



**SAFER SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES
BEST PRACTICES
CLEARINGHOUSE**

- Lessons from the Field -

AmeriCorps + High Impact Tutoring = Student Success

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

SPEAKER BIOS

Ruth Ryder

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy and Programs, U.S. Department of Education



Ms. Ruth Ryder is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy and Programs – Formula Grants in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) at the U.S. Department of Education. In this role, Ms. Ryder oversees a broad range of management, policy, and program functions related to formula and discretionary grant programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA). Ms. Ryder was previously the deputy director of the Office of Special Education Programs in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, which she joined in 1988. Prior to joining the Department, Ms. Ryder was a program administrator in a Washington state school district. There she had responsibility for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I and Title II programs, state-remediation, gifted education, outcome-based education, and state- and district-wide testing programs. Ms. Ryder has a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Elementary Education and a master’s degree in Special Education.

Mary Hyde, Ph.D.

Director, Office of Research and Evaluation, AmeriCorps



Dr. Hyde is a community psychologist with more than 20 years of research, evaluation, technical assistance, and training experience in social and human services. At AmeriCorps she is responsible for advancing the evidence base for national service programs, sponsoring scholarship on volunteering and other forms of civic engagement, as well as fostering a culture of evaluative thinking within the agency and the field. Prior to joining AmeriCorps, Dr. Hyde worked in the private sector and was responsible for a portfolio of projects related to strengthening families and communities. Dr. Hyde developed her unique skill set by directing and managing both national and local program evaluations. The primary focus of Dr. Hyde's evaluation practice has been community- and school-based programs designed to prevent delinquency and school drop-out and promote social and academic success among urban youth. Dr. Hyde has also conducted research in the areas of welfare-reform policy. Finally, Dr. Hyde has facilitated community-driven research processes, one of which resulted in the identification of Neighborhood Action and Sense of Community indicators that are now part of a permanent community indicators project in Baltimore known as Vital Signs.

Atalaya Sergi

Director, AmeriCorps Seniors



Ms. Atalaya Sergi leads AmeriCorps Seniors, the federal grant making office focused on engaging people ages 55 and over in outcomes-oriented service. She has 20 years of experience in service, community engagement, and education. She has worked in the public and nonprofit sectors ensuring people of all ages, and those in underserved communities, thrive. Prior to joining AmeriCorps Seniors, she launched her former organization's only AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent program. Atalaya co-founded Los Angeles Generation to Generation, which focused on engaging older adults to support young children across Los Angeles County; she was selected as an Encore Public Voices Fellow, using her time to write about the positive impact seniors can have in educational settings; and she has been recognized as a PBS Next Avenue Influencer in Aging. Atalaya started her career in a public school district and then filled leadership roles in an education focused nonprofit working with school districts, Head Start, and colleges and universities. Atalaya earned a master's degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University, with a certification in School Social Work, and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Virginia.

Elizabeth Pawloski

CVA, National Director, Tutoring Partnerships and Expansion, OASIS



In her current role with Oasis, Ms. Pawloski is responsible for the administration of seven AmeriCorps Seniors-RSVP federal grants and the expansion of the Intergenerational Tutoring Program into new markets. Ms. Pawloski joined Oasis in 2014 with over 25 years of Volunteer Management experience. Elizabeth previously served as the Director of Volunteer Services at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Assistant Director of Membership Services for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri. She is a certified Volunteer Administrator and a prior recipient of the St. Louis Volunteer Director of the Year Award. Ms. Pawloski is passionate about volunteerism, intergenerational relationships and being kind to others.

Jason Sefrit, Ed.D.

Superintendent, City of St. Charles School District, Missouri



Dr. Sefrit has spent the past twenty-six years in the field of education, including fifteen years as an elementary school principal and was named Superintendent of the City of St. Charles School District in 2018. Dr. Sefrit holds a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from Missouri Baptist University and master's and doctorate degrees in educational administration from Lindenwood University. The district is a satellite community of the St. Louis metropolitan area with a mission to REACH, TEACH, and EMPOWER all students by providing a challenging, diverse, and innovative education.

Sonali Nijhawan

Director, AmeriCorps State and National



Ms. Sonali Nijhawan has committed her career to developing leaders and growing national service. Most recently, she developed and served as the executive director of Stockton Service Corps, a six-year, \$12 million initiative to address local needs through AmeriCorps. Her professional background also includes extensive experience in education, beginning as an AmeriCorps member with City Year Chicago. Inspired by the students, families, and AmeriCorps community she met, she then went on to help found City Year Sacramento and launch the organization's 22nd site with 50 new AmeriCorps members.

Nijhawan also served as the California director of Education Pioneers where she recruited, placed, and supported managers in urban school systems and education nonprofits, empowering people to challenge the status quo of our public education system. She holds a bachelor's in education and psychology from Marquette University and a master's in social work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Lindsay Dolce, J.D.

