



# PARTNER SUMMIT

Alliance *for* Early Success / 10 Years 



## PARTNER DIRECTORY

OMAHA, NEBRASKA | NOVEMBER 9-10, 2015

## SWATI ADARKAR

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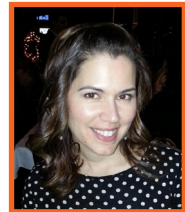


Swati Adarkar has a wealth of experience in research, communications, child advocacy and public policy development, and is a champion for high-quality early care and education for children pre-birth to age 8. She helped found the Children's Institute and has shaped its growth since its inception, first serving as vice president of research and communications. Swati was an instrumental leader in the 2007 expansion of Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten. She conceived the Institute's Early Works initiative, and with David Douglas School District and Mt. Hood Community College Head Start, the Children's Institute launched the first demonstration site at Earl Boyles Elementary School in east Portland in 2010. Swati served on Oregon's first Early Childhood Matters Advisory Council for former Governor Ted Kulongoski and on Governor John Kitzhaber's Early Childhood and Family Investment Transition Team. She received the 2011 Women Leaders of Oregon Award from Portland State University's Center for Women, Politics & Policy, and is a member of the Board of Trustees for Portland State University and the International Women's Forum of Oregon. Prior to joining CI, she advised nonprofit organizations on public policy and communications, served as policy director for Children First for Oregon, and was director of community affairs for Children Now. She has a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor's in Communications Studies from UCLA.

## MIMI ALEDO-SANDOVAL

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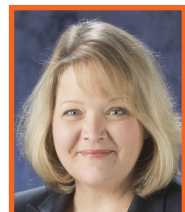


Mimi Aledo-Sandoval is a Policy Director at the Alliance for Early Success. As Policy Director, Mimi leads work to advance home visiting as a strategy for high quality infant toddler programs and services, and directs a portfolio of state and national Alliance partnerships and investments. Mimi has a wealth of local, state, and federal experience and a passion for early childhood issues. Before joining the Alliance, Mimi was a Senior Associate on two Pew Charitable Trusts projects – Pew's Home Visiting Campaign and the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative. Prior to her cross-country move to the metro-DC area, Mimi served as a senior fiscal analyst for the New Mexico's Legislative Finance Committee where she prepared and presented annual budget recommendations to legislative committees for the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department, the Department of Workforce Solutions, and a number of other state commissions and agencies. Mimi is a former policy analyst for the Albuquerque City Council, a mayoral fellow with the City of Chicago, an AmeriCorps volunteer, and a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Fellow. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Salem College in North Carolina and a Master in public policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2006. In 2013, she was selected an NCSL Early Learning Fellow.

## RHIAN EVANS ALLVIN

Executive Director  
NAEYC

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Rhian Evans Allvin, executive director since 2013, is responsible for guiding the strategic direction of the organization as well as overseeing the daily operations. With more than 70,000 members and 300 Affiliate components across the United States, NAEYC serves as the leading voice on behalf of young children and early childhood educators. Before joining NAEYC, Rhian was a guiding force in Arizona's early childhood movement for more than 15 years. In 2006 she co-wrote the citizen's ballot initiative that created First Things First (FTF) which set aside Arizona's tobacco tax monies for children birth to five and created a state agency whose purpose is to ensure all Arizona children start kindergarten prepared to be successful in school and in life. She was then appointed to FTF's state board, where she served for four years before resigning to become the organization's chief executive officer (CEO).

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## LINDA ASATO

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Linda Asato has been with the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network since 2012. She brings over twenty years of successful public sector, non-profit management experience, and a lifetime commitment to child and family advocacy. Linda has extensive experience from community organizing to public administration, and organizational development and incorporates her ground up approach and community connections to the world of policy and public system support. Her work has included serving as Executive Director of Wu Yee Children's Services in San Francisco, a multiservice and child care resource and referral agency, and working in the San Francisco Unified School District as Director of the Intergovernmental and School Linked Services. She also served as Chief Planner for the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and their Families

## BRUCE ATCHISON

Executive Director  
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Bruce is the Executive Director of Policy, and directs early learning initiatives. He brings over 30 years of experience working in education. He has served as: Chief of Staff for a Lieutenant Governor; on a Governors' cabinet and senior leadership team; Executive Vice President of a child advocacy organization; worked in a Governor's Policy Office as the Head Start State Collaboration Director; Executive Director of Denver Public Schools Family Resource Schools; Director of the City of Boulder's Children's Services; and was President and CEO of a nonprofit child care center. He served on the faculty at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado, Boulder as a child development specialist. Most importantly he was in the classroom for more than 10 years. He has been honored as the "Educator of the Year", and he received the Edna Oliver Nancy Swank Early Childhood Lifetime Achievement Award. When not working you can find him fly fishing in the Rocky Mountains.

## LEANNE BARRETT

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Leanne Barrett is Senior Policy Analyst at Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT has provided leadership for several national initiatives, including Getting Ready: the 17-State National School Readiness Indicators Initiative. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is working with the Alliance on peer-to-peer work with other state advocates on issues related to state Pre-K using mixed delivery system.

## JOHN BEBOW

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## CLAIRE BERKOWITZ

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Claire Berkowitz is the Executive Director of the Maine Children's Alliance (MCA) where she partners with the Board, Staff, and key stakeholders to fulfill the organization's mission to advocate for sound public policies that improve the lives of children, youth, and families in Maine. Prior to taking on the leadership role in 2014, Claire managed MCA'S KIDS COUNT Project for over five years. During that time she wrote and produced five editions of the Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book and worked on many other reports, including School Readiness, Head Start, and the 2010 Children's Mental Health Report. Claire moved to Maine in 1996 and worked at Bowdoin College for 8 years, first as the Assistant Director of Institutional Research and then as the Academic Program Analyst for the Dean for Academic Affairs. In these roles she provided research and data analysis to support program assessment and decision making. Before coming to MCA, Claire coordinated a plan to build six units of supportive housing for formerly homeless families in her community. Claire then served as the Executive Director of the Bath Youth Meetinghouse & Skatepark, a one-of-a-kind nonprofit that serves as a safe haven and recreation center for youth in the greater Bath community. Claire holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Mary Washington in Virginia and a Master's in psychology from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania.

## JON-PAUL BIANCHI

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Mindy Binderman is the founding Executive Director of GEEARS, the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students. Mindy leads GEEARS' efforts to inspire and provide leadership for a statewide movement on early learning and healthy development for children ages birth to five. Mindy served as Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs for the Baltimore Jewish Council and as Vice President of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood of Maryland before establishing her own successful lobbying firm based in Annapolis, Maryland in 1999. She was named one of Maryland's Top Women in 2004. Prior to coming to GEEARS, Mindy served as the Advocacy Director of Voices for Georgia's Children from 2007-2010.

## HELEN BLANK

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Helen Blank is Director of Child Care and Early Learning at the National Women's Law Center. Her work focuses on child care and early education issues. Helen currently leads the federal Child Care and Early Learning Coalition and the Strong Start for America's Children Campaign. She has authored numerous reports including an annual report on state child care policies and A Count for Quality: Child Care Directors on Quality Rating and Improvement Systems. Previously, Helen served 24 years as the director of the Child Care and Development Division at the Children's Defense Fund, where she spearheaded advocacy on a variety of efforts to improve early learning policies.

## KRISTI BLOCK

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## LAURA BORNFREUND

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Laura Bornfreund serves as Director of Early and Elementary Education Policy at New America's Education Policy Program. She has authored several New America reports including "An Ocean of Unknowns: Risks and Opportunities in Using Student Achievement Data to Evaluate PreK-3rd Grade Teachers" (2013), and "Getting in Sync: Revamping Licensing and Preparation for Teachers in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and the Early Grades" (2011), and was lead author on "Beyond Subprime Learning: Accelerating Progress in Early Education" (2014).

## CHARLOTTE BRANTLEY

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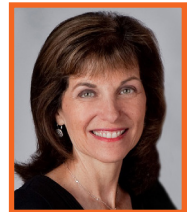


Charlotte Brantley joined Clayton Early Learning in Denver, CO as president and CEO in 2006, after holding a variety of early childhood leadership appointments at local, state and national levels. Previously she taught preschoolers in model early childhood education programs; instructed teachers working toward AA and BA degrees; managed educational initiatives at PBS Kids television; and administered state and federal early childhood policies, programs and funding streams for the state of Texas and in the Clinton Administration. At Clayton Early Learning Charlotte oversees the implementation of the Educare model at Educare of Denver and a second innovative preschool program in Far Northeast Denver. In addition, she oversees the work of the Clayton Institute, working toward improved early education opportunities for all Colorado children by providing and facilitating effective teacher preparation, offering evaluation services to identify and promote promising practices, and designing and advocating for effective public programs and policies. She is a member of the Governor appointed Early Childhood Leadership Commission and co-chairs the Legislation Implementation and the Data and Outcomes Committees.

