

Who we are



Mary Ann Burke, Ed.D.

Mary Ann Burke, Ed.D., Digital Education Expert, is an intervention and substitute teacher for Oak Grove School District in San Jose, California and the author of *STUDENT-ENGAGED ASSESSMENT: Strategies to Empower All Learners* (Rowman & Littlefield: 2020). Dr. Burke creates social-emotional projects and digital language arts teaching K – 12 activities for teachers and parents. She is the Cofounder of the Genparenting.com blog. Burke is the former Director II of Categorical & Special Projects for the Santa Clara County Office of Education that supports 31 school districts serving 272,321 students in Santa Clara County. She is also a previous Director – State & Federal Compliance for Oakland Unified School District, the former Director – Grantwriter for the Compton Unified School District, and was the initial VISTA Director for the Community Partnership Coalition in southern California. Much of her work focuses on creating innovative digital trainings and partnership programs for teachers and families to support

students' learning. These programs were featured as a best practice at a National Title I Conference, California's Title I Conferences, AERA Conferences, an ASCD Conference, the NASSP Conference, and statewide educator conferences.



Ruth Cook, Ph.D.

Ruth E. Cook, Ph.D. is a professor emeritus and was director of special education at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. Formerly, she was a professor director of two inclusive campus preschool programs at Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles and at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. These experiences prompted her to be the lead author of *Adapting Early Childhood Curricula for Children with Disabilities and Special Needs*, now in its 10th edition. In addition, she is the lead author of strategies for *Including Children with Special Needs in Early Childhood Settings* and *The Art and Practice of Home Visiting*. While theoretically retired, she is busily involved in advocating for the inclusion of all children no matter their differences.



Danielle Gentry

Danielle's first step in education did not begin with education at all. It began with her first love for science. She received a B.S. in Biological Science, with a concentration in Molecular Biology. Her five years of experience as a chemist in the biotech industry at SYVA and Dade Behring Diagnostics include both areas of quality control and research and development. Her contributions were qualifying products for release to sell to the diagnostic market as well as developing new diagnostic technology for immunoassay detection. Danielle's subtle transition to discovering her passion for education was through the birth of her daughter. She became a stay at home mom. Her uber volunteerism at her daughter's elementary school gained her access to her path of education. She now holds a multiple subject teaching credential and M.A. in Education from National University. She has over ten years of experience at Sakamoto Elementary School as an educator in kindergarten, sixth grade, second grade, and a 2/3 combination class. Her teaching is rooted in a constructivist model while fostering independence and accountability in the classroom.



Laura Greenstein, Ed.D.

Laura Greenstein has been an educator for over 30 years serving as a teacher, department chair, and school leader in multiple grades and subjects. She combines this background with her experience as a school board member and professional development specialist to bring fresh and original ideas to educators about teaching, learning, and assessing. She consults with schools and districts and presents at workshops and conferences locally and nationally. As an adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut and the University of New Haven, she teaches Human Development and Assessment to undergraduate and graduate students and more recently, Teaching, Learning, and Assessing with Technology in the 6th year Digital Literacy program. She has a B.S. from the University of Connecticut, an M.S. from the State University of New York at Oneonta in education, a 6th year from Sacred Heart University in administration, and an Ed.D. from Johnson and Wales University in Educational Leadership. Her website, <http://www.assessmentnetwork.net>, is a valuable source of information on issues and topics in assessment. She is the author of multiple books on assessment including *What Teachers Really Need to*

Know About Formative Assessment, Assessing 21st Century Skills: A Guide to Evaluating Mastery and Authentic Learning, Restorative Assessment: Strength-Based Practices to Support all Learners, and Sticky Assessment: Classroom Strategies to Amplify Student Learning.



Joyce Iwasaki

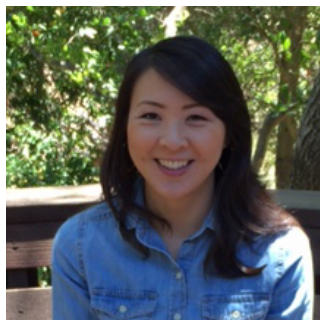
Joyce Iwasaki has over thirty years of educational experience working with diverse students in grades from preschool through high school. Joyce's extensive background includes teaching elementary school, serving on early childhood advisory boards, and advocating for educational initiatives as a legislative aide. During her tenure as a legislative aide, she helped create legislation that allowed incarcerated mothers to keep their newborn babies with them while in prison. Additional legislation was enacted to allow incarcerated pregnant mothers to remain unshackled during labor and delivery. Ms. Iwasaki established and served as the president of an educational scholarship foundation for fifteen years. Her foundation awarded college scholarships to emerging student leaders who provided service to their schools and

communities. Joyce is active in performing arts and cultural organizations. She also provides ongoing support to her daughter and family by raising her grandson in her home.