Chief Advancement Officer, Ampact



Ms. Lindsay Dolce (she/her/hers) serves as the Chief Advancement Officer for Ampact. She is responsible for leading the Development Team to secure the resources necessary to support continuous improvement and scaling of all strategic initiatives. Additionally, she is responsible for sourcing growth capital and working with emerging states to successfully start up and implement the Reading Corps, Math Corps, and Recovery Corps models. Ms. Dolce brings extensive national and state-level advocacy and outreach experience to the position, having served as Executive Director of Serve Colorado--the state's service commission, and Colorado Reads--Colorado's Early Literacy Initiative. She provided statewide leadership in Colorado's AmeriCorps programs including strategic planning for national and community initiatives, program development, community outreach, organizational and financial operations, and administration. Prior to this, she worked as the Senior Program Manager for the David and Laura Merage Foundation supporting implementation of the shared services approach for early care and education providers. She also worked as a domestic relations attorney, a domestic violence prosecutor and was a staff member for United States Senator J. Robert Kerrey and President Bill Clinton. Ms. Dolce received her bachelor's in English, Political Science, and International Relations from William Jewell College, studied at St. Peter's College at Oxford University, and received her juris doctorate from the University of Missouri.

Shawonna Coleman, Ed.D.

Executive Director of Georgia Programs



Dr. Shawonna Coleman (she, her, hers) serves as the Executive Director of Georgia Programs for Ampact. She is responsible for the leadership, management, strategic initiatives, and scaling of Georgia Math Corps and Reading Corps. Dr. Coleman brings a plethora of experience in education from both nonprofits on the state and national level and school districts. Having served as Director of Evaluation, Director of Education Innovation & Expansion, and Director of Statewide Program Management at Junior Achievement of Georgia, she managed the expansion of JA's elementary and high school statewide portfolio of Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship, and Career Readiness programs, lead and oversaw the organizations internal program evaluations and piloted new programs in emerging markets. Prior to this she worked as Director of Education Foundations & Academic Success at Boys & Girls Clubs of America leading the development and implementation of a strategic framework combating Summer Learning Loss. She also worked as an elementary and high school educator in Canton Public Schools (Canton, MS) and Atlanta Public Schools (Atlanta, GA) where she served as a Language Arts Department Chair, Social Sciences Department Chair, Demonstration Classroom Teacher, a member of the Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Board, and as an Atlanta Public Schools and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Professional Learning Workshop Facilitator. She was also featured in the Los Angeles Times and on CBS News Atlanta for her innovative teaching practices. Dr. Coleman received her bachelor's degree in Mass Communications, Public Relations and Marketing from Jackson State University, master's degree in Elementary Education from Belhaven University and her doctorate in education from Clark Atlanta University.

Brooke Humphrey

Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction, Fulton County Schools, Georgia



Ms. Brooke Humphrey (she/her/hers) is the Executive Director of Curriculum for Fulton County Schools in Atlanta, GA. She has been with the district for 21 years. While with the district, she has served as a general education teacher, special education teacher, Curriculum Support Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Director of Learning & Teaching. Currently the scope of her work includes high dosage small group tutoring which has led to a new partnership with The Reading Corps.

Itzel Galindo

Executive Director, Wisconsin Programs



Ms. Itzel Galindo (she/her/hers) serves as the Executive Director of Wisconsin Programs at Ampact. She is responsible for leading the Wisconsin Reading Corps team to sustainable implementation of the program, leads strategic planning and execution, secures funding, advocates for support from elected officials, builds fruitful relationships in the community, and is currently leading the charge in a sizeable expansion which will more than double the outreach of the program in the state of Wisconsin. Ms. Galindo brings over fifteen years of experience as a bilingual educator, literacy coach, and school administrator. As a school administrator, Ms. Galindo expanded the school's Dual Language program to all elementary and middle school grades, achieved a three-year consecutive 5-star school ranking in the city of Milwaukee, and supported the implementation of Reading Corps in the school building. Ms. Galindo's first-hand experience with Wisconsin Reading Corps allowed for a deeper understanding of the program, and she observed the program's profound impact on the reading development of her students. Ms. Galindo received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Marquette University, master's degree in Literacy, and master's degree in Educational Leadership from Cardinal Stritch University. Ms. Galindo migrated to the United States at the tender age of four and has lived in the city of Milwaukee for over 35 years. Her experience as an immigrant and language learner attracted her to the field of education and literacy. She believes that every child has the right to an exceptional education.

Mallory Umar

Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Racine Unified Public Schools, Wisconsin



Dr. Mallory Umar (she/her/hers) serves as the Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Racine Unified Public Schools. Prior to serving in this role with Racine Unified, she served as the Associate Principal in Glendale-River Hills, Wisconsin. Dr. Umar brings extensive experience as an educator, instructional leader, and school administrator. As a school administrator and leader, equity is at the center of who she is and what she does. Through her work, she is committed to breaking down systemic barriers for students of color, students who identify as LGBTQ+, students labeled with a disability, students who are experiencing poverty, students who are linguistically diverse, and other students who have been historically marginalized in schools. Every single child, regardless of their zip code or background, deserves a high-quality educational experience. Dr. Umar received her bachelor's in Psychology and Sociology from Roosevelt University, master's in Educational Policy and Leadership from Marquette University and is pursuing a doctorate in Education Policy Analysis from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.