from the University of Pittsburgh.

Julie Kochanek is the Vice President of Education Systems and Policy at the American Institutes for Research and Director of the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest. Kochanek has over 20 years of experience in research and evaluation of school reform efforts, with a special focus on the social and organizational conditions surrounding schools and districts. Her current work explores methods to bridge research and practice in education. In her current role on REL Midwest, Kochanek has designed and implemented structures and procedures that engage stakeholders in the research process, facilitate conversations between researchers and practitioners throughout a project life cycle, and entail the inclusion of activities that support stakeholders in the use of findings. Earlier in her career, Kochanek worked at the Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago. She received a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame, an M.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago.

Cecily Mitchell-Harper is the senior advisor at Student Success Network. Her areas of expertise include creating healing centered organizational practices and cultures that support holistic wellbeing, providing strategic consultation to support transformative approaches to research, and utilizing a continuous improvement framework to support institutional change. Additionally, she serves as co-lead for Transformative SEL in Action: A Youth Participatory Action Research Project at Student Success Network. Mitchell-Harper is a NYS Licensed Social Worker with a passion and specialty for integrating research into practice, with a particular focus on developing transformative practices and processes to support programs that serve racially marginalized youth and families. In addition to clinical experience with children and youth, she has several years of experience providing technical assistance and evaluation expertise to strengthen program capacity and inform programmatic decision making in non-profit organizations. Mitchell-Harper also serves as an Adjunct Lecturer at NYU Silver School of Social Work. She received her BA in Psychology from Wesleyan University, and her MSW from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice.