



**BEST PRACTICES
CLEARINGHOUSE**

- Lessons from the Field -

Free to Learn Miniseries: Strategies for Supporting Full Student Participation

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET
SPEAKER BIOS

Hamed Negron-Perez

Group Leader, Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Group (SSAE), Office of Safe and Supportive Schools



Mr. Hamed Negron-Perez is the Group Leader for the Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Group (SSAE) in the Office of Safe and Supportive Schools. He is the Program Manager for ED's School Emergency Response to Violence (SERV) grant program and serves as the Contract's Office Representative for the Title IV-A TA Center. Mr. Negron-Perez is a former Secondary School Principal and Science Teacher with over 14 years of teaching experience. He retired from the US Navy Reserves after 25 years of service.

Sarah Frazelle

Project Director, Student Engagement and Attendance Center; Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research (AIR)



Ms. Sarah Frazelle is a senior researcher at AIR, focusing on projects related to postsecondary and college and career readiness and success. She brings 15 years of experience working in the nexus between education research and practitioner partnerships. Her career began in economics with a focus on using econometric modeling to evaluate student supports, but has transitioned to providing implementation technical assistance and professional development, motivated by the fact that "data is only as good as what you do with it." Her most recent area of focus has been integrating student and family voice into the development of student support systems and creating intentional space for co-creation and powersharing between the education system and those it serves.

Before joining AIR in 2023, she was the director of multi-tiered system of supports and early warning indicators at the Puget Sound Educational Service District, a regional education agency. In this role, she focused on improving student attendance and engagement, developing and providing technical assistance to schools and districts on braiding quantitative and qualitative data to create action plans for equitable student outcomes. Earlier in her career, Ms. Frazelle was a senior researcher at Education Northwest, where she worked nationally with schools, districts, and state education agencies on implementing early warning systems. She has several publications around implementing early warning systems and has been featured in news articles and podcasts. She also has built partnerships to collaborate with native communities to develop culturally responsive student support systems; led collaborations with state and local education agencies to identify data for program evaluation and evaluate data quality; and provided problem solving, analytic technical assistance, and research and evaluation support through the lens of equity. Ms. Frazelle holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Kansas.

Cathi Davis

Principal, Ruby Bridges Elementary School, WA



Mrs. Cathi Davis is the founding principal of Ruby Bridges Elementary, a fully inclusive K-5 elementary school and demonstration site for the Washington State Inclusionary Practices Project in a large suburban school district just north of Seattle, WA. As a principal leader in the project, she facilitates professional learning and demonstration site visits at Ruby Bridges for educators and leaders with a focus on how universal design, inclusive vision and systems of support can be implemented to dismantle barriers and create a culture of belonging in schools. Mrs. Davis has been teaching and leading in public schools for twenty-four years, including the design and creation of Ruby Bridges Elementary School. She is currently completing her doctoral studies focused on inclusive education and school/systems leadership and is certificated as a K-8 teacher, P-12 principal and P-12 superintendent.

Mrs. Davis has expertise in school systems design, inclusive school culture, collaborative planning and master schedule design to support inclusive community as well as the implementation of universal design principles in learning for students and staff. She is an advocate for inclusive education, fostering learning cultures of belonging and relentlessly dismantling barriers to belonging, opportunity and outcomes for each student.

Dr. Cassie Martin

Executive Director of Special Education, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, WA



Dr. Cassie Martin is the Executive Director of Special Education at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in Washington State. Prior to this role, Dr. Martin was the architect of the Statewide Inclusionary Practices Demonstration Sites Project. Dr. Martin has dedicated her career to inclusive education, engaging students, families, educators, administrators, and community members to improve outcomes for students with disabilities across the educational system.

CJ Morgan

Co-founder, TheGifted Arts, NC



Mr. Clarence "CJ" Morgan's passion for the arts and youth development was born in his hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina, where he worked as a youth counselor, inspiring and motivating young people. He furthered his education by earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a master's degree in School Counseling.

During his 14-year tenure as a tenured school counselor with Wake County Public Schools, Mr. Morgan employed group counseling and classroom guidance to instill personal confidence, leadership skills, and successful habits in middle schoolers. Additionally, he dedicated 12 years to coaching basketball and track.

Beyond his educational and coaching roles, Mr. Morgan is a multifaceted individual with interests in sports, DJing, music, writing, and visual arts. Today, he leads TheGifted Arts, an organization that utilizes artistic experiences to empower youth by enhancing their self-worth, confidence, and drive.

TheGifted Arts has blossomed into a vibrant hub of artistic excellence and youth development.

With a decade of dedication, they have grown to serve over 400 students annually through an array of enriching programs, including summer camps, after-school initiatives, and specialized artistic training. Their journey has been defined by our unwavering commitment to nurturing the talents of young minds and harnessing the transformative power of the arts.

Dr. Robert Dodd

Principal, Walt Whitman High School



Dr. Robert W. Dodd has served in public education for 30 years. Raised by two public school educators, he started his career as a paraprofessional in a self-contained special education program. Dr. Dodd earned his teaching certification and became an elementary school teacher where instructional innovation and a commitment to educational equity became the hallmarks of his pedagogy.

Eventually Dr. Dodd transitioned into school leadership and is the only active Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) leader to serve as a principal at all three school levels, most recently at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Maryland. In 2014, Dr. Dodd received the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award for reimagining the magnet program at Argyle Magnet Middle School and for designing Project SUCCESS (Student Unified Curriculum Combining English, Science, and Social Studies).

From 2015 to 2018, Dr. Dodd served as a consulting principal in MCPS, charged with guiding the development of novice principals. In 2018, Dr. Dodd received his doctorate in entrepreneurial educational leadership from Johns Hopkins University where he wrote his dissertation on middle school reform, specifically the redesign of school structures to increase teacher self-efficacy and improve student achievement. Recently, Dr. Dodd collaborated with Walt Whitman High School staff to develop the Leadership Academy for Social Justice (LASJ), the first regional program of its kind in MCPS. In his free time, Dr. Dodd is the co-host of the all-things education podcast, *Ed's Not Dead*.

Dani Klein

Senior, Walt Whitman High School



Ms. Dani Klein is a senior at Walt Whitman High School. She is a Print Managing Editor on the Whitman student newspaper, *The Black & White*, and is also the captain of the Whitman Speech team. Ms. Klein is very involved in organizing and engaging students in Whitman's Leadership Academy for Social Justice (LASJ) as well as the OneWhitman program.

Ian Gaul

Senior, Walt Whitman High School



Mr. Ian Gaul is a senior at Walt Whitman High School. He serves as President of the WWHS Jewish Student Union.

Kyla Ngeno

Senior, Walt Whitman High School



Ms. Kyla Ngeno is a senior at Walt Whitman High School. She is president of the Minority Scholars Program at Whitman's chapter, president of Whitman Navigator's club, and vice-president of the black student union. Her main goal of impact within these clubs is to help foster a sense of belonging within her community for students. She is passionate about social justice and is a student leader in the Leadership Academy for Social Justice and One Whitman.