## MELANIE BRONFIN

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Ms. Bronfin is the Executive Director of the Policy Institute for Children. She has worked extensively in policy and advocacy around children's issues in Louisiana at the state and local level for the past 15 years. Most recently she has focused on the implementation of the Early Childhood Education Act, Act 3 of the 2012 Legislative Session. This latest work has resulted in the state's adoption of two nationally recognized, developmentally-appropriate tools as the assessments for the new accountability structure, the implementation of these assessments gradually through pilots, the statutory requirement for an Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education to the state board of education, the preservation of the high quality standards of Louisiana's pre-k program in statute and the preservation of the School Readiness Tax Credits that support low income working parents to access high quality child care, as well as many other policies. Melanie received her BA from Yale University and her J.D. from Tulane University School of Law.

## ELIZABETH BURKE BRYANT

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Elizabeth Burke Bryant is Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, a children's policy organization that works to improve children's outcomes through policy, advocacy, communications, and data strategies.

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## MICHAEL BURKE

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Michael (Mike) Burke is Vice President of the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, which invests in public education on the first five years of life and learning. Mike has more than 30 years of experience in politics, public relations and philanthropy. He helps the foundation execute its pan-philanthropic strategy to invest in early childhood practice, policy and science, in Nebraska and throughout the United States. Mike spends most of his professional time working with local partners to create new Educare schools and serving on the advisory boards guiding Educare Milwaukee, Educare Tulsa, Educare Oklahoma City, Educare Central Maine, Educare Miami-Dade, and Educare West DuPage. Before joining the Buffett Early Childhood Fund in 2007, Mike oversaw public affairs and communications for several children's organizations, including: the Ounce of Prevention Fund, Voices for Illinois Children, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

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## TIM CARPENTER

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Tim joined the staff in October 1998 to coordinate the Illinois operations, bringing with him eighteen years of experience in issue advocacy, public education, and public relations strategies at the state and national levels. For eleven years, he was the executive director of the Metropolitan Tenants Organization in Chicago, a nonprofit citywide coalition devoted to promoting tenants' rights and the availability, affordability, and quality of rental housing in Chicago. Tim received a bachelor's degree in natural resources from the environmental advocacy program at the University of Michigan.

## CINDY CISNEROS

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Cindy Cisneros is the Vice President of Education Programs responsible for leading CED's comprehensive portfolio that covers the continuum from early education to postsecondary issues. She manages the day-to-day project work for CED's state-based efforts in early education and related research. Prior to working at CED, Ms. Cisneros served as the Director of Stakeholder Engagement at Public Education Network and as a Principal Research Analyst at the American Institutes for Research.

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## **LORI CONNORS-TADROS**

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Lori Connors-Tadros, Ph.D. is the Senior Project Director for the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO). Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Lori provides technical assistance to state education agencies, governor's offices, and other early learning partners across the country to build capacity to implement comprehensive and aligned early learning systems for children birth through third grade

## **SHANNON COTSORADIS**

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As president and CEO, Shannon directs the overall work of KAC. Shannon has been a voice for Kansas children for nearly two decades, joining KAC in 1997. She became president and CEO in 2010. Shannon is from Leavenworth, Kan., and she earned a master's in public administration from the University of Kansas, a master's in child development from Sarah Lawrence College in New York and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Sweet Briar College in Virginia. Her work on behalf of Kansas children has been recognized through the Presidential Volunteer Service Award initiative, the YWCA Women's Leadership Luncheon and the Dental Champions Leadership Program. Shannon is a member of the Kansas Children's Cabinet, Leadership Kansas, the Governor's Children's Health Advisory Committee and the Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality.



## MARIJATA DANIEL-ECHOLS

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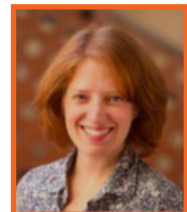


Harriet Dichter provides strategic, organizational and project management services to federal, state and local governments; national, state and local non-profit policy and service organizations; and foundations. With strong policy, analysis, planning, implementation and advocacy experience she works effectively with all stakeholders in the system, including government, foundations, national organizations, teachers and administrators, families, business leaders, providers, and advocates. She brings deep engagement, responsiveness and effectiveness in conceptualizing and executing reforms, innovation and public-private partnerships focused on the needs of young children and their families.

## KATIE DRY

Director, Santa Fe Baby Fund  
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Catherine Dry is the Director of the Santa Fe Baby Fund at the Santa Fe Community Foundation. The Baby Fund is an early childhood initiative that seeks to raise awareness about the critical importance of the prenatal through age four period of life through advocacy, public awareness campaigns, public forums, investment in the nonprofit sector and promotion of philanthropy.