Yvette King-Berg

Yvette King-Berg, is the Executive Director of Youth Policy Institute's Charter Schools. She was the former California Charter Schools Association Vice-President of School Development and Outreach-Southern California. Ms. King-Berg has over thirty years of experience working with teachers, students, parents, and organizations in a variety of positions including Director, Assistant Director, Curriculum Advisor, Bilingual, and Title 1 Coordinators, classroom teacher (K-12) in Pasadena and LAUSD. She has been married for twenty-three years, and is the proud mother of her son, EJ, who attends UC Berkeley.



Jaime Koo

Discovering the joy of teaching while in high school, Jaime pursued her B.A. in English at Santa Clara University. She also received a teaching credential and a M.A. in Education Administration from Santa Clara University. Jaime taught English Language Arts at Rancho Middle School, motivating and inspiring young people to become effective communicators and contributors in their community. From being a Middle School English Language Arts/English Language Development teacher to becoming a stay-at home mom, Jaime is an education consultant who presents literacy workshops. Her workshops focus on a combination of her ten years of teaching expertise with tried-and-true experiences that she uses with her own children. Jaime is also a Teacher Consultant with the San Jose Area Writing Project. Jaime's mission is to share effective reading and writing strategies with families to encourage literacy.



Rosemarie Pérez

Rosemarie Pérez has worked with English learners and their families in public education for more than twenty years. She has served as a bilingual teacher, professional developer, and district administrator. Administrative roles included serving as the Director of English Learners for an elementary school district and as a Coordinator of Reading and Language for the San Mateo County Office of Education. Rosemarie continues to work with families as she leads the Santa Clara County Office of Education's Parent Engagement Initiative during the past three years. Ms. Pérez provides expert guidance to teachers, school site staff, and school administrators in creating culturally sensitive parent training modules and academic curricular units. She facilitates parent education and Common Core Standards workshops. Engaged parents are further trained to become parent leaders and advocates. Rosemarie is the mother of five adult children and three grandchildren.



Karen Salzer, Ph.D.

Karen Salzer has over thirty years' experience as a resource teacher in the Palo Alto public schools. She earned a doctorate in education from Stanford University. Her areas of expertise involve working with culturally diverse students with special needs including autism, emotional disturbances, learning disabilities, and health issues. As a special educator, Ms. Salzer served as a liaison between parents of special needs students and school staff. She guided parents and staff in identifying an appropriate education for each student in the public school setting. Additionally, she aided students and parents in navigating the educational requirements for graduation, test-taking and in finding support services within the community. Through her leadership, Ms. Salzer encouraged collaborative problem-solving between parents and school staff – such as accommodations for test taking, extended time and use of technology. She loves to follow-up with her students when they become adults and to highlight their many successes in education and careers. Ms. Salzer uses these success testimonials to reassure parents of other children and to encourage them to help their children

pursue their full potential. Ms. Salzer is the mother of four adult children and helps care for her five grandchildren



Denise Williams

Denise Williams recently retired from Evergreen School District where she served for 35 years as a teacher, computer instructor, literacy coach, principal and director. As the Director of Instruction, Denise was responsible for state and federal programs enabling her to be an advocate for historically underserved students and English language learners. Denise is very intentional and passionate around her equity work ensuring that all students and parents receive what they need to be successful in the 21st Century. Additionally, she facilitated Title 1, and Title III Program assessments, Professional Development for teachers and administrators as well as the coordination of the district Parent Involvement Program. Her work in the community empowering parents to be successful with their children led to Evergreen receiving the state's Golden Bell Award and the County's Kristy Porter Award for Parent Engagement. Denise was also the recipient of the 2019 NAACP Emmitt Dollarhyde Award

for her work to enhance the educational wellness of the school community. Denise has now joined the Silicon Valley Education Foundation as the Chief Programs Officer and continues to provide equitable structures for students who are underserved through the implementation of innovation programs that ensure students are prepared for 21st Century College and Career.