

ARC BIOS – THOUGHTMEET

JUNE 8 (10 AM-12 PM EST): A FOCUS ON TEACHERS

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH ARC SYSTEM

IRELAND, SASKATCHEWAN, WALES, SCOTLAND, URUGUAY, NOVA SCOTIA, ICELAND



CIARA O'DONNELL
IRELAND

Ciara O' Donnell is the National Director of the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST), Ireland's largest national cross-sectoral Continuing Professional Development provider operating under the Department of Education. Ciara is a primary school teacher and has worked in teacher education with the Department of Education's professional development support services since 2005 where she had held a number of curricular and policy leadership roles. Regarding the PDST, she was the Deputy Director for Research, Policy and Development before being appointed National Director in 2013.

Whitney Paul-Joseph is an Arts Educator in a rural k-12 school in Redvers, Saskatchewan, Canada. She is also the President of the South East Cornerstone Teachers' Association (SECTA), advocating for 600+ teachers within the South East Cornerstone Public School Division (SECPSD). Whitney is a Councilor for the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) and has served on various STF committees representing members across the province. She believes advocating for teachers, students, and the profession is vital for the ever changing and complex world of education.



WHITNEY PAUL-JOSEPH
SASKATCHEWAN

Mark Ford is currently on secondment to the Welsh Government as a professional adviser for pedagogy. Mark has worked as a teacher in a number of secondary schools in South Wales for nearly 25 years. For a significant number of these he worked in leadership roles supporting teaching, learning and continuing professional learning. He has worked as a curriculum coordinator and professional development coordinator in two separate local authorities. Prior to starting with Welsh Government, he was the regional lead for school to school collaboration and improvement working with colleagues across primary, secondary and special school settings.



MARK FORD
WALES



**NUZHAT UTHMANI,
SCOTLAND**

Nuzhat is a Scottish Primary teacher, based in Glasgow. She specialises in the teaching of global citizenship and antiracist education. Nuzhat is the founder of a website and organisation called Global Citizenship Education Scotland and home of a Scotland wide Practitioners Network of educators highlighting best practice in this area. Nuzhat also represents her ethnic minority colleagues in Scotland's largest teaching Union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), as a member of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) network and the Antiracist Sub Committee.

Flavia Pereira is a senior language teacher in the secondary school public system in Uruguay. She works in Melo at the school Justino Zavala Muniz, a school that has been working with new pedagogies for deep learning since the beginning of the program. Flavia is a former Fulbright Teacher Exchange participant and has been as a mentor for Fulbright English Teachers Assistants scholars working across Uruguay.



**FLAVIA PEREIRA,
URUGUAY**



**SALLY STEEVES,
NOVA SCOTIA**

Sally Steeves is a grade 7 teacher at a rural elementary school in Nova Scotia, Canada. As part of a provincial team tasked to renew and rewrite curriculum, Sally has worked with other teachers to help change the narrative of what, why, and how students learn in public schools. Her work in curriculum design has been guided by her own education in interdisciplinary science. Her goals for teaching always include creating hands-on, project based learning experiences for students that engage and challenge. In her role as an Instructional Leader, Sally works with teachers and students to build bridges between curricula, expand the integration of technology, and create cross-curricular opportunities for learning.

Brynja Stefánsdóttir is the Curriculum Head for Fjölbrautaskólinn í Breiðholti Upper Secondary School. She was an English language teacher in Spain for the first ten years of her career. She then was a foreign language instructor teaching Danish, English, and Spanish in Iceland for eleven years. Alongside teaching languages, Brynja has also worked to co-create specially designed programs aimed at providing guidance and support to students who do not succeed academically in secondary level schools. Many students have benefited through these programs and were able to further their education throughout secondary school settings.



**BRYNJA STEFÁNSDÓTTIR,
ICELAND**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



LILY ESKELSEN GARCÍA

Lily Eskelsen García is a former 6th grade teacher from Utah whose work in education spans from her beginning as a lunch lady to president of the largest union in the United States, the 3-million-member National Education Association. Her career includes service as her state's Teacher of the Year, as president of the Utah State Retirement system, as her party's nominee for U.S. Congress and as Commissioner for President Barack Obama's White House Commission for Education Excellence for Hispanics.

Dr Peter Kent, Headteacher, Lawrence Sheriff School and Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) Past President. He will be the International Confederation of Principals' President for 2022 and 2023. Peter became first deputy and then headteacher of Lawrence Sheriff School in Rugby, England. During his early years of headship, he pursued a long-standing interest in school culture. He became a National Leader of Education in 2008 and Lawrence Sheriff became a Teaching School in 2012.



PETER KENT, ICP

ARC EDUCATION PROJECT

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