



The Voices for Healthy Kids Summit 2024

PRESENTER/SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Break Out: Building Thriving Futures: Harnessing Community Power for Early Childhood Success

Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo, Consultant, UnidosUS



Amanda serves as a consultant for UnidosUS, the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. She also currently serves as a local leader in the Early Learning Nation Collaborative, a new initiative that puts families at the center of decision making to create just programs and policies for children prenatal through age 8. As an experienced educator deeply committed to advancing early childhood education, and a solid background in curriculum development, staff training, and program management,

Amanda brings over two decades of hands-on experience in supporting educators and fostering excellence in early childhood settings.

In her consultant and trainer role she lectures nationally and provides training on the topics of "Trauma and Resilience", "Strengthening Families at Risk" and "Child Abuse Prevention". She promotes multi-generational evidence-based programs and support groups that empower vulnerable populations to be engaged citizens. Amanda is passionate about individuals, organizations and communities working together to increase stability and decrease barriers, so that all members of society can thrive no matter where they live, work or play.

Tania Villarroel, Policy Advisor Early Childhood Education, UnidosUS



Tania Villarroel is a Senior Policy Analyst specializing in Early Childhood Education at UnidosUS. Tania is also the Directora ejecutiva at Fundación Entre Tribus, a Counsel at FIX Abogados, and an Assistant Professor at Universidad de Chile's Law School. Additionally, Tania serves as a Young Arbitrator at CAM Santiago. Tania has a background in law, with experience in research, teaching, and legal practice, including consumer protection class actions and human rights cases.

Break Out: Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy: Learning from the League of Women Voters

Dr. Carla Lopez-Valdes, Director-at-Large, League of Women Voters Los Angeles



Carla was born and raised in Los Angeles to Salvadoran parents. For over 15 years, she has been a social justice advocate in the nonprofit sector. Through this work, she has advocated for domestic workers' rights, health access, civic engagement, and education equity for underserved communities across Los Angeles County. It is her personal mission to advocate for policies, programs, and resources that play a critical role in ensuring communities in need can fully thrive. She currently serves as the Associate Director of Government and

Community Relations at Para Los Niños (For the Kids), an organization that works through a holistic lens to ensure children and families can fully thrive.

Mary Dickson, Co-President, League of Women Voters Los Angeles



Mary has been a member and served on the board of the Glendale/Burbank League for nearly 30 years, most recently as President. She has experience with local non-profit organizations and helped form Walk Bike Burbank, a local chapter of the Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition. She is a certified bicycle instructor and speaks frequently to groups about bicycle safety both for individuals and in planning of infrastructure. In her working life, Mary is an attorney working in the affordable housing group of a national law firm specializing in real estate finance. Naturally, Mary enjoys bike riding in her spare time, as

well as gardening and reading.

Allen Mattison, Lawyer, Trister, Ross, Schadler & Gold



Allen Mattison helps nonprofit organizations to mitigate legal risks while maximizing their ability to advocate effectively for their public-policy missions. He helps nonprofit leaders succeed in all phases of their organizations' lives. For nonprofit leaders who want to influence elections or pass new laws, he explains the available options and works with them to tailor their tactics to the relevant federal or state lobbying and campaign-finance regime. For grant-funded section 501(c)(3) organizations, Allen teaches managers the line

between educational and lobbying activities, so they can stretch their non-lobbying funds strategically to maximize their advocacy impact – saving scarce lobbying dollars for when they will have the biggest bang for the buck.

Who are my people? Creating space for connecting with fellow attendees.

Katie Bishop-Kendrick, National Senior Consultant, Voices for Healthy Kids



Katie Bishop Kendrick, MS, MPH, is the senior national advocacy consultant on the Voices for Healthy Kids team at the American Heart Association. Katie's passion in public health and her expertise is nutrition policy, with more than 15 years' experience, have helped to drive policy change the national, state, and local levels to improve people's ability to live a healthy life. At Voices for Healthy Kids, Katie works with state and community campaigns

focused on improving access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), establishing or expanding SNAP incentive programs, and funding produce prescription programs. Katie also supports the Voices' preemption project by supporting external partnerships.

Big Trends Reshaping the U.S. Latino Population and the Nation

Mark Hugo Lopez, Director of Race and Ethnicity Research, Pew Research Center



Mark Hugo Lopez is director of race and ethnicity research at Pew Research Center, where he leads planning of the Center's research agenda focused on chronicling the diverse, everchanging racial and ethnic landscape of the United States. He is an expert on issues of racial and ethnic identity, Latino politics and culture, the U.S. Hispanic and Asian American populations, global and domestic immigration, and the U.S. demographic landscape. Lopez was previously the Center's director of Global Migration and Demography, and of

Hispanic research. Lopez is the co-editor of "Adjusting to a World in Motion: Trends in Global Migration and Migration Policy." He is a co-author of "The Future of the First Amendment" and has contributed chapters to several books about voting and young Latinos.

inversation with Dolores Huerta

Dolores Huerta, President and Founder, Dolores Huerta Foundation

Dolores Huerta is the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation. Her lifelong journey has been working as a community organizer and social justice activist for over 50 years.

Dolores is a two-time United States Presidential Award Recipient; she received the Medal of Freedom Award from President Obama in 2012, the highest civilian award in the United States, and the Eleanor D. Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton in 1998.