## CLAIRE DUDLEY CHAVEZ

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Claire Dudley Chavez serves as Executive VP for Policy and Stakeholder Engagement for United Way of Santa Fe County and the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership. Previously, Claire served as the Governance Excellence Manager at Presbyterian Healthcare Services where she managed the system's governance system and assisted in the coordination of community health activities. From 2003 to 2011, Claire served as the Child and Youth Policy Advisory to Lieutenant Governor Denish, developing and directing the New Mexico Children's Cabinet. Claire also developed and co-authored the annual Children's Cabinet report card and budget report, which provides a comprehensive overview of state and federal funding.

## DAVE EDIE

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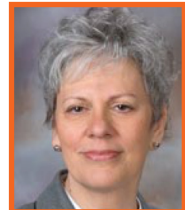


Dave Edie has served as the Early Education Policy Analyst for the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) since 2006. Dave worked in Wisconsin state government for over 20 years, serving as director of the state's Office of Child Care for 10 years, and also as the Director of the Office of Regulation and Licensing. He was the lead child care administrator and planner in state government for most of his tenure in state government. After leaving state government in 2002, Dave worked as an analyst for the Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership and as a consultant for the National Child Care Information Center, before he was hired by WCCF. Dave worked in public elementary schools and as a teacher and director of child care programs in Massachusetts and Indiana early in his career. He is currently a member of the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council, and is co-chair of its steering committee. Dave holds a Bachelor's degree from Amherst College in Massachusetts and a Master's degree in education from Springfield College.

## LEADELL EDIGER

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Leadell Ediger is a founding member of the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA), now known as Child Care Aware of Kansas. She served for two years as the Region V representative to the NACCRRRA Board of Directors and was elected to represent the CCR&R State Networks in 2005. In 2009, Leadell was elected to the position of President-Elect for NACCRRRA and served as President from 2010 through 2011. Leadell has been actively involved in other early childhood organizations working to strengthen all areas of early childhood. She served on the Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children Board of Directors for 3 years, and served on the Kansas Head Start Association Board as a community representative and a state partner.

## ROSE EDZIE

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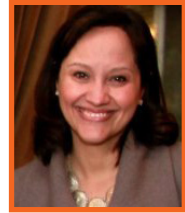
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## WENDY ELLIOTT

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Wendy Elliott is the Coordinator for the Alliance for Early Success. Wendy manages the grant management system, FLUXX and provides administrative support to the Alliance Leadership Team. From 2002-2011 Wendy Elliott was the Vice President of Finance and Administration for Youth Volunteer Corps. In this role she was responsible for developing relationships with various national non-profit organizations, cultivating funding opportunities and provided oversight to the YVC grantee network. Additionally she has authored grants for various non-profits that provided over \$20 million dollars in funding. Wendy earned a Masters of Public Administration from Texas Tech University.

## JENNIFER ESTERLINE

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Jennifer Esterline brings a background in policy, philanthropy, and public service to Frontera Strategy. Jennifer started her career in the Office of Governor George W. Bush and has spent the last decade building connections between public officials, foundations, and nonprofit organizations. Jennifer has served as the head of a private foundation and built the largest consortium of Texas foundations to ever work together on public policy. She received her M.P.Aff. from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

## PETE FESTERSEN

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Pete Festersen was elected to the Omaha City Council in 2009 and re-elected in 2013. He served as President of the City Council from 2013 to 2015 and is President of his own small business, Strategic Business Development, LLC. Prior to serving on the City Council and starting his company, Pete helped shape Omaha's future in senior management positions with the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Mayor's Office, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and Alegent Health, one of Omaha's largest private employers.

## LYNETTE FRAGA

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Lynette Fraga is Executive Director of Child Care Aware® of America, a nonprofit association that leads state and national initiatives to ensure every child has access to high quality child care and early learning experiences. Lynette has 20 years of experience as an educator, program director and executive leader working on behalf of children and families. Prior to this, she served as Vice President of Early Care and Special Populations for Care.com where she led development of public-private partnerships to support services for children with special needs and a lifespan of care options for military-connected families. Lynette has led the development of many national programs including the Early Head Start Family Child Care Initiative, which was the first U.S. Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care Joint Demonstration Project; Coming Together Around Military Families; and the Pathways to Prevention infant mental health initiative. Lynette Fraga is Executive Director of Child Care Aware® of America, a nonprofit association that leads state and national initiatives to ensure every child has access to high quality child care and early learning experiences. Lynette has 20 years of experience as an educator, program director and executive leader working on behalf of children and families. Prior to this, she served as Vice President of Early Care and Special Populations for Care.com where she led development of public-private partnerships to support services for children with special needs and a lifespan of care options for military-connected families. Lynette has led the development of many national programs including the Early Head Start Family Child Care Initiative, which was the first U.S. Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care Joint Demonstration Project; Coming Together Around Military Families; and the Pathways to Prevention infant mental health initiative.

