

**Speaker Bios**  
**Virginia Board of Education Work Session**  
**March 27, 2013**

**Kimberly Bridges**

Through her work in the nonprofit, civic, and public sectors, Kim Bridges has led efforts in advocacy, community engagement, fiscal and operational oversight, and governance best practices. She is currently co-chair of the Virtual Learning Task Force and a government relations consultant to the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA). Prior to working with VSBA, Ms. Bridges was elected to the Richmond City Public School Board, serving for six years and two terms as Board Chair. During her board tenure, she also worked as Communications Coordinator for FeedMore, the umbrella organization of the Central Virginia Food Bank and Meals on Wheels. Ms. Bridges has a degree in English and communications from the University of Virginia and is completing her master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Richmond.

**Kevin Dean**

Kevin Dean is the Academic Account Manager for Microsoft in Virginia. Since joining Microsoft's education team in Virginia in 2005, he has worked with schools and universities throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. In his role working directly with schools, he is able to combine his passion for education and technology, working to transform education by leveraging technology in the classroom. Prior to joining Microsoft, Mr. Dean taught at the university level in classroom and online environments, with a focus on technology and automation. He holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a master's degree in business administration from James Madison University.

**David Edwards**

David Edwards is the Quality Assurance Director of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL). His breadth of leadership experience spans K-20 education. Mr. Edwards was responsible for designing and launching the distance learning program for Lenoir Community College in Kinston, North Carolina, and later assumed the role of Director of the Technology Division of Lenoir County Public Schools. In 2006, he was appointed to the Advisory Board for the North Carolina Virtual Public School. Mr. Edwards later served as the Chief Communications and Professional Learning Officer for five years at the North Carolina Virtual Public School, propelling it to become the second largest state virtual school in the United States. He is the President/CEO of Ignite Learning Partners. Mr. Edwards holds a master of arts in education from East Carolina University and a bachelor of science in business and organizational development from Mount Olive College. He holds a facilitative leadership certificate from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Find him on Twitter @eduk8andlead.

**Ann Flynn**

Dr. Ann Flynn is Director of Educational Technology and State Association Services at the National School Boards Association (NSBA). Since 1992, Dr. Flynn has supported NSBA's leadership role in education technology across teaching and learning, administrative operations, and community and parental outreach efforts. She directs NSBA's annual series of site visits

showcasing TLN school districts with exemplary technology practices; research projects including the annual Digital District Survey and the 2007 study, *Creating and Connecting*, that encouraged an open dialogue among K-12 policymakers and educators about the use of Web 2.0 tools for learning; and the annual “20 to Watch” recognition program celebrating the next generation of leaders who are using technology to inspire their colleagues and transform the learning experience. She is active in D.C. coalitions that address technology issues impacting K-12 education and remains engaged with the corporate community through projects like the Technology Innovation Showcase designed to highlight emerging technology companies.

Dr. Flynn developed a two-hour online course for school boards about current technology trends in K-12, authored “The Role of a School Board in the Purchasing Process” for *The Experts' Guide to the K-12 School Market*, and is currently a columnist for the *American School Board Journal*, writing about the intersection of technology and leadership. Prior to joining NSBA, she was on the faculty of Louisiana State University and worked in the education travel industry. Her degrees include a bachelor of science in education and a master’s of education from the University of Arkansas and an Ed.D. from the University of Virginia.

### **W. Lewis Johnson**

Dr. W. Lewis Johnson co-founded Alelo while he was director of the Center for Advanced Research in Technology for Education (CARTE) at the Information Sciences Institute of the University of Southern California. While at USC, his work on Tactical Language won DARPA's Significant Technical Achievement Award. He joined Alelo full time in 2007 to focus on helping the company pursue its mission of helping people throughout the world to communicate more effectively. He is an internationally recognized leader in innovation for education and training. In 2012, he was keynote speaker at the International Symposium on Automated Detection of Errors in Pronunciation Training in Stockholm and was named co-chair of the Industry and Innovation Track of the Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED) 2013 conference.

Dr. Johnson has been a leading researcher in artificial intelligence technologies for education and training environments, and animated pedagogical agents for over 25 years. As the CEO and Chief Scientist at Alelo, he is revolutionizing foreign language and cultural education through advanced computer-based learning technologies.

He earned a bachelor of arts summa cum laude in linguistics from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in computer science from Yale University. Some of his publications may be found at [www.alelo.com/publications](http://www.alelo.com/publications).

### **Mark Nixon**

Mark Nixon serves as Vice President of Sales for LoudCloud Systems, focusing on improving teaching and learning outcomes through behavioral analytics and social persistence in the K-12, higher education, and professional development arenas.

Mr. Nixon began his 25-year education career as a Business Administrator for both Creighton School District and Peoria Unified School District in Phoenix, Arizona. From there he worked for National Computer Systems (NCS) serving as a Trainer, Applications Consultant, Sales Representative, and District Sales Manager, where he also sold and managed the statewide

implementation of the West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS). From NCS, Mr. Nixon led BDM's Education Technology Division focusing on technology consulting services for K-12 school districts. At America Online, he spent five years leading AOL's Education Division and the creation of the AOL@SCHOOL service. He then led the \$300M Sales & Marketing division of Pearson Educational Measurement, the industry's leading state assessment provider, developing and processing all K-12 state assessments for programs in California, Texas, Florida, Michigan, Georgia, and Virginia, among others.

Mr. Nixon is a proud graduate of Youngstown State University, in beautiful downtown Youngstown, Ohio, with a bachelor of science in business administration.

### **Susan Patrick**

Susan Patrick is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL), the leading voice for the emerging field of online and blended learning. Representing a diverse cross section of K-12 education, including school districts, educators, state education agencies, universities, education reformers, and a variety of content and technology providers, iNACOL serves the field through education and advocacy aimed at building the capacity of online and blended learning professionals, publishing national quality standards and shaping the direction of the field as a whole. In 2011, she was named to the International Advisory Board for the European Union program for lifelong learning/virtual education.

Ms. Patrick is the former Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to that, she worked for Governor Hull in Arizona as legislative liaison on technology policy issues. She was a Site Director for Old Dominion University's TELETECHNET distance learning program.

Ms. Patrick holds a master's degree from the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and a bachelor's degree from the Colorado College. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Colorado College in 2011. She was the first woman to play in the men's intramural football league at the Colorado College.

### **Allison Powell**

Dr. Allison Powell is the Vice President for State and District Services of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) which provides expertise and leadership in K-12 online learning. Before joining iNACOL, she taught in both face-to-face and online K-8 environments. She helped build the Clark County School District's Virtual High School and an online professional development program for the Nevada school district. Dr. Powell has served as a board member for several organizations and universities. She completed her doctorate from Pepperdine University in educational technology.