Huerta has played a major role in the American civil rights movement. Most notably she co-founded the United Farm Workers (UFW) with Cesar Chavez advocating for farm workers in this country. She is a founding board member of the Feminist Majority Foundation; she also serves on the board of Ms. Magazine. Numerous awards include the Ohtli award from the Mexican Government, the James Smithson Award from the Smithsonian Institution, the Icons of the American Civil Rights Movement Award, bestowed to her in 2011 by the National Civil Rights Museum. She also was named Ms. Magazine's one of the three most important women of 1997, the Ladies Home Journal's 100 most important woman of the 20th Century, she is a recipient of the Puffin Foundation award for Creative Citizenship as a Labor Leader in 1984, the Kern County woman of the year by the California State legislature, among many other accolades. She is a former UC Regent and has earned nine honorary doctorates from universities throughout the United States. Her most recent recognitions include her induction to the U. S. Department of Labor Hall of Honor. Dolores was also the first Latina inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

As one of the most famous and celebrated Latinas in the US, Huerta has been an advocate for social justice, women's rights, and reproductive freedom and LBGT civil rights. She continues working to develop community leaders to advocate for the working poor, immigrants, women and youth through her work with the Dolores Huerta Foundation. She speaks at universities and conference forums on issues of public policy, social justice, and advocacy influencing thousands of young people to serve their communities.

Laura Coleman, Media Relations Manage, Voices for Healthy Kids



Laura Coleman is the Advocacy Media Relations Manager for Voices for Healthy Kids. She helps shift the focus from the personal to the social across different advocacy campaigns throughout the nation at Voices for Healthy Kids, as her day to day is to oversee communications to the mass media, including preparing articles, press toolkits, press releases, and any other content initiatives. She also guides and supports grantees on how to strategically cultivate and manage relationships with media representatives in order

to advance public policy initiatives.

Balanced Brilliance: Achieving Personal Wellness at Work

Ifeoma Ike, Founder, Pink Cornrows



Ifeomasinachi (Ifeoma) Ike is an award-winning lawyer, researcher and policy strategist and the founder and Chief Equity Weaver of Pink Cornrows, which specializes in designing solutions which combine the cultural genius of marginalized communities with her team's background in law, communications and research to advance equity.

Ifeoma supports industry leaders across diverse sectors achieve their impact goals, and designs data-driven strategies to create safe spaces for historically disenfranchised

communities Ifeoma is the visionary of Black Policy Lab, an annual gathering where everyone is an expert, and each is qualified to imagine how we create policies to improve the lives of Black people globally. Her impact library includes co-creating three congressional caucuses, drafting mental health policies and successfully advancing criminal justice legislation and reforms. She has also been a co-designer of major diversity pipeline initiatives, including working with the late Virgil Abloh and the Fashion Scholarship Fund on increasing the number of Black creatives in the exclusive world of fashion and retail.

Panel Discussion: Engaging Parents for Policy Change

Arthur Argomaniz, Senior Program Analyst, The Center for the Study of Social Policy



Arthur currently serves as the Project Manager for the Parent Leader Network, supports work to increase racial equity and parent engagement with First 5 Orange County, and works with several national parent advisory and leadership groups. He previously served on the Partnership Support Team for First 5 LA's Best Start placed-based initiative and was part of the monitoring team for the Humboldt County, California child welfare system in

meeting their system change goals. Arthur also manages the CSSP's Los Angeles office.

Dan O'Brien, Policy Manager, Children First



Dan was a teacher until he decided to leave the classroom to fight to help fix a broken education system. Dan was the Campaign Coordinator for a Pennsylvania state senate race and worked on the staff of a Pennsylvania state senator before joining the Children First team. Dan's work at Children First has included successfully advocating for expanded access to early childhood education and record state investments in public school funding to ensure Pennsylvania does its part to provide a high-quality education for all children.

Dan is currently leading Children First's efforts to ensure that working families in Pennsylvania have access to paid family and medical leave and serves as co-chair of the statewide Pennsylvania Family Care Coalition.

Jeannina Perez, Early Learning National Director and Florida Director, MomsRising/MamásConPoder



Nina is an Early Childhood National Campaign Director and Florida Director at MomsRising/ MamásConPoder where she has been organizing moms and families across the nation for over a decade on family economic security issues. Nina has been interviewed in numerous local and national news outlets, including PBS NewsHour, the New York Times, and The Guardian. On child care policy, Nina has testified in front of Congress for the Ways and Means Committee as an expert in her field. Nina's career has focused on ending the oppression and exploitation of women and girls. She was

previously a Program Manager at Community Family Life Services supporting direct services and leadership with low-income communities in Washington, DC. Nina was also a founding member and Program Coordinator for the Young Women Leaders Program at the University of Central Florida.

Dannie Patterson, National Senior Consultant, Voices for Healthy Kids



Danielle Patterson is a proud 18-year AHA employee, Danielle began her career at the AHA as a Government Relations Director in Indiana before becoming a Regional Lead, directing Michigan and Missouri in addition to her work lobbying at Indiana's capitol. Danielle's successful work in Indiana included better nutritional standards in schools, AED placement at fitness centers, CPR training in schools, Complete Streets in Evansville and Indianapolis; CPR requirements for 911 operators, maternal post-partum extension for Medicaid

recipients, Self-Measured Blood Pressure policy for Medicaid recipients and numerous other community policies.





Shelby Pierce, owner of Pierce Porter Facilitation, is a Technology of Participation (ToP) Facilitator and Trainer. She helps groups and organizations create meaningful and productive plans for the future. Before becoming a full-time facilitator, she had 10 years of experience in the financial services and healthcare sectors. Shelby has a rich background in community organizing and has served on the executive committee for several nonprofit boards. She is passionate about supporting communities to move

forward in life and business as we all forge new paths in this historic time.