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**Second Meeting: Policy, Research and Innovations**

**The Westin Denver Downtown • 1672 Lawrence Street • Denver**

**Sunday, August 25, 2019 • Lawrence A/B**

**5:30-6 p.m.**

**Networking Reception**

**6-8 p.m.**

**Dinner and Keynote Address: The Importance of Language Development in Early Childhood**

Strong language skills are the single greatest predictor of school readiness and later educational outcomes for young children. Dr. Hirsh-Pasek's talk will focus on ways the science of learning can inform policy and practice, with an emphasis on birth to three.

***Introduction:***

- Julie Poppe, NCSL
- Donna L. Wilson, NCSL

***Speaker:***

- Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Department of Psychology, Temple University

**Monday, August 26, 2019 • Lawrence A/B**

**8:30-9 a.m.**

**Breakfast and Networking**

**9-9:30 a.m.**

**Are We Ready? The Importance of Early Learning**

Retired U.S. Air Force Major General Dylewski is one of Mission: Readiness' 750 retired admirals, generals and other top military leaders who recognize the strength of our country depends on a strong military. Hear firsthand how Mission: Readiness has supported evidence-based, bipartisan state and federal public policy solutions proven to prepare youth for life and service to their nation.

***Introduction:***

- Alison May, NCSL

***Speaker:***

- Major General Gary Dylewski, U.S. Air Force, retired

**9:30-10 a.m.**

**Federal Opportunities for Consideration**

NCSL staff will highlight two important federal opportunities: the Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) and the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5).

***Moderator:***

- Margaret Wile, NCSL Washington, D.C. Office

***Speakers:***

- Adrienne Fischer, NCSL
- Nina Williams-Mbengue, NCSL

- 10-10:15 a.m.**                      **Break**
- 10:15-11:30 a.m.**                      **Helping Early Learners Overcome Barriers to Healthy Social-Emotional Development**  
 In their first few years of life, children acquire social and emotional skills that are critical to their overall development and future success in school and beyond. Many young children, however, face barriers to healthy social-emotional development due to adverse childhood experiences or other traumatic events. What policies can help children overcome these barriers, build resiliency and be school ready? What do early learning professionals need to support children?  
**Moderator:**
- Jennifer Palmer, NCSL
- Speakers:**
- Gail Joseph, University of Washington
  - Meghan McCann, NCSL
- 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**                      **Lunch**  
 Enjoy an optional walk through downtown Denver with your colleagues.
- 1-2:15 p.m.**                              **Home Visiting: A Look Inside**  
 Early childhood home visiting can help families meet children’s needs during the critical first five years of development. State legislatures play an important role in creating a home visiting system with shared accountability and reporting on results. Learn about Iowa’s home visiting program and take a deep dive into one of the evidence-based models with a nurse home visitor.  
**Moderator:**
- Alison May, NCSL
- Speakers:**
- Janet Horras, Iowa Department of Public Health Bureau of Family Health
  - Allison Mosqueda, Invest in Kids
- 2:15-2:30 p.m.**                      **Break**
- 2:30-3 p.m.**                              **This is Jeopardy!**  
 Test your knowledge and win bragging rights among your colleagues. Be sure to answer in the form of a question.
- 3-3:30 p.m.**                              **Early Learning Fellows Action Planning**  
 Work at your table independently or in small groups as you continue to think through your early learning action plan.
- 3:30-4:45 p.m.**                      **Supporting High-Quality Early Learning with a High-Quality Workforce: Addressing the Strengths, Challenges and Needs of Early Learning Professionals**  
 High-quality early learning is founded on nurturing relationships with caregivers, including the professionals working in child care settings and prekindergarten classrooms. Yet early learning professionals report high levels of stress and turnover, negatively affecting their ability to provide positive experiences in the classroom. Nearly half rely on some type of government assistance to support themselves and their families. This session will focus on policies and practices to promote high-quality early learning by supporting and strengthening the early learning workforce.

**Moderator:**

- Jennifer Palmer, NCSL

**Speakers:**

- Temisha Elliott, Clayton Early Learning
- Kacee Miller, Early Milestones Colorado
- Representative James Wilson, Colorado

5-6 p.m.

**Optional Roundtable Dialogue about Early Childhood Policies**

Share opportunities and challenges from across the states and discuss policy priorities with colleagues.

**Enjoy Dinner on your Own in Denver**

(Save your receipt; NCSL will reimburse up to \$40.)

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 • Lawrence A/B

8:30-9 a.m.

**Networking Breakfast**

9-10:15 a.m.

**Governance and Coordination in Early Learning Systems**

Support for high-quality early childhood programming has gained momentum in recent years and has led to increased state and federal investments. How can states design their early education system to provide efficient, effective services through increased integration and coordination?

**Moderator:**

- Alison May, NCSL

**Speaker:**

- Linda Smith, Bipartisan Policy Center

10:15-10:30 a.m.

**Break**

10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Infant and Toddler Data to Support Ready Learners**

The [State of Babies of Babies Yearbook](#), an initiative of ZERO TO THREE and Child Trends, presents a state-by-state data story comparing 60 indicators across three policy domains: good health, strong families and positive early learning experiences for very young children. Understand the data and research and how it may help with your legislative activities. This session was made possible with funding from ZERO TO THREE as part of [Think Babies](#), which was developed to make the potential of every baby a national priority. Funding partners for Think Babies include the Perigee Fund, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which supports the public education aspects of Think Babies.

**Moderator:**

- Julie Poppe, NCSL

**Speaker:**

- Patricia Cole, ZERO TO THREE

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

**Finalize Early Learning Action Plans**

Fellows will finalize their early learning action plan and share with other fellows.

12:15-1:30 p.m.

**Ask the Experts Over Lunch**

1:30-2:30 p.m.

**Supplemental Programming to Develop Early Literacy and Numeracy Skills**

Reading Corps serves over 36,000 students in 12 states plus Washington, D.C. and is closing the achievement gap for underserved students. Hear about the research

supporting this program and a new pilot program focused on developing early numeracy skills.

***Moderator:***

- Jorge Casares, NCSL

***Speaker:***

- Lindsay Dolce, Reading & Math, Inc.

**2:30-3 p.m.**

**Closing Thoughts and Reflections**

Participants will share elements from their Early Learning Action Plan with the full group, discuss next steps and provide overall comments about the Early Learning Fellows program.

*This event is made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors:  
Alliance for Early Success, Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Heising-Simons Foundation and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.*