



## **SPEAKER BIOS**

### “Little Minds, Big Tech: AI and its Effects on Child Development, Education, Child Welfare, and the Courts”

**Frederic Reamer, Ph.D.** *School of Social Worker, Rhode Island College*

Frederic G. Reamer has been on the faculty of the School of Social Work, Rhode Island College since 1983. His research and teaching have addressed a wide range of human service issues, including mental health, health care, criminal justice, public welfare, and professional ethics. Dr. Reamer received his Ph.D. (social work) from the University of Chicago. He has served as a social worker in correctional and mental health settings. He has also taught at the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration, and the University of Missouri-Columbia, School of Social Work. Dr. Reamer has served as Director of the National Juvenile Justice Assessment Center of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; as Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor of Rhode Island; and as a Commissioner of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, the state housing finance agency. Dr. Reamer served on the State of Rhode Island Parole Board from 1992 to 2016. He also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Social Work Education. He serves as Associate Editor of the National Association of Social Workers Encyclopedia of Social Work (Oxford University Press and National Association of Social Workers). Since 2012, Dr. Reamer has served as the ethics instructor in the Providence (RI) Police Department Training Academy. Dr. Reamer has conducted extensive research on professional ethics. He has been involved in national research projects sponsored by The Hastings Center, the Carnegie Corporation, the Haas Foundation, and the Scattergood Program for the Applied Ethics of Behavioral Healthcare at the Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania. He has published 26 books and more than 190 journal articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia articles.

**Ying Xu, Ph. D.** *Assistant Professor of AI in Learning and Education at Harvard University*

Ying Xu is an Assistant Professor of AI in Learning and Education at Harvard University. Her research focuses on the design and evaluation of AI systems that support children’s and adolescents’ cognitive development, academic achievement, and social-emotional well-being. Broadly, her work seeks to ensure that AI serves as a positive force for child and youth development while mitigating its potential risks. Xu collaborates closely with children, families, educators, the technology sector, and community organizations to conduct field-driven research that informs educational practice and public policy. She earned her Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, and Technology from the University of California, Irvine. Prior to joining Harvard, she was an Assistant Professor of Learning Sciences and Technology at the University of Michigan.

**Nicole Nugent, Ph.D.** Professor, Research Scholar in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Alpert Brown Medical School

Dr. Nugent holds academic appointments in the Departments of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine and is the Founding Director of the Rhode Island Resilience Lab and Associate Director of the Stress Trauma and Resilience (STAR) Initiative. She maintains her clinical involvement in direct clinical care as the Director of Psychological Services at the Hasbro Children's Hospital Pediatric Refugee Integrated Care Service, a role that informs research efforts that permit translation to intervention across diverse populations. Dr. Nugent has been continuously federally funded since 2009 and has served as the principal investigator or co-investigator on more than two dozen federal grants. Her research is aimed at understanding the interplay of biological and socio-environmental factors on psychological outcomes such as posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors in adolescents during times of stress and transition. Dr. Nugent's work has increasingly focused on the ways that social interactions via digital communication impact adolescent psychological and physical health and wellbeing.

**Diana Freed, Ph. D.** Assistant Professor of Computer and Data Science at Brown University

Diana Freed is Assistant Professor of Computer and Data Science at Brown University, and also a Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School's Petrie-Flom Center, Faculty Associate at Harvard's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Research Associate at the Hire Aspirations Institute at the Harvard SEAS, and a CRA/Microsoft AI Trustworthy Fellow. Her research investigates how digital technologies and AI impact harm and wellbeing, with a focus on intimate partner violence, youth safety, and at-risk populations. She serves on the World Childhood Foundation advisory board and the NYC Mayor's Office to ENDGBV Health and Technology Steering Committee. Her work spans AI, human-computer interaction, security and privacy, digital health, and technology policy, has received multiple awards at leading conferences, and has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, TIME, NPR, PBS, WIRED, and MIT Technology Review.

