

Virtual Community Partner Summit 2020

Tuesday, September 8th, 2020

12:00-2:30 pm

Online via [Zoom](#)

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Hosted by UCA Service-Learning & Volunteerism, UCA Poverty Studies Working Group, Hendrix College, United Way of Central Arkansas, and the Arkansas Community Foundation / Faulkner County

Agenda

- 12:00pm Part I: The Big Picture
- The State of COVID-19 in Arkansas
 - Dr. Joseph Thompson, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement
 - COVID-19 and ALICE
 - Abby Hughes Holsclaw, Arkansas Asset Funders Network
 - COVID-19 and Immigrant Communities
 - Mireya Reith, Arkansas United
- 1:30 pm Part II: Local Responses & Breakout Discussions
- Jennifer Welter - CAPCA Student Market
 - Spring Hunter - Conway Ministry Center Homeless Hub
 - Dr. Phillip Fletcher - City of Hope Outreach

Speaker Information

Dr. Joseph Thompson, President/CEO of Arkansas Center for Health Improvement



Dr. Joe Thompson's work is centered at the intersection of clinical care, public health, and health policy. He leads the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement in its current efforts to address emerging and legacy health issues through individual choice and influential policy.

Dr. Thompson led vanguard efforts in planning and implementing healthcare financing reform, health promotion, and disease prevention efforts in response to health threats from tobacco and obesity, and emergency response efforts during periods of crisis. He worked with Arkansas's executive and legislative leadership and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a creative alternative to Medicaid expansion

under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and led efforts to evaluate the program's results.

Dr. Thompson guided Arkansas's innovative initiatives to improve health system access, quality and cost, including a systematic, multi-payer overhaul of Arkansas's healthcare payment system. He also directed research efforts to assess Arkansas's Medicaid expansion eligibility changes and its community impact. Currently, Dr. Thompson leads development efforts for the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative, overseeing the linked integration of health data from the public and private sectors to improve health system access, quality, and cost.

From 2005–2015 Dr. Thompson served as Surgeon General for the State of Arkansas for Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Republican, and Gov. Mike Beebe, a Democrat. As Surgeon General, Dr. Thompson worked closely with and served as a bridge between the Governor's office, the Arkansas legislature, and public and private organizations across the state to develop relevant health policy initiatives. Previous accomplishments include serving as the lead architect of the Tobacco Settlement Act of 2000 and instituting the Arkansas Health Insurance Roundtable. Under his leadership, ACHI helped pass the Clean Indoor Air Act of 2006, documented the state's success in halting progression of the childhood obesity epidemic, and passed a tobacco excise tax increase to provide funding for more than two dozen health initiatives, including the state's trauma system.

Dr. Thompson has been at the forefront of both Arkansas's leading-edge efforts against childhood obesity and in national efforts to reverse childhood obesity as the former Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity.

Dr. Thompson is a member of the American Hospital Association's Rural Health Insights Leadership Forum and the Delta Dental of Arkansas Board of Directors. Previously, he served for 10 years on the Arkansas Board of Health, 12 years on the Arkansas State and Public

School Health and Life Insurance Board, eight years on the Academy Health Board of Directors, and as past President of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He has authored numerous articles and publications that reflect his research interests in the areas of health and health care.

Dr. Thompson earned his medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was an RWJF Clinical Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Luther Terry Fellow in Preventive Medicine advising the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Health in Washington, DC, and the Assistant Vice President and Director of Research at the National Committee for Quality Assurance in Washington, DC. In 1997, he served as the First Child and Adolescent Health Scholar of the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (then the U.S. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research) before returning to Arkansas.

Abby Hughes Holsclaw, President/CEO of Proper Southern Strategies



Abby Hughes Holsclaw has a deep passion for asset building and financial security issues with diverse experience serving in membership organizations and working in the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. Abby started Proper Southern Strategies to offer nonprofits and philanthropy guidance as they engage and add their voices to the economic opportunity and financial security fields.

As a consultant, Abby serves as a senior director for the Asset Funders Network where she leads the Arkansas Asset Funders Network, co-leads the Louisiana Asset Funders Network, offers thought-leadership to the direction of the organization on the leadership team, and specifically engages southern funders. Before joining the Asset Funders Network, Abby served as the national senior director of philanthropy at Goodwill Industries International, Inc. where she spearheaded the creation of and led the organization's development strategy and the financial capability portfolio. During her time with Goodwill, Abby secured almost \$80 million dollars in private and public investments and helped capture GII's first-ever program related investments. Prior to Goodwill, Abby served at the National League of Cities for six and a half years leading two portfolio areas – family economic success and early childhood –helping mayors and city council members strengthen their family, youth, and children programs.

Abby holds a Masters of Public Policy and Administration from Baylor University, and is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University with degrees in Political Science and History.