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Katherine Freeman is the President/CEO of United Way of Santa Fe County and the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership. Over the last ten years the focus of her work has been in early childhood education and care. Katherine led United Way's change in mission to focus exclusively on early childhood investment as the greatest opportunity for economic development. She led the development of the Santa Fe Children's Project, a continuum of early childhood programs with an eye toward broadening the footprint for Santa Fe County; and United Way's Mobilization for Education Excellence. Katherine has been instrumental in policy and advocacy work for early childhood that engages business leaders and policy makers.

## JACQUE FRITCH

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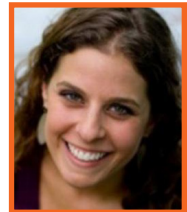
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Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal as Commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) in January 2015 (after serving seven months as Interim Commissioner). As DECAL Commissioner, Jacobs leads the agency responsible for the early care and education of hundreds of thousands of Georgia's children. She oversees an annual budget of \$700 million for programs focused on child care licensing, child and adult care nutrition, child care quality, and early childhood education, specifically Georgia's Pre-K Program. Before joining DECAL, Commissioner Jacobs served as Senior Policy Adviser for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB). She began her career at OPB in 2001 in the planning, research, and evaluation division focusing on strategic planning and program evaluation. Also while at OPB, she served as director of the Education Division and the General Government Division. Before that, she worked for two years in the Georgia Court of Appeals.

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Christine Johnson-Staub is currently the Interim Director of Care and Early Education at CLASP. Over her 20 years in the field, Christine has developed expertise in areas of child care and early education policy including child care subsidy programs and policy, early childhood financing, system building, and state technical assistance. She has authored papers on financing comprehensive services, developmental screening, and other topics, and recently was a co-author on the guide to CCDBG implementation published jointly by NWLC and CLASP.

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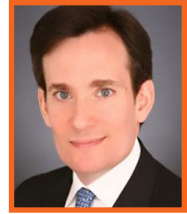
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David Kass serves as the President of the Council for a Strong America, the nonprofit parent of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission: Readiness, Shepherding the Next Generation, ReadyNation, and Champions for America's Future, where he directs their overall operations. Previously, David served as deputy assistant secretary for legislation at the U.S. Department of Housing, managing the agency's Congressional affairs office, and also worked on children's issues as a staff person on Capitol Hill and for several nonprofits.

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Carlise King, M.A. is the Executive Director for the Early Childhood Data Collaborative (ECDC) at Child Trends, an organization aimed at helping state policymakers and practitioners use data to improve the quality of early care and education (ECE) programs. Carlise led ECDC's national survey of states' early care and education data systems and works closely with stakeholders on how coordinated data systems can answer key policy questions to support data-driven decision-making. She regularly directs the delivery of policy consultation and strategic communications that promote the development, implementation, and use of early childhood data systems. Carlise has over 15 years of experience conducting state and national level research on early childhood issues and examining the impact of state and federal policies on parents' access to child care services, licensed child care supply, child care costs, and the child care workforce.

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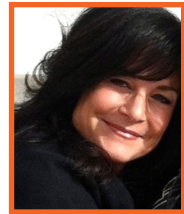
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Jeff Kirsch is a vice president of the Council for a Strong America (CSA), the umbrella organization over five organizations of "unexpected messengers": Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission: Readiness, ReadyNation, Shepherding the Next Generation, and Champions for America's Future. He is responsible for coordinating the organizations' state policy work with allies. Prior to joining CSA, he was Deputy Director and Field Director of the health advocacy group, Families USA; and before that was field director and executive director of the anti-hunger group, FRAC.

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Lisa Klein has over 30 years of experience serving young children and their families in not-for-profit organizations and philanthropy. She is the founding Executive Director of the Alliance for Early Success. Lisa brings 10 years of grantmaking experience to the Alliance, having spent 10 years at the Kauffman Foundation as Manager of the Research and Evaluation Department and Vice-President of Early Education. Lisa was Director of Early Childhood at the Kansas Health Institute, and Principal of Hestia Advising, an independent consulting firm focused on design, development, and evaluation to improve programs and policies for children and families. After earning her Ph.D. in child development and completing a post-doctorate Fellowship in Child and Family Systems, Lisa spent 10 years as a clinician working with children and families experiencing behavioral and mental health challenges.

