



**SAFER SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES  
BEST PRACTICES  
CLEARINGHOUSE**

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## ***Lessons from the Field: Safely Reopening and Sustaining In-Person Instruction***

***Wednesday, March 31, 2021 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET***

### ***SPEAKER BIOS***

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**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, 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. 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.

**Neha Cramer, MPH, Lead, Schools Unit, Community Intervention and Critical Populations Task Force, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Ms. Neha Cramer started at the CDC in 2012 primarily to develop and update technical guidance and to create communication, education, and training resources for pandemic flu community mitigation and nonpharmaceutical interventions. She co-led the development of the *Community Mitigation Guidelines to Prevent Pandemic Influenza – United States, 2017* published as an *MMWR-RR* in April 2017, which was used as the foundation for the COVID-19 response. Cramer recently accepted the position as the Schools Unit Lead within the Community Guidance team as part of the Community Intervention and Critical Populations Task Force for CDC's COVID-19 response.

**Diana L. Greene, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Duval County Public Schools, FL**

Dr. Diana Greene became Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools (DCPS), the 20<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the nation, in July 2018. Prior to becoming Superintendent, Dr. Greene served as Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services in Manatee County. During her 33-year career as an educator, she has spent time as a teacher, assistant principal, principal as well as roles in curriculum development, staff development, and senior executive leadership. Dr. Greene's father served in the Air Force, and she grew up living in locations all over the United States and abroad. Her education leadership accomplishments led the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) to select Dr. Greene as the 2021 Florida Superintendent of the Year, making her the 33rd superintendent and the second African American woman to receive this honor.

**Victor Simon, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Gower School District 62, IL**

Dr. Victor Simon is a Chicago native and has served as the Superintendent of Gower School District 62 since 2013. Experiencing and overcoming the challenges associated with poverty, domestic violence, and homelessness as a youth, he developed a strong sense of advocacy for student equity long before his professional career began. Relocating often as a child and nearly losing his life to gun violence as a young adult, Victor grew keenly aware of the importance of a safe and supportive school environment and the critical role that school leaders play to ensure that students' interests and needs are the top priority. He is an impassioned leader and sums up the call for the urgency and relentless advocacy required from educational leaders by reminding practitioners bluntly, *"This ain't no dress rehearsal."*