



## Lessons from Hawai'i: Cultural Equity Spurs Deeper Child Learning & Development GFE Conference, October 23, 2019

### SPEAKER BIOS

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#### **Moderator:**

#### **Isabelle Hau, Investment Partner, Omidyar Network**

Omidyar Network is the philanthropic investment firm of Pam and Pierre Omidyar, with the mission of empowering individuals, families and communities. Isabelle leads Omidyar Network's US education initiative, focused on a two-generation approach. Prior to joining Omidyar in 2012, Isabelle served in the non-profit sector at ImpactAssets, to align capital with meaning and increase capital flows in impact investing. Isabelle was previously an executive director at Morgan Stanley, supporting organizations through capital raising and strategic acquisitions. Isabelle has held numerous board and governance roles in education. She earned an MBA from Harvard Business School, graduated from ESSEC and Sciences Po Paris, and was honored as 100 Harvard Business School Women in the Bay Area.

#### **Al Castle, Executive Director, Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation, Honolulu, HI**

Alfred L. Castle is Executive Director of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation, one of America's oldest family foundations, and the largest funder of early education teacher training in Hawaii. The Castle Foundation is nationally prominent for pioneering progressive kindergarten education and supporting John Dewey's teaching and research at the University of Chicago in the late 19th century. Mr. Castle has helmed the Foundation's innovative work in assisting Hawaii's first universal public preschool system. He has made numerous national and international conference presentations, and authored three books and some 50 journal articles in history, philosophy, literature, and non-profit management.

#### **Felicia DeHaney, Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, MI**

Felicia leads Kellogg's work focused on ensuring that all children are prepared for school and have the right support services to succeed [nationally](#). Prior to joining Kellogg, Felicia served as president and CEO at the National Black Child Development Institute in Washington, D.C., and also served as interim Assistant Superintendent of Early Childhood Education for the District of Columbia. She received her master's in educational psychology and from Columbia University Teacher's College, and then her PhD in the same discipline from Howard University.

#### **Daniel Goya, Program Director, Ka Pa'alana Homeless Family Education Program**

Danny is program manager for the Ka Pa'alana Homeless Family Education Program on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu, which includes: a modified center-based preschool experience for at-risk and homeless families living near and at coastal beaches; and a traveling Family Child Interaction Learning program provided in local shelters, public housing facilities and neighborhoods. Danny has over 15 years of K-12 teaching experience in the Hawai'i State Department of Education, Hawai'i Association for Independent Schools, and the school system in Japan. He is one of two active male National Center for Family Literacy Certified Trainers in the nation.

**Thelma French, President & CEO, Total Community Action, Inc**

Thelma Harris French is the President/CEO of Total Community Action, Inc., the city's federally designated anti-poverty agency, and Head Start grantee. As a champion and advocate for early childhood development, quality and equitable education and employment opportunities, Mrs. French serves as the Secretary of the Board of the Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN), and a member of the Steering Committee of the New Orleans Early Care & Education Network (NOEEN) and a board member of BENOLA. Her public administrative experience includes serving as Director of Board Operations and Intergovernmental Relations for the Orleans Parish School Board, Executive Assistant for Federal and State Programs for former mayors Marc Morial and Ray Nagin. Ms. French has also served as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice. She is a member of the National Community Action Partnership, the Alliance for Children and Families, the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, the New Orleans Workforce Development Board, the Association of Community Action Partnership of Louisiana; Orleans Parish Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Providence Community Housing, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.