**Jeannine Nota-Masse** Superintendent, Cranston Public Schools

Mrs. Nota-Masse has served as the Superintendent in Cranston since 2015. She previously served as Assistant Superintendent in Cranston from 2012-2015. Prior to that she served as Executive Director of Educational Programs and Services in Cranston from 2010-2012. Jeannine served as the principal at East Greenwich High School. She also served as assistant principal at Cranston East High School. She began her career as a high school English teacher for the Providence Public Schools. She is also a proud graduate of Classical High School. During her tenure as Superintendent, Cranston has demonstrated a focus on: Eden Park Elementary School's Pathfinder Project which has won two national awards for design. Additionally, this renovation has positively impacted students' attendance, improved student engagement and improved inclusion with students of differing abilities. Expanding Career and Technical Education Opportunities for all high school students by implementing programs at CHSE and the NEL/CPS Construction and Career Academy. These programs are in addition to the CTE Programs at Cranston Area Career and Technical Program at CHSW, that annually have students nationally recognized by Skills USA. Increasing school safety protocols and training for students and staff. Implemented systemwide facility safety protocols, ALICE training, human trafficking and sexual assault training, communications and partnerships with CPD and CFD, CCAP and Day One. Increased effort to communicate and connect with families and staff on a

consistent basis on multiple platforms. Mrs. Nota-Masse has been an active member of the RI School Superintendents Association for nearly ten years. She has been a member of the several subcommittees including work groups with RIDE, the RI State Police and the Governor's office. She was recently elected Secretary of RISSA and has served as a member of the RISSA executive committee. Mrs. Nota-Masse earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree at Rhode Island College and her Master's degree from Providence College in Education Administration.

**Anthony Cottone, Esq.** *Chief Legal Counsel for the Rhode Island Department of Education*

Mr. Cottone is a graduate of Columbia College and St. John's University Law School. He is a member of the bar in four states and before joining the Department of Education's Law Office in 2013, had over twenty-five years of experience as a law firm partner and associate, having worked at the law firms of Hughes Hubbard & Reed in New York City, as well as Flanders + Medeiros, Inc., Corrente, Brill & Kusnitz, Ltd. and Wistow & Barlick, Ltd. in Providence. He has represented clients in a broad spectrum of complex civil litigation and in various forms of alternative dispute resolution; has tried cases in both federal and state court; has argued before the First Circuit Court of Appeals and the Rhode Island Supreme Court; and has written extensively on a variety of legal topics. As Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Education, Mr. Cottone has served as lead trial counsel in various matters, including defending the Department in a case seeking to create a federal right to public education, *see A.C. by Waithe v. McKee*, 23 F.4th 37 (1st Cir. 2022), and most recently, he successfully defended a legal challenge to the Commissioner's *Regulations Governing Protections for Students Rights to be Free from Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression*, 200-RICR-30-10-1. *See Jane Doe v. Angelica Infante-Green*, C.A. No. PC 2025-01610 (Providence Cty. Superior Court). Mr. Cottone has four grown children and currently resides in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

**Thomas Barbieri** *Principal, Cranston High School East*

Thomas is proudly married to his wife, Charlene, and together they have two children, Thomas and Madeline. He currently serves as the Principal of Cranston High School East, which is celebrating its centennial year. With 35 years of dedicated service in Cranston Public Schools, Mr. Barbieri has worked as a teacher at both the middle and high school levels, a coach, and an administrator in both settings. His leadership and commitment to education have earned him recognition as the RIASP Principal of the Year and the Rhode Island Music Educators Administrator of the Year. He also serves on the Executive Board of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Mr. Barbieri's philosophy on education centers on building and maintaining strong relationships among all facets of the educational community and on the belief that success is gained by never standing still.

**Peter Guyon** *Instructional Coach Coordinator, Cranston School Department*

Peter has spent 24 years in Cranston Public Schools and now leads as Instructional Coach Coordinator. An American Federation of Teachers trainer with the National Academy for AI Instruction, he's presented to multiple school districts - including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Florida, Texas, Connecticut, and Ohio - helping educators harness the power of AI to differentiate content, personalize learning and engage all students. Pete has also presented for the Rhode Island Science Teachers Association and the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers. A former adjunct at Rhode Island College, Pete brings practical classroom insight and forward-thinking innovation to his sessions.