

## 2019 Leadership Academy

February 12-14, 2019

### Biographical Sketches

#### Geoff Belleau

Mr. Belleau is an education program consultant at the California Department of Education. He has over 25 years of experience as a high school, middle-school, and elementary-school educator. Before joining the Department of Education, he was a county office administrator, serving as program manager for instructional technology. In this role, he coordinated instructional technology projects along with district IT administrators and worked with schools and districts on technology integration and professional development. He has presented at several state and national education technology conferences and is a member of the Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership (TICAL) cadre. As a semi active blogger he has also published several articles to help educators and administrators implement technology in the schools.

#### Ruthmary Cradler

Ms. Cradler is a principal in Education Support Systems, a business devoted to supporting education planning, applied educational research, program evaluation, and policy advising. The major emphasis in this work is in the application of technologies that can support teaching and learning and applying data and evaluation results to inform policy. Recent work has included supporting state legislation related to net neutrality and digital literacy. Ms. Cradler has twenty years of experience in an urban school district as a teacher, site administrator and district office administrator, including directing major grants for professional development and managing state funded programs and directed three state funded professional development programs in Special Education (SERN), Teacher Center and a Teacher Education and Computer Center (TECC). She also has extensive experience over the past 20 years working with a wide variety of entities including CTAP and SETS in California and other state education agencies, school districts, county offices of education, the US Department of Education, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense Education Activities (DODEA). Ms. Cradler has been the evaluator of numerous educational technology grants, including Technology Innovation Challenge Grants, Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers for Technology, and Enhancing Education Through Technology.

#### Cheryl Lemke

Ms. Lemke is President and CEO of the Metiri Group, a consulting firm dedicated to advancing effective uses of technology in education. Prior to launching the firm, she was the executive director of the Milken Exchange on Education Technology for the Milken Family Foundation. Cheryl has published articles and appeared in a variety of media outlets such as Education Week, eSchool News, THE Journal, and numerous other publications. As a recognized speaker and facilitator Ms. Lemke connects with educators, policy makers, private sector leaders, and advocates internationally.

Ms. Lemke regularly collaborates with educational leaders to deepen their thinking and provide thoughtful evaluation of technologies, learning goals, and systems that support K-16 learning. Ms. Lemke specializes in public policy for K-16 learning technology, working at many levels with governors, legislators, superintendents, professors, business leaders, and teachers. Ms. Lemke's 25-year career in the public sector and her work with Metiri Group have included projects related to assessing the impact of technology on learning; gauging the progress of states, districts, and schools in bringing technology to the learning process; conducting surveys and focus groups; convening national experts in discussions on policy issues; and designing and prototyping educational technology frameworks.

As an associate superintendent for the Illinois State Board of Education, Ms. Lemke managed a center for learning technology with over 100 staff members, translating the \$50 million annual budget into: a new State backbone; professional development centers; community-based technology planning processes for Illinois schools; and online curriculum projects designed to help students learn. Ms. Lemke also oversaw the development of state learning technology plans in both Illinois and Washington. Recognized nationally as a proactive leader in learning technology, and sought after as a consultant, speaker, and writer, Cheryl Lemke has designed policy in the state house that translates into sound educational practice in the schoolhouse.

### **Senator Connie M. Leyva**

Reelected to represent the 20<sup>th</sup> State Senate District in 2018, Senator Connie M. Leyva is serving her second term in the California State Senate. The district includes the cities and communities of Bloomington, Chino, Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Montclair, Muscoy, Ontario, Pomona, Rialto and San Bernardino.

Senator Leyva is committed to improving California's schools, environment and communities, as well as creating quality jobs throughout the 20th State Senate District and California. She firmly believes that California families benefit most when we invest in and help strengthen small businesses and other job drivers that create good paying jobs in our local communities. During her first term in office, Senator Leyva authored important legislation signed into law. She currently serves as Chair of the Senate Education Committee, California Legislative Women's Caucus and the Senate Democratic Caucus, as well as on the Budget and Fiscal Review, Business, Professions and Economic Development, Elections and Constitutional Amendments and Health committees and the Budget Subcommittee #1 on Education. She also serves on the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls and the Senate Select Committees on California-Mexico Cooperation, Manufactured Home Communities, Ports & Goods Movement and Women and Inequality: Strategies to Promote Opportunity.

A lifelong activist standing up for working people and families, Senator Leyva started working at her local Alpha Beta market as a senior in high school. She served as both Union Representative and President of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1428, helping grocery workers gain a stronger voice for fair wages and benefits. Following in that tradition of community service and action to improve the lives of others, she was elected in 2004 as the first woman President of the California Labor Federation, representing more than 2.1 million workers throughout the state. She graduated from the University of Redlands with a bachelor's degree in communicative disorders.

### **Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell**

In November 2014, Patrick O'Donnell was elected to the California State Assembly to represent District 70, which includes the cities of Long Beach, Signal Hill San Pedro as well as Catalina Island. Assemblymember O'Donnell is a teacher with over 20 years of experience in the classroom. As a leader dedicated to quality education, he helped create a program at his high school to provide students with more instructional time and lobbied in Sacramento for more school funding. A firm believer in guaranteeing access to career technical education and vocational opportunities, he fought to establish an afterschool digital academy to teach kids valuable media skills they can use in school and the workplace.

As Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, Assemblymember O'Donnell worked to ensure more than \$14 billion in additional funds were dedicated to our schools and community colleges in the 2015 Budget and passed legislation to create safer learning environments for LGBTQ students. During his first term in the Assembly, O'Donnell also protected patient safety through a bill signed into law that addresses ambulance wait times at emergency rooms. Assemblymember O'Donnell currently serves as Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Ports as well as the Assembly Select Committee on Aerospace where he has championed efforts to grow maritime industry and attract new jobs in aerospace in California. Chief among these efforts is his Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Ports Program, which will make California's ports eligible to receive state resources for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction infrastructure projects.

### **Kenneth Shelton**

Ken currently holds an M.A. in Education with a specialization in Educational Technology as well as New Media Design and Production. He has worked as an educator for over 14 years and most recently taught technology at the middle school level. As a part of his active involvement within the Educational Technology community, Ken is an Apple Distinguished Educator and a Google Certified Innovator. Ken was also named to the previous California State Superintendent of Public Instruction's [Education Technology Task Force](#). He regularly gives keynotes, presentations, and leads workshops, many of which are hands-on, covering a wide variety of Educational Technology, Technology Integration, Equity and Inclusion, Multimedia Literacy, Visual Learning, Visual Storytelling, and Instructional Design topics. Ken is the ISTE Digital Equity PLN 2018 Excellence Award winner. Ken is currently the Global Keynote Specialist and Educational Technology Strategist for [EdTechTeam](#).

### **Micah Studer**

Micah Studer is the Executive Director of Equity and Support Services for the Yolo County Office of Education. He received his B.A. from Sacramento State University, two M.A. degrees in Educational Technology and Educational Leadership from Touro University, and an Ed.D. at University of California, Davis. He has a diverse background in teaching and educational leadership spending his teaching career teaching science and English in inner city schools, becoming a dean of students before moving to Winters as an Assistant Principal to launch the district's 1:1 program. Micah additionally serves on the CUE Legislative Advocacy Committee promoting policies of access to technology for all students and families. He currently lives in Vacaville with his wife Heidi and their four children.