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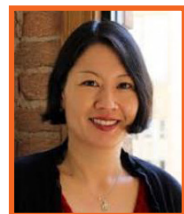
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Kelly Kulsrud is the Director of Reading Proficiency at Strategies for Children. She focuses on their statewide campaign to ensure that children in Massachusetts become proficient readers by the end of third grade. Kelly leads the Massachusetts Third Grade Reading Proficiency Learning Network, comprised of five founding communities who are home to more than 100,000 children, birth to age 9. Kelly serves on the nine-member Massachusetts Early Literacy Expert Panel, established by the legislation An Act Relative to Third Grade Reading Proficiency, and is charged with developing new state policies and policy-based initiatives to support early literacy development.

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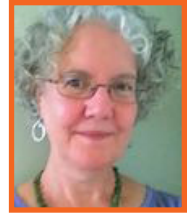
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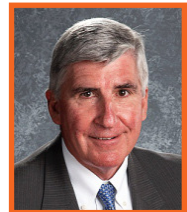
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Jana Martella is the Co-Director for the Center for Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes. Bringing to her work more than thirty years of experience in education, a central part of her focus has been on education system and program improvement through standards-based reform and development, including her work in promoting improved opportunities in early childhood education. She holds masters degrees from San Diego State and Johns Hopkins Universities.

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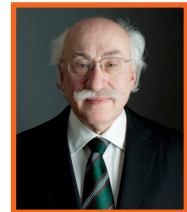
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Todd Murphy is a veteran newspaper and magazine writer and editor and communications strategist. Before joining the Institute in January 2015 he was a senior communications specialist with Oregon Health & Science University, serving as the lead communications strategist for the OHSU Brain Institute. Before that he was a media and communications consultant for education nonprofits, including Chalkboard Project. Murphy has worked more than 25 years in newspaper and magazine journalism, including the Louisville Courier-Journal, and the Portland Tribune, where he reported on education and was also Managing Editor. He holds BA degrees in Journalism and Economics from South Dakota State University.

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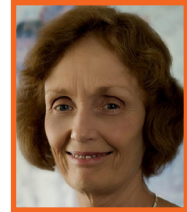


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Amy O'Leary is director of Early Education for All, a campaign of Strategies for Children, an advocacy and policy organization that works to ensure that children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and become proficient readers by the end of third grade. Amy joined EEA in 2002 as the early childhood field director and has also served as the Campaign's deputy director. Prior to joining SFC, Amy worked as a preschool teacher and program director at Ellis Memorial in Boston. In 2011, Amy was elected to the governing board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and served until 2015. She is a member of the Children's Defense Fund Emerging Leader Fellowship and serves on the adjunct faculty at Wheelock College in Boston and Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester.

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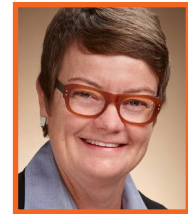
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Kris Perry, Executive Director of the First Five Years Fund, has dedicated her career to bringing resources and support to parents, caregivers, and early learning workforce professionals to ensure children grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life. Kris is a national thought leader on early childhood education, who has appeared in the New York Times, POLITICO, New Republic, Salon, Congressional Quarterly and many other new outlets across the country. Previously, Kris served as Executive Director of First 5 California, a well known and respected advocacy organization for early childhood development on the state and national levels.

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Baji Rankin, Ed.D., has worked in early childhood education for 41 years as a teacher of young children and adults, a researcher, an organizer, a scholar, an administrator, and an advocate. Baji works to develop a well--educated and fairly compensated early childhood workforce, the key to ensuring quality early childhood education. She was one of the first citizens of the U.S. to study and investigate the schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy, starting in 1982. She spent a year in Reggio Emilia in 1989--90, studying the schools, experiencing directly how teachers and children work together to develop curriculum. These experiences have inspired her to find ways of recognizing the amazing capacities of all children, celebrating and supporting the playful inquiries of children, and promoting excellence in early childhood education for ALL children. Since 2004, Baji Rankin has served as Executive Director of NMAEYC, a non--profit membership organization, which administers T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarships and INCENTIVE\$ pay supplements in New Mexico.

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Grace Reef is the Committee for Economic Development's Senior Outreach Consultant working to engage the business community in calling for quality child care and early learning settings. Prior to working with CED, Ms. Reef served as Chief of Policy and Evaluation for Child Care Aware of America and as U.S. Senate Staff Director for the HELP Subcommittee on Children.

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Elliot M. Regenstein leads the Ounce of Prevention Fund's national policy consultation practice and coordinates its overall state and national policy efforts. He has extensive experience in working directly with states on policy development, and is a frequent speaker and author on topics including governance, data systems, and linkages between early learning and K-12. He also partners with the First Five Years Fund to support policy change at the federal level. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Columbia University and a law degree from the University of Michigan.

