

***Building Community Power through Food and
Education Systems Transformation***

**December 5, 2024
10-11am Pacific / 1-2pm Eastern**

Featured Speaker Biography

Tailor Coble

*FoodPrints Early Childhood Program
Manager, FRESHFARM*

Having grown up in Washington DC, Tailor's passions and professional interests are deeply rooted in justice, policy reform, and equity. Her initial interest in food justice, food sovereignty, and nutrition education developed during her undergraduate years at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Tailor's experiences toiling on farms and teaching in urban gardens inspired her to move back home to Washington DC and get involved in the farm-to-school movement. These days she's working to bridge the gap between food access and food education by creating accessible resources and collaborating with community partners to meet their ever-changing needs. Every day Tailor feels lucky to be pursuing a career that allows her to combine her passions for nature, food and community building to promote sustainable food systems!





Ashely Rouse

Executive Director, The Edible Schoolyard Project

Ashley Rouse is the Executive Director of the Edible Schoolyard Project and has been a local food advocate and farm to school leader for a little over 16 years. She previously was the director of Project Learning Garden and Project Giving Gardens for Captain Planet Foundation. Prior to Captain Planet Foundation, she was the Out of School Time sector director for HealthMPowers, where she created a “farm to out of school time” program in partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta. She taught 7th grade life science and K-5th engineering, and founded a rooftop garden with students at Maynard Jackson High School that quickly grew into a garden-to-cafeteria pilot working in

partnership with Sodexo. During her role as the Farm to School director for Atlanta Public Schools she created partnerships with local ranchers and farmers sourcing local meat and produce to serve in all of the district schools. Ashley joined ESY in December of 2022 and is a 2022 Vital Village Community Food Systems fellow, in her spare time she serves on the SGSO Network and Sewn Arts boards, enjoys practicing yoga and meditation and gardening.

Ronda Alexander (Moderator)

*Director of National Partnerships
Vital Village Networks at Boston Medical
Center*

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroiter dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization’s College and Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to



help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional

Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education.