

Pursuit of Equity: Leveraging Career and Technical Education for Students with Disabilities Webinar

Speaker Bios

Dr. Tessie Rose Bailey

Dr. Tessie Rose Bailey is Principal Technical Assistance Consultant at American Institutes for Research. Her primary responsibilities include providing technical assistance in special education and MTSS/RTI to states, districts, and institutions of higher education through several national centers: National Center on Intensive Interventions (NCII), Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR) Center, National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI), and College and Career Readiness and Success Center (CCRS). She is a senior advisor for the Graduation and Post-School Outcomes Cross State Learning Collaborative hosted by NCSI. In addition, she works with several districts and states to improve transition planning and pre-employment transition services (pre-ETS) for students with disabilities. She is a former special education teacher, professional development provider, and faculty member with extensive experience in special education law and policy, transition plan and program development, data-analysis for program improvement and MTSS/RTI implementation. She has provided technical assistance support and professional development to practitioners and leaders in 43 states. She completed her PhD at the University of Utah in special education curriculum and assessment and post-doctoral work in RTI/MTSS and transition at Lehigh University's Center for Promoting Research to Practice.

Dr. Roderick Theobald

Roddy Theobald is a Senior Researcher with the National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER) at American Institutes for Research. He received his PhD in Statistics from the University of Washington in 2015, and previously worked as a Research Assistant at the Center for Education Data and Research at the University of Washington and as a 7th-grade math teacher at Westlake Middle School in the Oakland (CA) Unified School District as a Teach For America corps member. His ongoing projects investigate teacher education and licensing in Massachusetts and Washington, postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities in Washington, teacher quality gaps in North Carolina and Washington, and collective bargaining in California, Michigan, and Washington.

Tania May

As the Director of Special Education for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in Washington state, Tania works closely with the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education to carry out the division priorities focused on improving outcomes for students with

disabilities. This work is centered on collaborating with SEA, LEA, and agency partners, legislators, families, and students to implement the state ESSA plan and provide support around leadership, growth mindset, evidence-based practice, professional development, resource allocation, and staff recruitment and retention. Tania has worked at OSPI since 2014, has been in the director position since December 2017, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Washington Tacoma.

Rebecca Wallace

As the Executive Director of Career and Technical Education for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Rebecca Wallace leads Washington's efforts to promote the quality and rigor of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Secondary Education courses, providing students with options that link middle school to high school and post-secondary opportunities, blend academic and technical studies, and most importantly, connect students to their goals for the future. Rebecca oversees the implementation of the Perkins legislation, and manages programs and grants related to state equivalency, high-demand fields, and industry certification, serving the more than 313,000 students enrolled in secondary CTE education. Rebecca served previously as the state supervisor of agricultural education at OSPI since 2013, and has served as the Executive Director since May 2017.

Jenna Tomasello

Jenna Tomasello is a policy associate at the American Youth Policy Forum. Her work involves the development of learning events and the dissemination of policy and practice guidance to frame issues, inform policy, and convene conversations that improve education and the lives of traditionally underserved youth. Jenna is also the co-founder of Learn Together, Live Together, a diverse, nonpartisan coalition of education stakeholders striving to promote diverse, equitable, and inclusive schools. As a product of public schools and a first-generation college student, Jenna has always held a deep appreciation for education and the opportunities it afforded her. Jenna has a background in philosophy and legal studies, and holds a master's degree in educational policy from the University of Rochester Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development. Connect with her on Twitter or LinkedIn.