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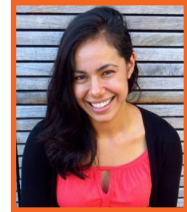
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Marci McCoy-Roth is a partner with True North Group, a policy and communications firm working to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations, primarily young children, adolescents, and youth in foster care. Marci has led several policy and communication issue campaigns, and frequently provides trainings to non-profit organizations on developing and implementing strategic communication plans to advance policy change, with a particular emphasis on using social media. She has designed and implemented several social media campaigns for early childhood issues, most recently the Early Success #Bthru8 campaign, hosted by the Alliance. Before joining TNG, Marci was the Senior Public Policy and Communications Director at Child Trends where she led strategic communication efforts for sharing research and policy with diverse audiences. At Child Trends, she directed a communication contract for the Office of Adolescent Health, in the Health and Human Services Department. Marci has also worked as a research and policy analyst in state government, and has published articles on health and policy issues.

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Jason Sabo is the Founder of Frontera Strategy. Experience matters. After more than a decade working at the Texas Capitol and other state legislatures, Jason has developed a straightforward system for helping nonprofit organizations and philanthropists reach their public policy goals. Jason knows the issues and politics important to nonprofits and philanthropy, and he knows how to win. Jason is a frequent public speaker and is trained in public policy dispute resolution. Jason received his M.A. in History from Indiana University.



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Tonette Salazar joined Education Commission of the States as the director of State Relations in November of 2013. In her role, Tonette coordinates all outreach and relations with ECS commissioners and key policymakers in each state. Prior to joining ECS, Tonette formed Salazar & Associates, an independent lobbying and political consulting firm. During her tenure, she focused on K-12 education and higher education issues and successfully represented school districts, counselors, special education directors, career and technical educators and community colleges on major education reform issues and significant financial restructuring. Tonette received her bachelor's degree in political science and English from the University of Denver and her law degree from the University of Colorado.

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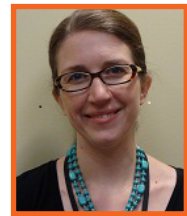
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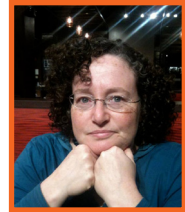


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Deborah (Debbie) Stein has more than 30 years of experience in policy analysis and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable children. In April 2015 Debbie became the first Network Director for the Partnership for America's Children, a network of 54 state and local independent, multi-issue, child advocacy organizations. The Partnership strengthens, connects and inspires its members so that they can better improve the lives of children in their communities and across the country. Previously, Debbie spent nine years at the Hatcher Group, where she was Vice-President for Policy. She developed much of the content for the Casey Foundation's Advocacy Learning Lab (ALL) including: writing and editing policy reports, providing strategic communications services, helping launch Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity, and advocating for better state level data for children.

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Louise Stoney is an independent consultant specializing in early care and education finance and policy. She is a co-founder of both Opportunities Exchange and the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance. Louise has worked with state and local governments, foundations, national policy organizations, early care and education (ECE) providers, industry intermediaries and child advocacy groups in more than 40 states and cities. In addition to leading the national Shared Services movement, Louise is currently focused on effective Quality Rating and Improvement System implementation, innovative ECE policy, and using cost-modeling techniques to inform ECE finance. She has authored several articles for Exchange magazine.

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Cynthia Stringfellow, senior vice president, oversees the Educare Learning Network's approach to implementation assistance, professional development and learning. Cynthia leads the team in design and effective delivery of implementation assistance and professional development for Educare Schools and oversees a comprehensive learning and development system for the Network. Prior to joining the Ounce of Prevention Fund, Cynthia was the director of the Midwest Learning Center for Family Support at Family Focus Inc. and the national director of training and technical assistance for Healthy Families America at Prevent Child Abuse America. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in community and school health education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and her Master of Science degree in counseling and health education from the University of North Texas.

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Angel Taveras served as the Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island from 2011 to 2015. He is credited with rescuing the city from the brink of bankruptcy and eliminating a \$110 million structural deficit. Under his leadership, Providence was recognized with the All-America City Award from the National Civic League for its plan to boost third-grade reading proficiency, was the recipient of a \$3 million award from the Carnegie Foundation to create innovative high schools, and received the City Livability Award at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2014. In addition, Angel won Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge \$5 million grand prize for his innovative proposal to improve the vocabularies of pre-school age children. Angel joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP as a shareholder in February 2015 and focuses his practice on municipal restructuring, public finance, commercial litigation, pension litigation and public infrastructure.

