



**Empowering Communities to Promote Supportive, Responsive
Student-Centered Relationships**
July 29, 2021 at 3:00 PM EST

PANELISTS

Adam K. Edgerton, Ph.D.
Learning Policy Institute
he/him/his



Adam K. Edgerton serves as a Washington, DC-based Senior Researcher for the Learning Policy Institute, where he works on projects related to restarting and reinventing schools, tutoring, and principal induction. His work on K-12 standards implementation has been published in leading academic journals, such as the *American Educational Research Journal* and *Educational Researcher*, as well as media outlets such as *The Huffington Post* and *Education Week*. Edgerton received his Ph.D. in Education Policy from the University of Pennsylvania.

LPI [Twitter](#) | Adam's [personal Twitter](#)

Image description: Dr. Adam Edgerton, a white man with short brown hair, smiles in front of a brick building and trees. He is wearing a purple shirt and grey tie.

Laura L. Green, MPA, AFP
iMentor Baltimore
she/her/hers



Laura has over 20 years of diverse corporate, government, and nonprofit experience. She created and executed successful comprehensive fundraising programs for Baltimore City charter and public schools. The campaigns under her direction experienced significant investment increases amidst a challenging public school landscape facing massive budget cuts. In the corporate realm, Laura managed over 35 worldwide licenses in 45 product categories for the men's designer brand Perry Ellis International. After leaving there, she managed a multi-industry executive portal for an internationally renowned celebrity. Her involvement included the following industries: apparel, film, music, marketing, and nonprofit event management. Throughout her career, Laura has demonstrated her corporate sensibility for nonprofit work. Through implementing diversified revenue strategies, showing return on investment for funders, and using creative vision, she raised millions of dollars to address complex social, health, and community issues. Her work aided national political campaigns and elected government officials, as well as various notable nonprofit organizations such as the American Lung Association. Laura establishes relationships with industry influencers and corporate and community partners that translate to critical

mass required for successful campaign execution. For example, when the newly founded charter school, Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women, needed a permanent school home, she planned and executed a \$4M five-year capital campaign reaching goal in 3½ years. Furthermore, this project led to restoring and repurposing the historic former YWCA building in Baltimore City. All projects benefit from Laura's passion and innovative thinking.

Laura's [LinkedIn](#)

Image description: Laura, a Black woman with dark hair stands before a cityscape wearing a black top and checked blazer. She is smiling.

Samuel D. McQuillin, Ph.D.
University of South Carolina

he/him/his



Dr. McQuillin is a mentoring researcher and associate professor in the Department of Psychology the University of South Carolina. He directs the School Psychology Ph.D. Program and co-directs the research lab Youth Empowerment in Schools and Systems. His research focuses on translating developmental and clinical science to pragmatic prevention and intervention strategies.

Samuel's [personal Twitter](#) | Lab's [Instagram](#)

Image description: Samuel McQuillin, a Caucasian man, smiles at the camera with his arms crossed. He is wearing a blue button-up shirt.

Darrin Person
Fresno Unified School District

he/him/his



Darrin Person is a graduate from Oral Robert's University with a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1997 and from California State University, Fresno (CSUF) with a Master's in Social Work in 2000, respectively. Darrin has a beautiful family: His wife Iris Person (25 years of marriage), son Darrin Person Jr. (22) and daughter Amiris Irene Person (16).

Professionally, Mr. Person works as the Mentor Coordinator for Fresno Unified School District, the fourth largest school district in California, where he has implemented nationally recognized Mentor Programs that serve thousands of students each year. During, his time as Mentor Coordinator, Mr. Person has created and/or implemented programs such as Men's and Women's Alliance, Group Mentoring, Peer Mentoring, and E-Mentoring. Through his leadership over 4,000 students are served every year at over 45 school sites.

In addition, Darrin Person is the co-founder of Person to Person Counseling services with his wife Iris Person that provides counseling services to disadvantaged individuals and families.

Mr. Person is also adjunct professor at Fresno State University and Fresno Pacific University.

Image description: Darrin Person, a Black man, is smiling at the camera while wearing a blue suit and light blue shirt. His arms are crossed in front of his chest and a watch is visible on his wrist.

Margo Ross, Psy.D.

Center for Supportive Schools

she/her/hers



Margo Ross, Psy.D., is Managing Director, Communications & Development at the Center for Supportive Schools (CSS). She oversees CSS's business development efforts including grant writing, grants management, corporate and foundation relations, communications, and marketing. Dr. Ross has been a member of the staff at CSS for over 20 years and is a certified school psychologist in New Jersey. She holds both a doctorate and a master's degree in school psychology from the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Rutgers University.

CSS [Facebook](#) | CSS [Twitter](#) | CSS [LinkedIn](#)

Image Description: Margo Ross, a white woman with curly, medium-length hair, smiles at the camera in this headshot.

Bernadette Sánchez

University of Illinois Chicago

she/her/hers



Bernadette Sánchez is a Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is an expert on mentoring relationships and the positive development of urban, low-income adolescents of color, particularly Latinx and African-American youth. Her research is on the role of formal and natural mentoring relationships in youth's educational experiences, the resilience and resistance of youth who are marginalized in U.S. society, and the racial and ethnic processes, such as racial discrimination and racial/ethnic identity, that impact the development of youth of color and their relationships with mentors.

