



2025 PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Members of the Programming advisory board committee share their time and expertise by evaluating proposed sessions submitted via PanelPicker. The board's participation weighs heavily in the overall session programming of the event.

** SXSW EDU Founding Board Member*

Adam Gismondi

Director of Impact,
Institute for Democracy
& Higher Education,
Tufts University
Medford, MA

AJ Crabill

Coach, CGCS
Austin, TX

Akua Kouyate-Tate

Vice President,
Education, Wold Trap
Foundation for the
Performing Arts
Vienna, VA

Alan Buller

Internship
Coordinator/Advisor,
FEDC TechStart
Cañon City, CO

Alex Chandler

Chief Communications
Officer, AVANCE
Cedar Park, TX

Alli Lee

Vice President,
Programs, Book Trust
Denver, CO

Amber Oliver

Managing Director,
Robin Hood Learning +
Technology Fund, Robin
Hood Foundation
New York, NY

Anita Givens*

Associate
Commissioner for
Standards and
Curriculum, Texas
Education Agency
(retired)
Austin, TX

Anna Belle Burleson

Assoc Director of
Disability Services, SAFE
Alliance
Austin, TX

Annette Q. Pedersen

Senior Consultant
E-learning, University of

Copenhagen

Copenhagen, Denmark

Benjamin Powers

Director, Global Literacy
Hub at Yale Child Study
Center
New Haven, CT

Beth Carls

CEO, Co-Founder,
OneSeventeen Media
PBC
Austin, TX

Bruce Douglas

Co-Founder, Frame
Change
Chicago, IL

Caroline Vander Ark

CEO, Getting Smart
Federal Way, WA

Charles Hopkins

Director, Teaching &
Learning, Council on
Foreign Relations
New York, NY

SXSW EDU

Chiho Feindler

Chief Program Officer,
Save The Music
Foundation
New York, NY

Director, On Balance
Parenting
Naperville, IL

Broadcasting
Washington, D.C.

Chris Hopper

Technology Director,
Lone Star Learning
Austin, TX

Dan Gilbert

Founder and Principal,
Gilbert+Chittenden
Omaha, NE

Drew Davidson

Director & Teaching
Professor, Carnegie
Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA

Christian Martinez

Founder, Camino
Program
Oakland, CA

Dan LaSota

Instructional Designer,
University of Alaska
Fairbanks
Fairbanks, AK

Elizabeth Gossens

Consultant, ESG
Strategic
Historic New Castle, DE

Clyde Boyer*

CTO, Trinity Education
Group
Clarksville, MD

Dan Ryder

Director of Design &
Innovation, Community
Regional Charter School
Skowhegan, ME

Elizabeth Newbury

Director, Serious Games
Initiatives, The Wilson
Center
Washington D.C.

Corinne Weisgerber

Associate Professor of
Communication & PR,
Concordia University
Austin, TX

David Anderson*

Education Lobbyist,
HillCo Partners
Austin, TX

Emily Kotecki

Principal & Founder,
High Beam Strategies
Raleigh, NC

Cory Colby

Professor of Political
Science / SGA Faculty
Advisor / ATPE Past
State President, Lone
Star College - Tomball
Tomball, TX

David Conover

Teacher, PFISD
Austin, TX

Eric Nentrup

Writer & Filmmaker,
Stoked for Learning
Indianapolis, Indiana

Cynthia Burrow

Owner, Strategic
Education Solutions
Holliston, MA

David Roberts

Gifts Manager,
Foundation
Communities
Austin, TX

Erik Woning

Project Manager
Innovation, ROC
Mondriaan
The Hague, The
Netherlands

Dagmar Kauffman

Founder & Executive

Devon Tutak

Direcotr, Ready To Learn
Community
Engagement,
Corporation for Public

Felice Nudelman*

President, Net Edge
Training, LLC
Beavercreek, OH

SXSW EDU

George Rislov
Emeritus, Retired
Burnet, TX

Education, University of
Central Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas

Manager, zSpace
Corea, ME

Greg Weatherford II
Youth Empowerment
Program Officer, The
Allstate Foundation
Frisco, TX

Jessica Slusser
Vice President of
Growth & Impact,
Getting Smart
Federal Way, WA

Justin Nguyen
Founder/President,
Declassified Media
Orlando, FL

Honorita Starbuck
Assistant Professor of
Practice, The University
of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX

Jodi Lis
Vice-Chair, IEEE IC
Industry Consortium on
Learning Engineering
Washington, DC

Kathy Blankenship
Teacher, Kelly Lane
Middle School
Pflugerville, TX

Hugh Norwood*
CEO, Trinity Education
Group
Clarksville, MD

Joel Thierstein*
Teacher, Cincinnati
Public Schools
Cincinnati, OH

Kathy Hurley*
CEO, Kathy Hurley
Consulting
Punta Gorda, FL

Jacqueline Gardy
Virtual Engagement and
Materials Development
Specialist, Office of
English Language
Programs
Washington D.C.