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Kathryn Tout co-directs Early Childhood Research at Child Trends. She is the project director for evaluations of Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) in Minnesota and New Mexico. Through a contract with the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Kathryn co-directs the Quality Initiatives Research and Evaluation Consortium (INQUIRE) – a community of researchers that produces reports and materials to support the design, implementation and evaluation of quality improvement efforts in early care and education.

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Erick Vaughn is Executive Director of the Kansas Head Start Association (KHSA) where he is responsible for guiding the Association to implement its mission to support and strengthen Kansas early learning programs through advocacy, professional development and leadership. Erick is a Kansas LMSW with a concentration in administrative and advocacy practice. He served as KHSA's Fiscal and Program Manager for two years before taking over his current role as Executive Director in August 2013. During his tenure at KHSA, Erick has managed the fiscal operations, including grant reporting and management, and managed and directed the associations' various projects and initiatives that support Head Start programs, children, and families. These projects include various professional development for Head Start staff and parents, home visiting training and coaching, parent health literacy, financial literacy, oral health training and resources, community collaboration support to implement high-quality integrated preschool classrooms, and advocacy for early childhood social emotional services. Prior to joining KHSA, Erick worked for seven years at the state of Kansas mental health department. During his tenure at the state he managed the procurement and monitoring process for grants and contracts for mental health services funded by the state, and later in a different position in the same department was responsible for coordinating inpatient services for children and adults.

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Becky is the Director of First Five Nebraska, an organization that works with the Nebraska Legislature, state agency partners, private partners and early childhood professionals on shaping effective early childhood policies based on best practices. Becky brings over 25 years of experience working as an aide in the Nebraska Legislature and the U.S. Senate, lobbying for the long-term care industry, and developing and administering a statewide program for the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services. She worked in a multi-agency effort during restructuring and redesign of Nebraska's Health and Human Services System, and has also spent time fundraising and working in the area of strategic planning.

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Frank Walter is vice president of strategic communications. He oversees the research and communications team in support of the Alliance for Early Success, including co-leading the communications working group on early childhood communications. Mr. Walter also directs Child Trends communications program including message development, media relations, social media, partner outreach, and graphic and digital communications. He recently led the successful launch of the Child Trends Hispanic Institute, and directed communications for reports on the risks facing young children in military families, state child welfare policies for young children, infants and toddlers, and adverse childhood experiences. He has provided communications consulting to such organizations as Raising A Reader, America's Promise Alliance, Reading Is Fundamental, and Share Our Strength. He is on the communications advisory council for the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network and leads Child Trends' communications work for the Office of Adolescent Health.

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Albert Wat is a Senior Policy Director at the Alliance for Early Success, where he supports the organization's strategy and goals for early education, including increasing access to high-quality pre-k. Most recently, he was a Senior Policy Analyst in the Education Division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, where he helped governors' staff and advisors improve their early care and education policies and increase alignment between their states' early learning and K-12 reform initiatives. Before NGA, Albert was the Research Manager at Pre-K Now, an advocacy campaign at the Pew Center on the States, where he authored a number of policy reports, managed research activities for the initiative, and provided analysis and information about the latest pre-k and early education research and policy developments to Pre-K Now staff and its network of state partners. In 2014, Albert served on the committee of the Institute of Medicine's study on The Science of Children Birth to Age 8: Deepening and Broadening the Foundation for Success, which released the report, Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation in April 2015. Albert has worked with schools, school reform nonprofits, and community-based organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, southeastern Michigan, and Washington, DC. Albert holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in education from Stanford University and a master's in education policy from George Washington University.

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Laura Wells has been the director of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Washington, where she established the Washington state office in 2006. Prior to this, Laura was a member of the management team of Child Care Resources (CCR), the non-profit child care resource and referral agency for King County, where her focus was on improving the quality of care for children in both licensed and family, friend and neighbor care. Laura is a recipient of the Seattle Human Services Coalition 2003 Excellence in Advocacy Award and the Children's Alliance 2009 Voices for Children Award. She was appointed by Governor Gregoire in June, 2012, to serve on the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.

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Cecilia (Ceil) Zalkind, Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), has advocated for children in New Jersey for more than 30 years, working to secure better outcomes for children in the child welfare, early care and education, health care and juvenile justice systems. Ceil has been instrumental in the development of critical legislation, including the Out-of-Home Placement Bill of Rights for children in foster care and a landmark educational equity case: Abbott v. Burke. She leads ACNJ's early education advocacy agenda and provides leadership to the Early Care and Education Coalition and the NJ Build Initiative. Ceil is committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to grow up safe, healthy and educated. In 2009, Ceil received the national Florette Angel Memorial Child Advocacy Award from Voices for America's Children and in 2014, she was included on Inside Jersey's list of the 100 most influential people in New Jersey.