

# TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH INNOVATION

**NOVEMBER 5TH, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM EST | [JOIN ZOOM MEETING](#)**

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*

## FEATURED PRESENTERS:



**Jacqueline Coleman**  
*Lieutenant Governor of  
Kentucky*



**Dr. Aaron Thompson**  
*President of the Kentucky  
Council on Postsecondary  
Education*



**Dr. Neeli Bendapudi**  
*University of Louisville  
President*



**Dr. Kristin Williams**  
*Chancellor of the Kentucky  
Community and Technical  
College System*



**Dr. Jason Glass**  
*Kentucky Commissioner of  
Education*



**Dr. Martin Pollio**  
*Superintendent of the  
Jefferson County Public  
School District*



**Shannon Putman**  
*Ph.D. candidate, Graduate  
Research Assistant,  
University of Louisville*



**Chris Madsen**  
*Business Development at  
Immersive VR Education*

## BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF FEATURED PRESENTERS:



### **Dr. Geneva Stark - Moderator**

Dr. Geneva Stark is the current director of the Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education and Clinical Professor. Prior to joining U of L, Dr. Stark 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. She serves on the board of directors for the National Alliance of Black School Educators, former president of GLABSE, 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. Follow Dr. Stark: @WhoDat40047



### **Jacqueline Coleman**

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. Follow Lt. Governor Coleman: @LtGovColeman



### **Dr. Aaron Thompson**

Dr. Aaron Thompson is a passionate advocate for higher education. As a first-generation college student from rural Clay County, Kentucky, he experienced first-hand the transformative power of a college credential. As President of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, he works to ensure all Kentuckians have an equal opportunity to improve their lives through postsecondary education. Before taking the helm of CPE, Thompson served as interim president of Kentucky State University; CPE executive vice president and provost; and faculty member and administrator at Eastern Kentucky University. Follow Dr. Thompson: @cpepres



### **Dr. Neeli Bendapudi**

Neeli Bendapudi is the 18th President of the University of Louisville. Bendapudi has a Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Kansas and teaching experience at The Ohio State University and Texas A&M University. In 2011, she returned to KU to become the School of Business dean and H.D. Price Professor of Business. In 2016, she was promoted to provost and executive vice chancellor. She is regarded as a skilled collaborator, fundraiser, faculty advocate and for her affable personality—telling people to “just call me Neeli. Follow Dr. Bendapudi: @UofLPresNeeli



### **Dr. Kristin Williams**

Dr. Kristin Williams serves as the Kentucky Community and Technical College System Chancellor. Previously, she served as interim president of Hazard Community and Technical College and chief academic officer at Hopkinsville Community College. Prior to joining KCTCS, she was vice president at Santa Fe Community College in Florida. Williams has a Ph.D. in educational leadership, a master's degree in higher education leadership and a bachelor's degree in agriculture - all from the University of Florida. Follow Dr. Williams: @DrKrisWilliams



### **Dr. Jason Glass**

Dr. Jason E. Glass is commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). Glass, a native of Brandenburg and a third-generation Kentucky educator, 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. Martin Pollio**

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. Follow Dr. Pollo: @JCPSSuper



### **Shannon Putman**

Shannon Putman is a Graduate Assistant and PhD candidate for the Nystrand Center of Excellence in Education. She spent eight years teaching the multi-modal communication special education classroom and two years as the learning and behavior disorder resource teacher. She spent three years working as the teacher in residence at Cochran Elementary. Shannon has focused her work on implementing the use of Virtual Reality technologies into the educational curriculum. Her Ph.D. research is exploring the use of virtual reality technology as educational interventions. Follow Shannon Putman: @shannon1\_putman



### **Chris Madsen**

Chris leads Business Development at Immersive VR Education. Chris states that as an early adopter of modern Virtual Reality in 2013, I became active in the VR developer community to prepare for the impact immersive technologies will have on society. Ranked by Analytica as a Top 100 influencer in both AR and VR, I keep a close pulse on the social, educational, artistic and entertainment spaces of the VR, AR, XR movement. Follow Chris Madsen: @deep\_rifter