

Virtual UnConference: Re-Opening to a “New Normal”

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

“Rapid Fire Keynote” Speaker Bios



Michelle Figlar is the Vice President for Learning at The Heinz Endowments, overseeing the Endowments’ strategy that focuses on pre-natal through workforce readiness. Currently, the Heinz Endowments is incubating ideas with community members in the City of Pittsburgh. Before joining the foundation in August 2016, Michelle served as Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). She also has been Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC), a program manager for

the Office of Early Childhood in Cuyahoga County, OH, a Head Start Director in Chicago, IL, a preschool special education teacher, and a VISTA volunteer in Northern CA, where she developed curriculum and programming with family child providers. Michelle had the honor to serve as a Head Start Fellow, and spent time working with several national non-profit advocacy groups. Michelle is honored to have served as the co-chair to Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald’s Children’s Fund Community Working Group, the co-chair of the United Way of Southwestern PA United for Children Committee, a board member of the Birmingham Foundation, the United Way of Pennsylvania, Grantmaker’s of Western PA and a member of the PA Early Learning Council. Michelle’s greatest joy in life is her family, residing in the city of Pittsburgh with her husband Greg Quinlan, and son Grady and daughter Tilly.



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‘New Normal’**



Muffy Mendoza is the founder, creative and business woman behind Brown Mamas, a sisterhood that connects moms with resources, advice and, best of all, each other. Muffy has created a line of educational products focused on helping Black moms be the best moms. Her first book, *The Brown Mama Mindset: A Blueprint for Black Moms on Life, Love & Home*, was featured at the Essence Festival and is currently sold in various cities across the U.S. Muffy champions the beauty and complexities of the mothering experience everywhere she goes, even on the TEDx stage. She received a

standing ovation at the inaugural TEDx Strip District after giving a compelling depiction of modern day Black motherhood. From the TEDx stage she went on to create a stage for other Black moms. That same year she debuted the first annual Brown Mama Monologues showcase to an audience of over 200 moms. To date, The Brown Mama Monologues is hosted in two cities: Pittsburgh & the DC Metro region with the hopes of becoming a multi-city showcase. To add to the list Muffy was nominated for an Iris Award in 2018 for the outstanding work she's done as a writer, influencer and content creator on BrownMamas.com. When she's low-key, Muffy loves reading African history books, forcing her kids to watch the most boring documentaries and snuggling with her number one supporter and husband Mr. Mack Mendoza. You can learn more about Muffy at brownmamas.com.



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Diana Schwab, M.Ed., LCSW is in private practice focusing on children and families, an adjunct faculty at University of Pittsburgh, developmental specialist specializing in international adoption at Kids Plus Pediatrics, and a consultant to a variety of organizations that support children and families. As both a psychotherapist working with young children/families and a consultant providing reflective consultation Diana puts understanding the role of development and relationships at the center of her work.



LaTrenda L. Sherrill is ready to share what she has learned in her career. She launched Common Cause Consulting, a recognized community-innovator in the greater Pittsburgh area. LaTrenda has 10 years experience in coalition-building, project management and strategic planning working in the areas of policy, communications and operations. LaTrenda is committed to volunteering for causes such as the Bartko Foundation, a non-profit that grants funds to minority mothers working toward self-sufficiency, Partner4Work promoting job creation, and Trying

Together, supporting high-quality care and education for children.



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Workshop Presenter Bios



Sarah Grubb, M.Ed., works with Trying Together and the ELRC as Everyday Interactions Design Strategist, a position that inspires her to delve deeply into the power of ordinary interactions between educators and young children. Sarah's work with children and families has taken many forms, including joyfully serving as a mentor teacher at Pittsburgh's Spanish immersion preschool & kindergarten as well as an educator for an all-outdoor Forest Kindergarten north of Pittsburgh. She has taught young children in Nicaragua, supported language access as a Spanish language interpreter, and

directed cultural immersion and community service programs in the Dominican Republic and Peru. At the heart of her work lies Sarah's commitment to examining the impact of cultural values, language, nature and—most importantly—the small, everyday moments that form the core of our most profound connections with others.



Katherine Gullone is the Program Director, Message from Me at Trying Together. In her work, Katherine leads the project development of Message from Me, an innovative digital tool co-designed by Carnegie Mellon University's CREATE Lab and Trying Together. She holds a Master of Education with a focus in Early Childhood Education from Carlow University and a Bachelor of Arts in Interpersonal Communication with a minor in Spanish from Meredith College. Additionally, Katherine is a certified Pre-K-4th grade teacher in Pennsylvania and a Certified Pennsylvania Quality Assurance System Instructor.



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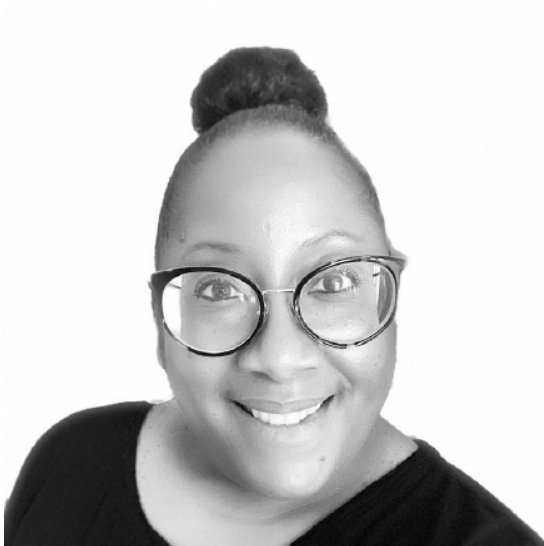


Phyllis G. Hartman, SHRM-SCP, MSHRM, the founder of PGHR Consulting, Inc., has 30+ years in HR. She has held HR management positions in manufacturing and not-for-profit.

Phyllis regularly speaks to business and HR groups. She is an HR instructor for La Roche University and served as a full time Visiting Professor and temporary Department Chair there.

Phyllis has written: A Managers Guide to Developing Competencies in HR Staff; Looking to Hire Looking to Hire an HR Leader? and Never Get Lost Again: Navigating Your HR Career. She

volunteers for SHRM, the Ward Home and the Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management.



Lisa J. Perry has been the Executive Director of Jeremiah's Place since 2017. She has helped expand the reach of Jeremiah's Place so that more young children have access to high quality emergency child care services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, when families have an urgent need. A graduate of the Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University, Lisa previously served as Vice President of Individual Giving and the Director of Community Affairs for Homewood Children's Village and was the Chief Development Officer for the Environmental Charter School.

She has been a warrior for women throughout

her life and hopes to continue being a servant leader who inspires others, ignites joy and makes a difference in her community.



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Amy Requa, CRNP, CPNP-PC, is a board certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care and the Senior Health Manager for The Pennsylvania Key, in support of Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning. Amy has 20+ years of experience in public and community health nursing, leading award-winning early childhood health promotion initiatives at the national level for the Office of Head Start. Amy has expertise in building cross-sector relationships and collaboration between early learning programs and the medical, dental, behavioral health, and social services

communities. Amy is dedicated to eliminating health disparities and addressing social determinants of health for underserved populations.



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