

APRIL 17, 2023
NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, DC

WELCOME • 2:00 pm
PANEL + Q&A • 2:30 pm
RECEPTION + NETWORKING • 4:00 pm

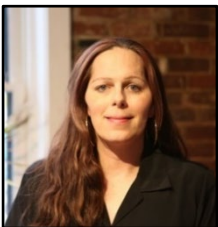
Your Panelists

Terrell A. Blount



Terrell A. Blount is a motivational speaker and activist for justice reform. He advocates for postsecondary education opportunities, quality reentry pathways, and smarter policies affecting justice-involved people. Approaching the completion of a six-year sentence, Blount pursued his goal of graduating from Rutgers University. Today, Blount continues to lend his expertise to the field, participating on steering committees for the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison (AHEP) and the Formerly Incarcerated College Graduates Network (FICGN), and is a board trustee of the Petey Greene Program. He's worked as a program associate for The Vera Institute of Justice, offering his expertise to college-in-prison partnerships under the Second Chance Pell program, and is currently the Higher Education in Prison program officer at the Laughing Gull Foundation.

Jessica Hicklin



Jessica Hicklin is a founder and the CTO of UnlockedLabs, a tech nonprofit whose vision is enshrined in its company motto, "Building a better justice system from the inside out." Hicklin came to this role as a formerly incarcerated individual who spent 26 years on the inside during which time she crafted and facilitated many educational initiatives. In partnership with UnlockedLabs and other currently incarcerated individuals, Jessica's latest project is the creation of a learning management system created by and for justice-involved individuals. When she is not working to advance the presence of post-secondary education in the carceral space, Hicklin is also an advocate for the rights of transfolks. Throughout her incarceration she brought and won two landmark trans rights cases (Hicklin v. Lombardi and Kansas birth certificate case).

Amy Lopez



Amy Lopez began her career in public-school education and then moved to education in carceral settings as the superintendent of education for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. She later initiated education reforms for students in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. In 2016, Dr. Lopez was an Obama-era appointee, chosen to build a school district within the Federal Bureau of Prisons. She then served as the deputy director of college and career readiness and professional development for the DC Department of Corrections, where she designed and implemented innovative academic and workforce development programs for incarcerated students and a post-release employment program for justice-involved individuals returning to the community. She's currently the CEO of Past the Edges Consulting and executive director of Hand2Heart DC, a nonprofit serving returning citizens in the DC area.



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Ken Oliver



Ken Oliver is the executive director of Checkr.org, the corporate social responsibility arm of Checkr, Inc. Checkr.org was created to redefine the narrative around arrest and conviction histories and to build a fairer future of work through Fair Chance skill development, employment, and policy change. Oliver's remarkable journey started in 1996 when he was incarcerated and sentenced to 52 years to life in prison under California's three-strikes law for "joyriding" as a passenger in a stolen car. He spent close to 24 years in prison, but with the help of Stanford University and the corporate law firm Mayer Brown, he won a civil rights lawsuit against the state resulting in a monetary settlement and his release from prison in 2019. Shortly after his release, Oliver became a paralegal at a public interest law firm and then a state policy director. In 2020, he became a co-founder and the executive director of a nonprofit reentry organization created to provide justice-impacted people with housing and to reskill in the technology and knowledge-based economy.

Kiersten E. Todt



Kiersten E. Todt serves as chief of staff at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Todt is responsible for the planning, allocation of resources, and development of long-range objectives in supporting CISA's goals and milestones. She also provides strategic vision, guidance, and direction to CISA's director. Todt brings to CISA extensive experience in cybersecurity, providing strategic advice and counsel to senior leaders in both industry and government on cyber risk management. Her extensive service to the Federal Government includes serving as professional staff in the U.S. Senate and as the executive director of President Obama's independent, bipartisan Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity. Todt's commentary has been featured frequently in national television and print media.

Your Moderator

Kara Arundel



Kara Arundel is a senior reporter at *K-12 Dive*, covering national early childhood through grade 12 topics. Kara has been an education reporter for the past two decades, covering local, state, and federal education issues, including specific reporting on special education, education finance, and early childhood education. *K-12 Dive* is published by Industry Dive, a leading business journalism company with more than 30 publications. In addition to publishing an online daily newsletter, *K-12 Dive* also publishes a weekly newsletter on curricula.

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