



## Human Trafficking in **AMERICA'S SCHOOLS**



### - Human Trafficking Webinar Series -

## Understanding Child Labor Exploitation in the U.S. and How Schools Can Help Address It

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*Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET*  
*SPEAKER BIOS*

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### **Bryan Williams**

Director, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education



Mr. Bryan Williams is the Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools (OSSS). In this role, Mr. Williams oversees a broad portfolio of programs designed to support school and community efforts to foster safety and promote positive learning environments, including activities related to school climate and safety, the mental health and well-being of students and staff, and readiness and emergency management.

Mr. Williams has been with the Department since 1995. Prior to being named as Director in 2021, Mr. Williams served as the Group Leader for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (Title IV, Part A) team and as a Program Analyst within OSSS.

## Jessica Looman

Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor



Ms. Jessica Looman is the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor. She had previously served as the Principal Deputy Administrator of WHD since Wednesday, January 20, 2021. WHD enforces worker protections and provides outreach and education about federal labor laws including minimum wage, overtime, child labor, and family and medical leave.

Before joining WHD, Ms. Looman served as the Executive Director of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council, where she advocated to expand construction career pathways, protected the physical and financial health of union construction workers, and increased private and public investment in construction infrastructure.

Before joining the Building Trades, Governor Mark Dayton appointed Ms. Looman to serve as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce. She also served as the Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry where she oversaw the strategic coordination of DLI's five divisions. She has previously served as the General Counsel of the Laborers District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota.

Ms. Looman is a graduate of George Washington University and the University of Minnesota Law School. She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota with her husband and two sons.

## Norma Flores López

Chair, Child Labor Coalition's Domestic Issues Committee, Lived Experience Expert



Ms. Norma Flores López is the Governance and Development/Collaboration Manager at East Coast Migrant Head Start Project and serves as the chair of the Child Labor Coalition's Domestic Issues Committee. She has long been an active advocate for migrant farmworker children's rights and continues to raise awareness on issues affecting farmworkers and creating meaningful engagement with the farmworker community in her current role.

Ms. López has had the opportunity to testify before Congress and has appeared on national news outlets including 60 Minutes, on issues related to child labor in agriculture. She has also been invited by international governments to consult on strategies to reduce child labor abroad.

In addition to her years of experience as an advocate, Ms. López has invaluable firsthand experience with farmworker issues. Growing up as a child of a migrant farmworker family from South Texas, she began

working in the fields at the age of 12, where she continued working until she graduated from high school.

## Bridget Dutton

Program Specialist, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor



Ms. Bridget Dutton began her career with the Department of Labor in 2001 in Washington, DC as a Legislative Analyst for the Employment Standards Administration (ESA). In 2008, she joined the Wage and Hour Division as a Compliance Specialist and in 2010 headed to North Carolina to become one of the first Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialists (CORPS) for the Division. Ms. Dutton's accomplishments in that role include being a founding member of the Farm Labor Practices Group (FLPG), helping to coordinate nearly 600 trainings across 11 states with between 7,000-8,000 agricultural employers attending each year. Since August 2020, Ms. Dutton has served as a Program Analyst and the National CORPS liaison in the Office of Performance and Communications. In that time, she has actively worked to enhance the visibility of the role of the CORPS while providing critical training and communication necessary for the CORPS to perform their work efficiently and effectively.

## Ashley Allen Feliciano

Assistant Director, Southeast Regional Initiative Team Lead for Child Labor, U.S. Department of Labor



Ms. Ashley Allen-Feliciano has been with the Wage and Hour Division since 2009. She has served as a Wage and Hour investigator, Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist, and now Assistant District Director for the Atlanta District office, which covers the entire state of Georgia. Ms. Allen-Feliciano has conducted and supervised compliance enforcement in Wage and Hour laws governing issues including proper payment of wages, child labor, government contract compliance, Family and Medical Leave Act provisions, protections for nursing mothers, and laws protecting migrant, seasonal, and foreign workers employed under visa programs. In the role of Outreach Coordinator she also worked with employers, employees, and other stakeholders to grow and deepen awareness of Wage and Hour's work, and to help increase the agency's impact on labor compliance across all industries.

## Mark Whitlock

Chief Executive Officer, Central Education Center (CEC), GA



Mr. Mark Whitlock is the CEO of Central Educational Center (CEC). CEC, Georgia's "model charter college and career academy," was developed by local Chamber leaders, the Coweta County School System and West Georgia Technical College. CEC opened August 10, 2000.

CEC has been designated one of 30 "replicable model high school reform" programs in the United States by the International Center for Leadership in Education. CEC has been replicated 56 times across Georgia in the Georgia College and Career Academy initiative, and has now been replicated in other states.

Mr. Whitlock is also the Director of Public Policy for the Coweta County School System. He chairs the State's Charter Advisory Committee.

For eighteen years prior to CEC, Mr. Whitlock worked with Bank of America building corporate client relationships worldwide.

Mark received Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the University of Georgia, and the MBA from Georgia State University.

## Sirena Bazile-Cox

Senior Advisor, Office of Policy, U.S. Department of Labor



Ms. Sirena Bazile-Cox has been a federal employee for over 30 years. She started her career with the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division as an investigator in 2001. She then served as the Western Region's Regional Enforcement Coordinator for FMLA, Section 14(c) and Child Labor, and is currently a Senior Advisor in the Department's Division of Fair Labor Standards Act and Child Labor in the National Office.