

The Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education Presents

The 2021-22 EDUCATION FORUM

NOVEMBER 4, 2021, 4PM EST | [Register Here](#)

The Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education supports and facilitates education reform through its outstanding special programs and initiatives. Strong community partnerships are the heart of our success and serve as an inspiration for those who work so diligently to provide a better education for our children. It is our mission to continue with transformation through collaboration by leading the discussion on education reform, policy, research, and practice.



MODERATOR:
Dr. Geneva Stark
*Director of the
Nystrand Center of
Excellence in
Education*

FEATURING:



Jacqueline Coleman
*Lieutenant Governor of
Kentucky*



Dr. Jason Glass
*Kentucky Commissioner of
Education*



Dr. Lori Gonzalez
*Executive VP and Provost of the
University of Louisville*



Rick Smith
*Counsel on Postsecondary
Education, Workforce Development*



Dr. Martin Pollio
*Superintendent of Jefferson
County Public Schools*



Dr. Amanda Ellis
*Counsel on Postsecondary
Education, Programs*



Dr. Ty J. Handy
*President of Jefferson Community &
Technical College*

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF MODERATOR:



Dr. Geneva Stark is the current director of the Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education and Clinical Professor. Prior to joining UofL, She served as a Diversity Equity and Poverty Administrator for Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS). Dr. Stark served in JCPS as a District Coordinator in Human Resources, principal, and assistant principal. She was also 1 of 4 individuals selected as a KDE Superintendent Fellow for Bullitt and Shelby County.

Dr. Stark serves on the board of directors for the National Alliance of Black School Educators, is a former president of GLABSE, and is a member of NAACP, League of Women Voters and NCNW. She has served as a mentor to students, teachers and administrators at the local, state and national level.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF FEATURED PRESENTERS:



Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman is an educator, basketball coach, writer, and founder of a non-profit. Jacqueline's leadership does not end in the classroom or on the court. Her experience as an alumna of Emerge Kentucky drove her to found her own nonprofit, Lead Kentucky, in 2013. Lead Kentucky ensures Kentucky's college women are prepared, encouraged, and empowered to seek leadership positions on their campuses and later in their professional fields. Since its inception, Lead Kentucky has empowered 50 campus ambassadors with 29 different majors on more than a dozen college campuses. Most recently, Jacqueline served as an assistant principal at Nelson County High School. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Kentucky.



Dr. Jason E. Glass is commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). A native of Brandenburg and a third-generation Kentucky educator, Glass has been commissioner of education since September 2020. Before that, he had been superintendent and chief learner of Jeffco Public Schools in Colorado since 2017.



Dr. Lori Gonzalez has served as executive vice president and university provost at the University of Louisville since April 2021. Her move to UofL is a homecoming of sorts. A native of Rockcastle County, Ky., Dr. Gonzalez received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kentucky in speech-pathology and audiology. She received a Master of Arts degree in communication disorders from Eastern Kentucky University and a Ph.D. in communication disorders from the University of Florida. She began her academic career at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1988. In 1991, she returned to UK as an assistant professor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program. She then spent 20 years in roles as a professor and associate dean of academic affairs. In 2005, she was appointed dean of the College of Health Sciences, a position she held for seven years.

In 2011, Dr. Gonzalez moved to Appalachian State University, where she served as provost and executive vice chancellor for three years, followed by a year as special advisor to the senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina General Administration, the North Carolina public higher education authority. From 2015 until the spring of 2021, she served as the Vice Chancellor for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.



Rick W. Smith Sr., MBA, MA, CFRL has over 30 years of experience in higher education administration, nonprofit leadership, healthcare administration, public relations, crisis communications training, marketing, business development, diversity training, and television news. He currently serves as the Associate Vice President of Economic and Career Development for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. Previously, he served as the President and CEO of the United Way of Ross County, Ohio, and the Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Community Relations of the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College, Warren, PA. Rick is a published author and speaker who currently resides in Louisville, Kentucky. Smith operates Smith Consulting Solutions, SCS Inc., a consulting firm specializing in fund development, crisis management, media training, presentation skills training, public relations, marketing, diversity, and inclusion.

Rick was named one of Atlanta, Georgia's 40 under 40 Top Business Executives in 2005. He was bestowed the honor of being named one of Georgia's Outstanding Citizens in 2005-06. He is a past recipient of Who's Who distinctions in Louisville, KY, Cincinnati, OH, Atlanta, GA, and Dothan, AL. Rick is a Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, member and is a graduate of the Leadership Louisville class of 2015 and the 2016 Urban League Leadership Alliance Seminar class III.



Dr. Martin "Marty" Pollio is the superintendent of the Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) District. For 20 years, Dr. Pollio has dedicated his career to serving the students of JCPS. He is a longtime administrator and educator whose focus is improving culture and climate across the district, increasing student achievement, and implementing deeper learning strategies to make lessons come alive for students and teachers.



Dr. Amanda Ellis serves as the Associate Vice President of K-12 Policies and Programs at the Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE), where she leads strategies for improving collaboration between K-12 and postsecondary education systems to improve the transition and success of students earning postsecondary degrees and credentials. Prior to her role at CPE, Amanda served in multiple roles at the Kentucky Department of Education including the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer. Amanda's career also includes experience serving eight years as an elementary principal in Anderson County. In addition, she also served as an elementary school curriculum coach and middle school science teacher.

Amanda received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Middle School Science and Technology from Indiana University and her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Georgetown College. Amanda earned her Doctorate of Education in Education Leadership from the University of Kentucky. She has co-authored and presented work on the roles of teacher leadership.



Dr. Ty J. Handy began his presidency of Jefferson Community and Technical College in January 2016. The Florida native was most recently the President of Northwest Florida State College. Dr. Handy previously served as the President of Vermont Technical College and Chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College in Southern Indiana. Dr. Handy earned his doctorate (Ed.D.) degree from the University of Memphis in Higher Education Administration, his MBA in Accounting and Finance from Drexel University and a Baccalaureate degree in Finance from Western Kentucky University. Other academic positions Dr. Handy has held include Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Arkansas Community College – Batesville, Dean of Academic Affairs at Elizabethtown Community College in Kentucky, and Dean of Business Technologies/Social Sciences at Jefferson Community College, Ohio.

Dr. Handy and his wife, Kim, are the proud parents of two sons, Jon and Beau. In his spare time, Ty enjoys woodworking, reading, biking and weightlifting. He also serves the community by participating on the following Boards: Evolve502, Kentuckiana Works, Metro United Way, Greater Louisville Inc, and Louisville Downtown Partnership.