Featured Panelists & Discussion Leads

Barb Fabre, Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Visioning

Barb Fabre is CEO of Indigenous Visioning, LLC, a native-owned consulting company, and recently the Interim Education Division Director for her tribe at the White Earth Ojibwe Nation. Ms. Fabre has over 30 years of experience working within tribal, state, national, and federal levels on tribal and early childhood issues that promote healthy child development for all children. Ms. Fabre’s experience in program development, creating early childhood systems, and promoting collaborations with tribal communities have helped bring new opportunities for Indian Country. Ms. Fabre holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and has received numerous awards for her work such as the 2015 Nancy Latimer Award, 2015 Early Education Four-Star Leader-Parent Award for School Readiness, 2014 Virginia McKnight Binger Award in Human Service, and 2014 Becker County Recognition Award. Ms. Fabre testified at the 2014 United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Testimony on “Early Childhood Development & Education in Indian Country: Building a Foundation for Academic Success”.

Dr. Frank L. Gettridge, Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Frank L. Gettridge is a program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. As part of the Education & Learning team, he identifies and nurtures opportunities for positive systemic change within communities and executes programming efforts aligned with the foundation’s organizational direction. In this role, he provides leadership and oversight for programming and works closely with other staff to ensure integration and coordination of efforts. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work, and life.

Frank possesses over 25 years of experience in education, including being a preschool teacher and Head Start director. Before joining the foundation in 2013, Frank was a Chicago Public Schools administrator, most recently principal of Clara Barton Elementary School, and previously, assistant principal of the Robert Lindblom Math and Science Academy High School.
Dr. Joe L. Graham, Regional Director, Native American Agriculture Fund

Dr. Joe L. Graham is Kawaik’kome, a person of the Pueblo of Laguna, NM. He is a tribal member in good standing. Regardless of where his career takes him, Dr. Graham maintains a residence in his home village of Paguate, NM. He attended the local reservation schools then matriculated at New Mexico State University where he earned bachelor’s degrees in history and anthropology, and teacher certification. After several years teaching, Dr. Graham commenced graduate study at The University of Arizona where he obtained a master’s degree in American Indian studies and a Ph.D. in arid lands resource sciences, a graduate inter-disciplinary degree program structured around the sciences of agriculture and natural resources in arid environments.

Before joining the Native American Agriculture Fund as Regional Director, Dr. Graham held programmatic leadership roles in three distinct land grant university systems. He was affiliated with The University of Arizona, New Mexico State University, and most recently, the University of California systems. In addition to administrative roles, Dr. Graham was an instructor of tribal economic and community development for UCLA Extension. A sampling of his volunteer service includes participation on the inaugural boards of the Native Star Foundation (CA) and the Laguna Community Foundation (NM). Dr. Graham also served on the Board of Trustees for D-Q University (CA) and on the Board of Directors for the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (CO).

Rob Grunewald, Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Rob Grunewald is an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Grunewald conducts research on community development and regional economic issues. He co-authored “Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return” in 2003 and has written several subsequent articles on the economic and social impact of early learning. He frequently speaks to community and business leaders, policymakers, and media throughout the United States.

Grunewald has served on boards and advisory committees for organizations involved with early childhood development, including Think Small: Leaders in Early Learning, First Children’s Finance, and the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency. He is also a past president of the Minnesota Economic Association. He holds a bachelor’s degree in economics and religion from St. Olaf College and a master’s degree in applied economics from the University of
Andreas Hipple directs Better Way Foundation’s global efforts to advance early childhood development, working closely with the foundation’s partners and board of directors to help strengthen the systems that nurture and support young children and their families. This work includes a 10-year, $10 million commitment to supporting Indigenous Early Childhood Development.

Before becoming Better Way Foundation’s first executive director in 2018, Andreas served from 2011 through 2017 as a senior advisor to both Better Way and its sister foundation, GHR Foundation. At GHR, he led the Inter-Religious Action initiative, a ground-breaking effort to advance partnerships between religious actors and secular institutions in the international development and peacebuilding fields, improve the evidence base for inter-religious collaboration, and strengthen social cohesion in plural societies. In partnership with USAID and the Peace & Security Funders Group, Andreas co-created a unique public-private partnership supporting inter-religious peacebuilding in the Central African Republic. Andreas holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Carleton College, and a master’s degree in international relations with honors from Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Dr. John H. Jackson, President and CEO, Schott Foundation for Public Education

Dr. John H. Jackson is president and CEO of the Schott Foundation for Public Education. In this role, Dr. Jackson leads the Foundation’s efforts to ensure a fair and substantive opportunity to learn for all students regardless of race or gender. Dr. Jackson joined the Schott Foundation after serving in several senior level positions. Among them, National Director of Education and Chief Policy Officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 2000-2007. In 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed Dr. Jackson to serve as Senior Policy Advisor in the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Jackson has also served as an Adjunct Professor of race, gender, and public policy at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. Earlier in his career, Dr. Jackson conducted extensive research in the Harvard Civil Rights Project on civil rights and opportunity gap issues.

Dr. Joshua Sparrow, Executive Director, Brazelton Touchpoints Center
Dr. Joshua Sparrow, M.D., DFAACAP, is executive director of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center in the Division of Development of Medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital, where he holds appointments in Developmental Medicine and Psychiatry. He is principal investigator for the National Center for Parent, Family and Community, and associate professor, part time, in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He has lectured extensively, nationally, and internationally, has written numerous scholarly papers, and is also co-author with Dr. T. Berry Brazelton of 9 books.

At the Brazelton Center, Dr. Sparrow’s work has focused on cultural adaptations of family support programs, organizational professional development, cross-sector collaboration, and aligning systems of care with community strengths and priorities. For more than 20 years, he has been deeply involved in shared learning and problem-solving projects that he has termed “collaborative consultations”, for example, with the Harlem Children's Zone and other place-based initiatives, and with the American Indian/Alaskan Native Early Head Start Program, among many other organizations and communities around the country and internationally. The Tribal Touchpoints Initiative, which he founded in 2001 at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, has collaborated with American Indian/Alaskan Native Early Head Start and Child Care programs and other tribal community agencies. In recent years, it has also provided evaluation and professional development services for Tribal Project LAUNCH (SAMHSA) grantees. Through its partnership with the American Indian College Fund, the Brazelton Touchpoints Center has collaborated with early childhood education departments in Tribal Colleges and Universities and has offered a leadership development program for Native American leaders in early childhood education.