



The Alliance for Excellent Education, National Center for Learning Disabilities, and National Council of La Raza Present a Briefing

Personalized Learning: Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities and English Learners

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 • 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. (ET)

Alliance for Excellent Education, Gerard and Lilo Leeds Conference and Advocacy Center
1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC

Speaker Biographies

David Chard, PhD

Dean, Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Southern Methodist University

David Chard has been a research review panelist at both state and national levels, including panels of the National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Education. His research emphasis includes reading and mathematics strategies for early grades, learning disabilities, special education, and reading instruction for students with disabilities. Dr. Chard is a member of the International Academy for Research on Learning Disabilities.

Since 1993, his research has been awarded more than \$11 million in federal, state, or private grants. A frequent presenter at national and international education conferences, Dr. Chard has taught courses on behavior management, special education reading and writing, learning disabilities, and special education law. He has served on more than thirty doctoral dissertation committees.

Dr. Chard holds a PhD degree in special education from the University of Oregon and a BS degree in mathematics and chemistry education from Central Michigan University.

Lindsay Jones

Vice President, Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer, National Center for Learning Disabilities

Lindsay Jones is vice president, chief policy and advocacy officer for the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD), where she leads a team that designs and implements legislative strategy in Washington, DC, aimed at advancing government policies that support the success of individuals with learning and attention issues in school, at work, and in life. Ms. Jones also develops advocacy campaigns and works closely with NCLD's grassroots network of committed parents.

Before joining NCLD, Ms. Jones was senior director for policy and advocacy at the Council for Exceptional Children, where she led its federal legislative advocacy and worked with dedicated

educator advocates across the country. Prior to her national policy work, she was a partner with the law firm of Gust Rosenfeld in Phoenix. As a practicing attorney, she advised schools and families on special education compliance and litigation. Her practice included Office for Civil Rights investigations, state department of education complaints, IDEA and Section 504 due process hearings, and litigation.

Ms. Jones earned her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Arizona and has a master's degree in Latin American studies from the University of New Mexico.

Maria Moser

Senior Director of Teaching and Learning, National Council of La Raza

Maria Moser began her career in education as an ESL (English as a second language) teacher in Washington, DC. She has served as a Teach for America corps member and has taught ESL and bilingual classrooms in DC and Chicago Public Schools.

Since joining the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) in 2007, Ms. Moser has led teacher and school support efforts at schools across the country. In her current role as senior director of teaching and learning, she manages NCLR's school improvement project, coordinates resources for Midwest schools, and supports other education component efforts. Ms. Moser is passionate about quality instruction and leads the development of curriculum for NCLR's education team.

Ms. Moser holds a BA degree in American studies from Georgetown University and an MA degree in teachers of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) from American University and

Elizabeth Schneider

Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Alliance for Excellent Education

Elizabeth Schneider joined the Alliance in spring 2005 as vice president of state advocacy and outreach. In that position, she has worked to help deepen the Alliance's understanding of state and local high school reform, expand relationships with state and local reform leaders, and connect local, state and federal policy conversations around secondary school improvement. From March 2009 to January 2010, she served as the Alliance's interim vice president for policy.

Prior to joining the Alliance, Ms. Schneider served as executive director of the Southern Governors' Association for ten years where she guided the development and advocacy of regional policy recommendations on federal issues, multi-state efforts to address regional challenges, and an active leadership forum for the governors of sixteen states and two U.S. territories. Previously, she worked as a senior legislative assistant to Senator Howell Heflin (AL).

Ms. Schneider graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Birmingham Southern College with a BA degree in English and has done graduate work in English at Georgetown University.

Brian Stack

Principal, Sanborn Regional High School (NH)

Brian Stack has worked for the Sanborn Regional School District in New Hampshire for nearly a decade, first as an assistant principal/director of curriculum, and since 2010, as principal of Sanborn Regional High School.

Mr. Stack was named runner-up for the New Hampshire Assistant Principal of the Year Award by the New Hampshire Association of School Principals (NHASP) in spring 2010. In spring 2012, he was named a “40 Under 40” leader in the community by the Eagle Tribune Publishing Company and the *Merrimack Valley Business* magazine in North Andover, Massachusetts. In December 2012, he was named runner up for the 2013 NHASP New Hampshire High School Principal of the Year Award. He is a strong advocate of personalized learning, competency education, and high school redesign for the twenty-first century.

Mr. Stack graduated from Boston University with a BA degree in mathematics and a BS degree in mathematics education. He received his MEd degree in educational administration from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

James Wendorf

Executive Director, National Center for Learning Disabilities

James Wendorf is executive director of the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD), which is committed to improving the lives of the one in five individuals nationwide with learning and attention issues. He leads NCLD’s strategic initiatives to empower parents and enable young adults, transform schools, and advocate for equal rights and opportunities.

For the past three decades, Mr. Wendorf has worked in the not-for-profit sector to build national and international partnerships supporting children’s learning and literacy. Prior to joining NCLD in 1999, he served as vice president and chief operating officer of Reading Is Fundamental, Inc., the nation’s largest nonprofit children’s literacy organization, based in Washington, DC.

Mr. Wendorf earned a BA degree from Yale College and graduate degrees in English language and literature from the University of Cambridge and Cornell University.