John Fitzpatrick*
Executive Director,
Educate Texas
Austin, TX

Kay Gallagher
Communications
Specialist, Westat
Rockville, MD

James Miles
CEO, Fresh Professor
Seattle, WA

John McKenna
Associate Professor of
Special Education,
University of
Massachusetts Lowell
Lowell, MA

Kelvin Chan
Executive Director, Black
Family Philanthropies
New York, NY

Jeff Wayman
President, Wayman
Services, LLC
Austin, TX

Julie Dierberger
Paul Sather
Distinguished Director,
University of Nebraska
at Omaha
Omaha, NE

Kierstan Schwab*
Executive Director,
Texas PBS
Austin, TX

Jessica Herring-Watson
Assistant Professor; 1:1
Mobile Learning
Coordinator - College of

Julie Willcott
Education Products

Kirsten Hund
Program Director, The
Holdsworth Center
Austin, TX

Kristen Procko
Associate Professor of
Instruction, The
University of Texas at

SXSW EDU

Austin
Austin, TX

New America
Washington D.C.

of Performance,
Visualization & Fine Arts
Austin, TX

Kwee Lan Teo
Head of Workforce
Development, Samsung
Austin Semiconductor
Austin, TX

Lizzy Perez
Founder/Owner, Lizzy
Pérez LLC
San Antonio, TX

Meredith Crawford
Senior Program
Coordinator, The
University of Texas at
Austin
Austin, TX

Lakita Edwards
Arts Education Program
Specialist, National
Endowment for the Arts
Washington, DC

Lori Gracey*
Executive Director, TCEA
Austin, TX

Michael Crawford
Vice President of
Strategic Initiatives,
America Succeeds
Novi, MI

Langston Clark
Associate Professor,
The University of Texas
at San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

Mallory Tuominen
Chief Program Officer,
World Savvy
Minneapolis, MN

Michael DiMaggio
Vice President, Strategic
Partnerships &
Development,
KnowledgeWorks
Cincinnati, OH

LaToya Rush
Program Director for
Surgical Technology,
Concorde Career
College
North Hollywood, CA

Mark Rogers
Teacher, Austin Achieve
Public Schools
Austin, TX

Michael Kleba
Teacher, Leaders Don't
Lead
Brooklyn, NY

Lauren Lutz-Coleman
Director of Education,
Shoelace Learning
Scotch Plains, NJ

Martin Moran
Head of Program & Lead
MS/US Designer,
Bennett Day School
Chicago, IL

Michael Mills
Associate Dean,
University of Central
Arkansas
Little Rock, AR

Lindsey Own
Makerspace
Coordinator, The
Evergreen School
Seattle, WA

Mary Murphy
Herman B Wells
Endowed Professor;
Author; Founder & CEO,
Equity Accelerator
Bloomington, IN

Michelle Wallis
Executive Director,
Austin Ed Fund/Austin
ISD
Austin, TX

Lisa Guernsey
Director, the Learning
Sciences Exchange,

Mayet Andreassen
Assoc Program Director
of the BS in
Visualization &
Instructional Asst
Professor, Texas A&M
University at the School

SXSW EDU

Mike Lawrence

Director of Information
& Technology, ABC
Unified School District
Placentia, CA

Robin Lerner

President & CEO, The
Texas International
Education Consortium
Austin, TX

Education
Pike Road, AL

Stephanie Sandifer

Senior Director
Academic Operations &
Professional Learning,
Kenzie Academy from
Southern New
Hampshire University
Houston, TX

Nina Dixon-Mauricia

Senior Director,
Implementation, CORE
Learning
San Diego, California

sam seidel

Director of K12 Strategy
& Research, Stanford
d.school
Oakland, CA

Natalie Minas

Manager of Special
Education Compliance,
Vertex Education
Phoenix, AR

Sara Tahir

Associate Director of
Professional Learning,
Global Online Academy
(GOA)
Austin, TX

Stephen Majors

Chief External Affairs
Officer, Teach For
America
Takoma Park, MD

Noreen Barajas-Murphy

Higher Education
Ambassador, CDW
Claremont, CA

Sarojani Mohammed
Founder & Principal, Ed
Research Works
Austin, TX

Steve Amos

CEO, HealthCode
Austin, TX

Peter Nilsson

Editor, The Educator's
Notebook
Marblehead, MA

Scott Kley Contini
Director of Experiential
Learning, University
Middle School
Memphis, TN

