



## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Kelly Brady**

**Director, Instructional Support for Student-Centered Learning  
Idaho State Department of Education**

 **@IDmastery**



Kelly is the Director of Instructional Support for Student-Centered Learning for the Idaho Department of Education and has spent 30 years in the classroom. She devoted her last thirteen years, before coming to the SDE, teaching in a unique personalized program for highly gifted students. With her vast experience, Kelly is working to ensure all Idaho students have the opportunity to achieve their highest potential. Kelly graduated from Boise State University, with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction. She has an endorsement in gifted and talented education and is a certified parent coach.

### **Latoya Dixon**

**Director, Office of School Transformation  
South Carolina Department of Education**

 **@latoyadixon5 @EducationSC**



Dr. Latoya Dixon is the Director of the Office of School Transformation at the South Carolina Department of Education. Latoya has served as a principal at the elementary and middle school level, visiting professor, and transformational leader. Latoya began her career as a middle school English Language Arts teacher after graduating from Clemson University in 1999. Latoya holds a Master's degree in Educational Leadership, an Educational Specialist degree, and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of South Carolina. As the Director of the Office of School Transformation, Latoya supports South Carolina's statewide school improvement efforts and works directly with South Carolina's lowest performing schools and districts, overseeing the work of state transformation coaches.



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**Virgel Hammonds**

**Chief Learning Officer**

**KnowledgeWorks**



**@VirgelHammonds @knowledgeworks**



As the Chief Learning Officer at KnowledgeWorks, Virgel partners with national policymakers, learning organizations, and learning communities throughout the country to redesign learning structures to become more learner-centered and based on proficiency, rather than seat time. He also works with the KnowledgeWorks team to build tools, processes, and services that help districts design and implement a highly personalized learning infrastructure.

Virgel previously served as the superintendent of RSU 2, a regional school district in Maine. There, he collaborated with five communities to develop and implement a curriculum designed to ensure mastery of standards by all students. Before serving as superintendent, Virgel was a high school principal at Lindsay Unified School District in California. With 4,100 K-12 students in the district, 100 percent qualified for free and reduced lunch. There, Virgel helped implement a personalized learning model where “learners” don’t earn letter grades, but rather are awarded mastery, in ways that are empowering and motivating to each, for subjects in which they’ve proven to be proficient.

Currently, Virgel serves on multiple boards and leadership councils: iNACOL Board; Mastery Transcript Advisory Council; and Jobs for Maine Graduates Executive Board.

**Susan Patrick**

**President and Chief Executive Officer**

**iNACOL**



**@susandpatrick @nacol**



Susan Patrick is the President and CEO of iNACOL and Co-Founder of CompetencyWorks, providing policy advocacy, publishing research, developing quality standards, and driving the transformation to personalized, competency-based education forward. She is the former Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education, and served as legislative liaison for Governor Hull from Arizona. She also served as legislative staff on Capitol Hill. Susan holds a master’s degree from the University of Southern California and a bachelor’s degree from Colorado College. She is a Pahara-Aspen Fellow and was awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship in 2016.



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**Maria Worthen**

**Vice President for Federal & State Policy**

**iNACOL**

 **@mariaworthen @nacol**



Maria Worthen is Vice President for Federal and State Policy at iNACOL. Prior to joining iNACOL, Maria served as Education Policy Advisor to the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa. She also worked at the US Department of Education, serving as Congressional Liaison in the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Program Officer in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Presidential Management Fellow in the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

Earlier in her career, Maria was a pre-school teacher and a social worker, practicing with at-risk children and youth in a variety of settings. An Iowa native, she holds a B.A. in Government and Italian Language and Literature from Smith College and a Masters in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis.

**Bill Zima, MEd**

**Superintendent of Schools**

**Regional School Unit 2, Maine**

 **@zimaw**



Bill Zima, MEd, is Superintendent of Regional School Unit #2 in Hallowell, Maine which is considered a leader in the creation of a learner-centered, proficiency-based approach to education. Prior to this time, Bill was principal of Mt. Ararat Middle School in Maine. He worked with the staff to capture the voices of the school's stakeholder groups and create a vision of "Fueling Hope Through Learning" and set the mission to create a school where, "Students work their way through a well-defined continuum of learning using their passions to create a path and choose how they will demonstrate their understanding of the learning." He is author of numerous blogs on Competencyworks.org. Bill

received his Bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology, Electronics from Illinois State University and his Masters of Education, Science from the University of Central Florida.