



The Webinar Series Continues on April 13!

After a successful kick off to a four part webinar series, we are thrilled to share information to each of our Fellows about the next webinar. Please be certain to join us for what promises to be an extremely interesting and engaging webinar on Friday, April 13th at 3pm EST. *Expanding on the Science: Foundations of Early Childhood Development* will include presentations from two Early Learning Fellow faculty members.

First, hear from Jack Shonkoff, M.D., Julius B. Richmond FAMRI Professor of Child Health and Development; Director, Center on the Developing

Child at Harvard University. Second, hear from Ron Haskins, Ph.D., Co-Director of the Brookings



Center on Children and Families. And finally, participate in a lively question, answer and comment portion!

Research and scientific evidence show that positive and negative early influences are critical to

the development of children's brains and can have an impact on learning and school success, behavior and even lifelong health. Shonkoff will discuss the policy implications of early experiences on the brain. And Haskins will respond to the science and also give his thoughts on where early childhood policies are going.

Please remember that these webinars are FREE for Fellows to join; however, you must register for the call. It's never too soon to register please follow this link: <http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/human-services/expanding-on-science-foundations-of-child-develop.aspx>

NCSL Legislative Summit—Build Strong States

This summer, the nation's legislators and legislative staff will gather in Chicago to Build Strong States at the 2012 NCSL Legislative Summit. The Summit gives you the best

value—speakers, training, resources, experts, events and more—in the shortest time anywhere.

Please be sure to learn more about NCSL's Legislative Summit, August 6-9,

2012 by following this link: <http://www.ncsl.org/meetings/legislativesummit12.aspx>

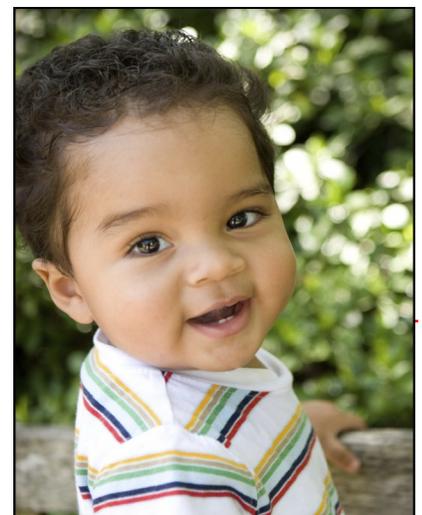
Have you attended the Summit in the past? Any thoughts to pass along to other Fellows interested in attending this year? Will you be in CHICAGO?

NEWSLETTER
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Save the Date—Webinar Series

Friday, June 8, 2012 3pm ET: *Revolutionizing Early Childhood Teaching*. Confirmed speaker includes Bob Pianta, Dean Curry School of Education Center for Advanced Study of Teaching University of Virginia.

Friday, August 8, 2012 3pm ET: Topic and speaker to be confirmed soon.



Legislative Highlights

State legislatures across the country have been in full swing in their 2012 legislative sessions, having introduced more than 700 bills this year relating to early childhood learning and care.

Bills focusing on child care licensing, quality, facilities, subsidies and assistance make up the bulk of legislation introduced in 2012 (367 bills in 47 different states or territories). Addressing quality and access to quality pre-school continue to be an important priority for states, most notable in a series of bills introduced in California, Connecticut, Mississippi and Washington among others. Efforts to address funding for programs and services (including legislation offering tax incentives and credits) were the foci of introduced legislation for 32 state legislatures through more than 170 bills, most notably in Florida, Illinois, Mississippi and New Mexico. Effective and efficient governance of early childhood systems played promi-

Highlighting a Fellow

Early this session Rep. Elliott sponsored a bill to establish an Early Learning Advisory Council in South Dakota. The bill simply would set up the Council, which would then investigate the research that has been done so as to show the need for Early Learning programs in the state. Elliott viewed the bill as a small step for South Dakotans.

The bill was not designed to set up Pre-K programs presently. Elliott recounts, "...a few years ago a bill was put forth to set up public pre-schools, which unfortunately was not well received". Understanding what happened in the past allowed for Elliott and her colleagues sponsoring the bill to be more sensitive to the composition of their current legislature. Elliott continues, "It is

very disappointing that the Education Committee killed the bill, with opponents stating that what this would lead to is exactly what they are against—public pre-schools". While the outcome is upsetting some lessons were learned. "One lesson I learned is that I did not work the bill strongly enough, and should have spent more time individually with the members of the Education Committee", Elliott says. Perhaps a similar bill will succeed in the near future.

Other topics include early childhood services ranging from home visiting (63 bills in 21 states), infants and toddlers (41 bills in 18 states), as well as bills aimed at improving early literacy and increasing early intervention access.

Please visit the NCSL Early Care and Education database by [clicking here](#). NCSL tracks and updates early care and education legislation every two weeks and allows you to search bills back to 2008. Legislation can be searched by state, topic, status, primary sponsor, bill number or keyword. This database is made possible by the generous support of the Birth to Five Policy Alliance.



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If you have a piece of legislation or policy work to highlight in the next Fellows newsletter, please email alison.may@ncsl.org.

Early Care and Early Education
E-Update,
February 2012

Hopefully each of you received an electronic copy of the most recent E-Update about Early Care and Education.

The February 2012 E-Update included the following articles:
[NCSL Early Learning Fellows Program, 2012 Introduced Legislation](#)
[Early Childhood Education and Care, Race to the Top Early Learning Update](#),
[LegisBrief: How Data Play a Role in Early Childhood Education, Home Visiting Advisory Group Updates, State Pre-K Assessment Policies: Issues and Status, A Count for Quality: Child Care Center Directors on Rating and Improvement Systems, Promote Access to Early, Regular and Comprehensive Screenings](#).

Read it all at this link:
<http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/human-services/early-care-and-education-newsletter-feb-2012.aspx>