Sualeha Irshad

Learning Designer,
School of Humanity
Mansfield, TX

Rachel Vanausdoll

Multi-Tiered Systems of
Support Facilitator,
Special School District
of St. Louis County
St. Louis, MO

Sheri Lawson

EL Teacher, Hazelwood
West High School
St. Louis, MO

Susan Nozick

Senior Manager, State
Shared Services, K12
Online School
Westminster, CO

Raymond Rose*

Public Policy Chair and
Online Learning &
Accessibility Evangelist,
Texas Digital Learning
Association
Corpus Christi, TX

Stefan Neuber

Founder, MatheX
Petersberg, Germany

Teddy Hartman

Head of Privacy & Data
Policy, GoGuardian
Washington DC,

Stephan Turnipseed

EVP & Chief Strategy
Officer Emeritus, Pitsco

Therese Laux

Educator, EF Academy
Pasadena, CA



Thomas Rodgers

Senior Vice President
and Head of K-12
Communications,
Whiteboard Advisors
Washington D.C.

Todd Groves

Retired Trustee,
www.wccusd.net
El Cerrito, CA

Trisha Callella

Chief Experience
Architect, Lead Learner
Associates
Los Angeles, CA

Wietse van Bruggen

Senior Advisor
Technical Innovation in
Education, Kennisnet
Foundation
Zoetermeer, The
Netherlands



2025 LAUNCH COMMITTEE

Members of the Launch advisory board committee share their time and expertise by evaluating startup applications for the Launch competition, and providing instrumental insight as it relates to the education marketplace.

Amy Looper

COO, Co-Founder ,
OneSeventeen Media,
PBC
Liberty Hill, Texas

Education Design Lab
Washington DC,

Texas
Austin, TX

Eileen Rudden

Principal, Sankaty
Growth Partners
Cambridge, MA

Juanita Soranno

Founder & Executive
Director, CodeConnect
Floral Park, NY

Andy Bell

Chief Executive Officer,
Thinkery
Austin, TX

Erin Mote

Executive Director,
InnovateEDU
Brooklyn, NY

Kent Charugundla

CEO, EAGLE NET LLC
New York, NY

Ashish Chettimada

Founder & CEO, ReAlign
Waterloo, Canada

Kenzie Butera Davis

CEO, Maro
Bozeman, MT

Chris Cook

Senior Director of Sales,
Lexia Learning (a
Cambium Learning
company)
East Grand Rapids, MI

Jennifer Chidsey

Associate
Commissioner of
Organizational
Development, Texas
Education Agency
Austin, TX

Leslie Omaña Begert

Co-founder & Head of
Pedagogy, FabuLingua
Austin, TX

Chris Fancher

Consultant, Chris
Fancher Consulting, LLC
Round Rock, TX

Jessica Falkenthal

Community Experience
Director, Prenda
San Francisco, CA

Lucy Kosturko

Chief Product Officer,
Social Cascade
Raleigh, NC

Clee Upchurch

COO, lead4ward
Austin, TX

Jessica Millstone

Managing Director,
Copper Wire Ventures
New York, NY

Matthew Cohen

Managing Director,
Cohen Strategy Group,
LLC
New York, NY

Don Fraser

Chief Program Officer,

Joan Hughes

Professor, University of

SXSW EDU

Michael Jackson

CEO, Texas Education
Alliance
Austin, TX

Scott Lipton

Consultant/Data
Specialist, The
Holdsworth Center
Austin, TX

Sunil Gunderia

Chief Innovation Officer,
Age of Learning
Glendale, CA

Mike Wang

Head of Platform, Long
Journey Ventures
Oakland, CA

Sean Oakes

Founder & Creative
Director
Brooklyn, NY

Tanya LaMar

CEO, Struggly
Austin, TX

Mike Yates

Senior Managing
Director, Product
Designer, The
Reinvention Lab at
Teach for America
Dallas, TX

Shanna Peeples

Dr. John G. O'Brien
Distinguished Chair in
Education, West Texas
A&M University
Canyon, TX

Taylor McLemore

Managing Director,
Techstars Workforce
Accelerator, Techstars
Denver, CO

Riyaz Gayasaddin

Vice President, Program
& Talent, Camelback
Ventures
Loveland, CO

Steven Freidmutter

CEO, SF Ventures
Ithaca, NY

Ted Kalomiris

Founder, Pivotal Sales
360, LLC
Austin, TX

Yiying Lu

Founder & CEO, Yiying
Lu, LLC
San Francisco, CA