Mireya Reith, Executive Director of Arkansas United



Mireya Reith is the Founding Executive Director of Arkansas United, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering immigrants and their communities through immigrant rights advocacy and closing service gaps. Founded in 2012, Arkansas United boasts a network of over 200 immigrant organizers and 800 members in 17 communities across Arkansas, operates regional immigrant resource centers in Springdale and Little Rock, and represents Arkansas in leading, national coalitions advancing comprehensive immigration reform, Latino and Asian civic engagement and immigrant integration.

Reith spent the first 14 years of her career in the field of international political development, working across five continents with American nonprofit organizations, Peace Corps-El Salvador and the United Nations to engage marginalized communities in democratic processes. In 2010, Reith began to explore how to bring these international experiences to her home state after her involvement in launching a Latino-Marshallese nonprofit leadership academy and directing Hispanic voter outreach in election campaigns. Despite promises that year to pass a federal DREAM Act, both Arkansas senators were key, swing votes, denying a pathway to citizenship to undocumented youth. Reith was personally inspired by the Arkansas DREAMers who continued to rally the Hispanic vote, and found her voice as a community organizer, determined to ensure that Arkansas also showed-up for the DREAMers and all immigrants who wanted to call Arkansas home. Having first-hand experienced racism as the daughter of a Mexican immigrant, Reith continues to strive to connect Arkansas and immigrants to the broader movement for social justice, grounded in the beliefs that equity is the key to achieving our collective potential, and immigrants themselves can and should be change agents and decision-makers. In 2011, Reith served her state as the first Latina appointed to the Arkansas State Board of Education, and became, in 2016, the youngest person in state history to chair the State Board.

Reith has been awarded: Fayetteville Schools Foundation Hall of Honors (2019), Washington County Historical Society's Woman of the Year (2019), Cox Communications Local Hero Award (2018), Arkansas Business Arkansas 200 (2017), the University of Arkansas Latino Alumni Society Individual Excellence in Advancing Latinos Award (2017), the Democratic Party of Arkansas Chairman Award (2017), Seis Puentes Community Activist of the Year Award (2016),

Mexican Consulate in Little Rock Hispanic Woman Champion Award (2014), the White House Cesar Chavez Champions of Change Award (2013), Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families Sister Joan Pytik Child Advocate of the Year (2013) and the Arkansas Times 40 Most Influential Arkansans (2012).

Reith has proudly also served on the Board of Directors for: the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM, is the current co-chair), the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), the Movement of Immigrants in America (MIA), Ozark Center for the Arts' Latin/x Youth Theatre Project, Faith Voices Arkansas, University of Arkansas-Little Rock Anderson Institute on Race and Ethnicity, the Northwest Arkansas Housing Committee and Arkansas Teachers Corp.

Reith received her Master's in International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University (NY), concentrating in Economic and Political Development, and earned her BA in Political Science and Spanish from Williams College (MA). Reith currently resides with family in her hometown of Fayetteville, Arkansas, where she is an avid runner with her Lakeland terrier Louie and passionate salsa dancer.



Jennifer Welter, Executive Director of Community Action Program for Central Arkansas

Jennifer Welter has been a resident of Conway for 30 years. Originally coming to the area to attend UCA, where she obtained a degree in Business Administration and met her husband. Currently, their three sons are following their parents footsteps and attending UCA.

Jennifer's education and passion to serve lead her to the Community Action Program for Central Arkansas where she currently serves as the Executive Director.



Spring Hunter, Executive Director of the Conway Ministry Center

While **Spring Hunter** was formally trained in Rehabilitation Science and Psychology, her real education in the world of poverty and life transformation came from her own personal journey. Because of her experiences related to escaping generational poverty and disfunction, she brings a unique set of skills, knowledge, and understanding to the practice of case management and community development. Spring and her husband, Charlie, are embracing life to the fullest. They are raising four young children, serving at the Conway Ministry Center, and Charlie is currently working on psychiatry rotation at UAMS. Spring and her family are passionate about helping others escape poverty and destructive patterns while discovering their own potential to be the best they can be.

Dr. Phillip Fletcher, Executive Director of City of Hope Outreach



Phillip Demond Fletcher is the founder and director of CoHO, a nonprofit organization in Conway, Arkansas as well as the founder of Humanity Matters, an organization engaged in teaching people what it means to be fully human from a Christian perspective. Phillip frequently speaks and writes on issues concerning faith, non-profit leadership, and issues related to race and poverty. He is the author of two books which include *The Excellence of God: Essays in Theology and Doxology* and *Created in Freedom: Poverty and Economics*. He has served as an appointee by Governor Asa Hutchinson to the 20th Judicial District Criminal Detention Facilities Review

Committee. He currently serves as an appointee to the City of Conway Homeless Taskforce. He is a graduate of Arkansas State Chamber Leadership Class XII.

He holds an B.A. in Ethnic Studies from U.C. Riverside, M.A. in Theology from Liberty University, and a doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Regent University.

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