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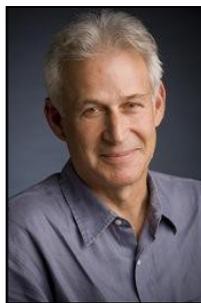
## The Webinar Series Continues on April 13— Please note the TIME CHANGE!

You are invited to join with your Fellows from across the country for what promises to be another extremely interesting and engaging webinar on **Friday, April 13th at 12pm EST**. Expanding on the Science: Foundations of Early Childhood Development will include presentations from two Early Learning Fellow faculty members.

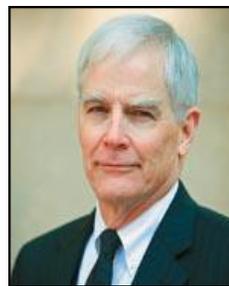
Research and scientific evidence show that positive and negative early influences are critical to the development of children's brains and can have an impact on learning and school success, behavior and even life-long health. Jack Shonkoff with the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University will share the latest work from the Center on brain development and progress in launching an innovation initiative designed to foster breakthroughs that will improve outcomes for young children, particularly those facing adversity. Ron Haskins with the Center on Children and Families at The

Brookings Institution will respond to the science and share his ideas about policy innovation in early childhood.

Please remember that these webinars are FREE for Fellows to join; however, you must register for the call. You can register and also read some important suggested reading related to the topic by clicking here: <http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/human-services/expanding-on-science-foundations-of-child-develop.aspx>.



Jack Shonkoff



Ron Haskins

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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.



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## Five More States to Compete for \$133 million Early Learning Challenge

On Monday, April 9, the U.S. Department of Education announced that five states will be able to compete for \$133 million in Early Learning Challenge Race to the Top funding. The states—Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon and Wisconsin—just missed scoring enough points to win in the round awarded in December, will be eligible to compete for up to 50% of the award they

were eligible for in 2011. These states would join the 9 winners: California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Washington. Please see Education Week's Blog:

<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2012/04/d.html>

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## In Response to the New York Times

On March 26, 2012, William Pound, executive director of the National Conference of State Legislatures, sent a letter to the editor of The New York Times regarding a recent editorial ("[The States Get a Poor Report Card](#)"), March 20, 2012). The editorial commented on why "most statehouses can barely be trusted to maintain the rudiments of good government" and drew the conclusion that "without deep reforms, they certainly should not be asked to handle more federal programs on which millions rely."

Mr. Pound called this a flawed conclusion from a questionable [study](#) ranking the states on ethics, disclosure, transparency and campaign finance reform. The study was conducted by the Center for Public Integrity and is largely based on the number and strength of the laws a state has in these areas, not the state's actual practices, nor the public's view and support of the 50 state legislatures.

Mr. Pound also sent a letter to members stating that innovation in domestic policy—such as education, social services, environment, transportation and criminal justice—has come from state legislatures in the last several decades, "all while maintaining balanced budgets." Pound also pointed out the paper failed to recognize the strong role states play in our federal system.

As Mr. Pound stated, the nation would "benefit from a greater understanding of the major public policy role played by state legislatures and state governments and the fact that their actions reflect public opinion in our democratic system."



## Putting Children and Families First: Head Start Programs in 2010

This policy brief (<http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/Head-Start-Trend-Analysis-Final2.pdf>) from the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) analyzes data to describe the state of the federal Head Start program, including changes and trends since CLASP last published analysis of Head Start data in 2006.

This is the 10th brief in a series of CLASP analyses of Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data. State factsheets presenting PIR data are available at: <http://childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/>

## NCSL's Overview of the President's FY 2013 Human Services Budget Proposal

On February 13, 2011, President Obama released his budget proposal for FY 2013. This is the first step in the budget process for the federal fiscal year beginning October 1, 2012. Here is (<http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/human-services/overview-of-pres-fy-2013-hum-svs-budget-proposal.aspx>) an updated NCSL analysis of the President's Human Services and Immigration Budget Proposal for FY 2013 available on the NCSL website. There are several additional details in the document, most notably in the Child Support Enforcement section.

## Share your Experience



During the 2012 legislative sessions we have highlighted the work of a number of Fellows: in January we highlighted Representative Behning, Indiana; in February we highlighted Representative Gabel, Illinois; and in March we highlighted Representative Elliot, South Dakota. Please let us know if you have legislation or session updates that you would like to share. Please email [alison.may@ncsl.org](mailto:alison.may@ncsl.org)