



SAFER SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES **BEST PRACTICES CLEARINGHOUSE**

Lessons from the Field - Returning to School: Strategies for Reengaging PreK-12 Students

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:15 PM ET

SPEAKER BIOS

Christian Rhodes

Chief of Staff, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Mr. Christian Rhodes served as Chief of Staff for Prince George's County Public Schools. In this role, Mr. Rhodes supported the chief executive officer through management of specific business functions of the school system. He began his career as a political organizer for the Maryland State Teachers Association, a state affiliate of the National Education Association, and education advisor Office of the Prince George's County Executive. Mr. Rhodes has a Master of Public Administration degree from the American University in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Elizabeth Coke Haller

Deputy, School Support Section, State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support Task Force, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ms. Elizabeth Coke Haller has been serving on the COVID-19 Emergency Response, in the State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial (STLT) Support Task Force as the Deputy in the School Support Section since October 2020. At her home office in the Division of Adolescent and School Health, Ms. Haller serves as the Implementation Team Lead in the Program Development and Services Branch, located in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At CDC-DASH Ms. Haller is responsible for overseeing funding for national non-governmental organizations aimed at building and strengthening their capacity to improve adolescent sexual health education and services and professional development. DASH places a strong emphasis on coordinating activities between education and health agencies to address HIV/STD infections and teen pregnancy prevention through a coordinated approach. Ms. Haller came to CDC-DASH in 2005 from Michigan where she taught health and physical education and worked at the Michigan Department of Education

implementing DASH-funded programs. Ms. Haller brings a great deal of passion and enthusiasm to her work, with the ultimate goal of improving academic success, and building strong community/school partnerships to better address health issues impacting our students.

Jenny Scala

Co-Director, Student Engagement and Attendance Center

Ms. Jenny Scala is a Principal Researcher for the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the Co-Director of the Student Engagement and Attendance Center, a federally funded technical assistance center supporting student engagement and attendance aimed at building the capacity of state education agencies to better support student engagement and attendance. In addition, she is currently the implementation director of AIR's early warning intervention and monitoring systems (EWIMS) mid-phase education innovation and research (EIR) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This study, Graduation Ready, is an impact study for up to 120 high schools throughout the United States implementing AIR's EWIMS process. In addition, Ms. Scala has managed AIR's early warning system efforts since 2013 and participates in multiple projects using her expertise in using data to inform instructional decision-making across the nation. Ms. Scala has been providing technical assistance to educators for over almost 20 years. Ms. Scala holds a B.S. in Learning and Organizational Change from Northwestern University and an M.A. in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Supreet Anand

Deputy Director, Office of English Language Acquisition, U.S. Department of Education

Dr. Supreet Anand currently serves as the deputy director for the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) at the U.S. Department of Education. She has been working in the field of education for more than 25 years. As the deputy director for OELA, she supervises the National Professional Development grants, Native American and Alaska Native Children in School program, and the Asian American Pacific Islander Data Disaggregation Initiative program. Her work also focuses on informing policy decisions on English Learners (ELs) and supervising OELA's role in disseminating information about educational research, practices, and policies for English Learners through the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition. Before joining the U.S. Department of Education, Ms. Anand served as the Title III specialist for the Maryland State Department of Education. She was also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland and taught English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) methodology courses to graduate students. Dr. Anand holds a Ph.D in Education from the University of Maryland, and M.S.in Applied Linguistics from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and an M.A.in English Literature from Punjab University, India.

Leah Keuscher

Principal, East Wooster High School, Washoe County Public Schools, NV

Ms. Leah Keuscher holds a Master of Art in Administration and Supervision and has been an administrator for approximately 16 years, with 11 of these years in the capacity of principal. Prior to becoming an administrator, Ms. Keuscher was an English and Spanish classroom teacher for over 10 years. She believes that students are the most important members of our

school community. Along with her staff, parents, and community, she is dedicated to creating a culture where students feel valued and believe that they can and will learn.

Sarah Frazelle

Director, Early Warning Indicator Systems & Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Puget Sound Education Service District, WA

Ms. Sarah Frazelle is the Director of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and Early Warning Indicator Systems at Puget Sound Education Service District in Washington State. She brings 14 years of experience working with data and educational systems at the national, state, and local level. In her current role, Ms. Frazelle partners with school teams to support increased student engagement through the use of proactive data processes and MTSS coupled with student voice to create equity driven systems change.