Her current research projects are on a) the role of mentoring in adolescents' science and ethnic/racial identities and b) an evaluation of a racial justice training intervention for volunteer mentors of youth of color. She has received funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), William T. Grant Foundation, and local foundations for her mentoring research. She was also a Distinguished Fellow for the William T. Grant Foundation. Bernadette is a member of the Research Board for the National Mentoring Resource Center and is a Fellow of the Society of Community Research & Action. She is committed to disseminating her work to a broad audience, including academic journals and through workshops, trainings, Op-Eds and blog posts for mentoring practitioners and youth workers. She is a first-generation college student and loves teaching and mentoring students at UIC.

Bernadette's [personal Twitter](#)

Image description: Bernadette Sánchez is a Latina woman with black, curly hair. She is smiling, standing in front of a tree, and is wearing a red shirt with a black jacket.

MODERATORS

Julia Freeland Fisher

Clayton Christensen Institute

she/her/hers



Julia Freeland Fisher is the Director of Education at the Clayton Christensen Institute, where she leads a team researching the effects of disruptive innovation on the public and private education landscape. She has published and spoken extensively on topics including the EdTech market, new school models, and competency-based education policies and practices. Most recently, her research focuses on emerging tools and practices that leverage technology to expand students' social capital by enhancing their access to new networks and their ability to navigate those networks.

[Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Image description: Julia, a white woman with dark hair and glasses and wearing a red top, stands smiling before a dark background.

Dudney Sylla

MENTOR

he/him/his



Dudney Sylla serves as Program Director overseeing and supporting special projects including MENTOR's work on informal mentoring, education, and the intersections of mentoring and masculinity. Previously, Dudney worked as a Design Consultant for the Office of Human Capital – Diversity Programs at Boston Public Schools and as a Program Manager at Jobs for the Future. Dudney holds a Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's in Education from the University of Washington.

MENTOR [Twitter](#) | MENTOR [Instagram](#) | MENTOR [Facebook](#) | MENTOR [LinkedIn](#) | MENTOR [YouTube](#) |
Dudney's [personal Twitter](#)

Image description: Dudney Sylla, a black man with short hair, smiles at the camera. He is wearing a collared patterned blue shirt, grey blazer, and a MENTOR organization lapel pin.

OPENING AND CLOSING SPEAKERS

David Shapiro

MENTOR

he/him/his



David Shapiro is the CEO of MENTOR, the unifying national champion for expanding quality mentoring relationships for young people. Under Shapiro's leadership, MENTOR's efforts to build capacity and scale innovation within the mentoring movement have been highlighted by the Social Impact Exchange, the Stanford Social Innovation Review, and Grantmakers for Effective Organizations. During his tenure, MENTOR launched *In Real Life*, a national mentoring public awareness campaign, with the support of the NBA and has worked extensively with the Obama Administration on the mentoring component of My Brother's Keeper. In addition, the U.S Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention selected MENTOR to establish and lead the *National Mentoring Resource Center*.

Shapiro was previously the CEO of MENTOR's Massachusetts Affiliate, Mass Mentoring Partnership (MMP). During his tenure, MMP grew by 400 percent, increased state funding for mentoring, attracted federal funding and distributed almost \$1 million in financial assistance, capacity building, and match activities to mentoring programs. The number of young people matched increased by almost 50 percent during Shapiro's seven years at MMP. Shapiro's experience includes leadership positions with the U.S. Golf Association Foundation's 10-year, \$50 million grant-making initiative and the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay. He chairs the board of the Mass Nonprofit Network and serves as a volunteer leader with a variety of nonprofits, including America's Promise Alliance, Common Impact, and the Institute for Non-Profit Practice. Shapiro is a husband, father of two sons, and mentor.

MENTOR [Twitter](#) | MENTOR [Instagram](#) | MENTOR [Facebook](#) | MENTOR [LinkedIn](#) | MENTOR [YouTube](#) | David's [personal Twitter](#)

Image description: David Shapiro, a white man with short curly hair, a goatee, and glasses, smiles at the camera. He is wearing a black blazer, a white undershirt, and a MENTOR organization lapel pin.

Stephen Kostyo

Learning Policy Institute

he/him/his



Stephen Kostyo serves as a Senior Policy Advisor at the Learning Policy Institute. Kostyo brings to LPI more than a decade's worth of teaching and education policy experience. He previously worked for Congressman Tim Ryan from Ohio, first as a fellow and then as a Legislative Assistant. There, he worked on a range of children's and education issues, including the school lunch program, adverse childhood experiences, teacher retention, and social-emotional learning. Kostyo re-entered the classroom in 2019, serving as an Adjunct Instructor teaching Education Program Management and Policy Implementation at American University. Earlier in his career, Kostyo taught middle and high school math and science. In 2015, while teaching mathematics at Charlottesville High School (CHS), he was voted Teacher of the Year. At CHS, Kostyo was selected to serve as a member of the Freshmen Transition Committee to increase academic outcomes for 9th grade students and to represent the math department as part of the AVID program to assist first generation college students. Kostyo received a B.S. in Quantitative Economics and a B.A. in Political Science with honors at Miami University.

[Twitter](#) | Stephen's [personal Twitter](#)

Image description: Senior Policy Advisor Stephen Kostyo, a white man with short-length brown hair, smiles at the camera in front of a grey background. He is wearing a light blue shirt.