



## Can High-Impact Tutoring Help Our Students Catch Up?

On Nov. 16, EduTutorVA held a conversation with leading experts about whether our model could help close learning gaps. The takeaways: First, although students are back in school, this is effectively Year Three of the pandemic. Students who were struggling when schools closed are still struggling and achievement gaps are widening. But the encouraging news is that the model EduTutorVA uses: low student-to-tutor ratio, frequent tutoring, and targeted instruction, is the best way to close those learning gaps.

Our audience consisted of community leaders in education, business, and other interested parties. We were honored to have these experts join us:



### **Closing Learning Gaps**

*Meredith Fortner - Executive Director, EduTutorVA*



### **What is Tennessee doing to address K-12 learning loss?**

*Aleah Guthrie - Senior Director of Policy - Tennessee SCORE*



### **How can trained college tutors help students and strengthen the future teaching workforce?**

*Roberto Pamas - Associate Professor of Education Leadership, George Mason University*



### **What solutions are most effective in addressing learning loss?**

*Beth Schueler - Assistant Professor of Education and Public Policy, University of Virginia*



### **How can Virginia partnerships address learning loss?**

*Dietra Y. Trent - Interim Vice President for Compliance, Diversity and Ethics, George Mason University and Former Virginia Secretary of Education*



### **Learning Spotlight:**

***“You are going to be a great teacher.” - Third Grader (Arlington)***

***“I have seen a massive improvement in her math skills and now that she’s in third grade, she is asking more questions as well as challenging herself by choosing larger numbers for equations. I’m honestly in awe of how hard she’s worked so far and how engaged she is from learning.” -Tutor (Arlington)***

November 2021

## Introducing our Executive Director

EduTutorVA is thrilled to introduce our talented part-time Executive Director and Education Coordinator, Meredith Fortner. Meredith holds two degrees in Education, certification in English Speakers of Other Languages and is a National Board Certified Teacher. Her skills as an instructional leader and a career educator have been invaluable. Her enthusiasm for our mission to provide free, virtual tutoring services for students who have experienced learning loss serves us well.



Ms. Fortner is particularly passionate about mentoring our education majors/tutors and growing our cadre of future teachers. You may contact Ms. Fortner with questions or comments about our program: [mfortner@edututorva.org](mailto:mfortner@edututorva.org)



## Thankful for our Expanding Network of Support!

Building a second-year tutoring organization, focused on individualized virtual instruction, across four school divisions- is not an easy task! We have embraced the challenges as we continue to reflect and grow. It is feedback from our teachers, families, and students that sustain as- as we build this important work for the students of Virginia.

We hope you are enjoying our newsletter and if you feel you can support us we encourage you to donate to our growing EduTutorVA venture. Last year, we began with 3 schools, 26 tutors and 65 students. This fall, we have doubled our numbers and are planning to work with Prince William County, our fourth school district. **We are making a difference!**

**Please Stay Tuned!** We are planning our **first** in-person fundraiser gala in late February or early March. More information to follow.

Donate online through our fiscal agent - The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia: <http://www.dfnova.org/donate/edututorva>  
or directly, via the donate tab: [HOME | EduTutorVA](#)  
or by check to *The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia*, citing EduTutorVA in the memo line at: 2940 Hunter Mill Road, Suite 201, Oakton, Virginia 22124

**Wishing You a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!**