

Speaker Biographies

Patricia Cole is senior director of federal policy within the ZERO TO THREE Policy Center. She leads ZERO TO THREE's work in federal policy formulation, legislative strategies, and government relations in a range of areas affecting infants and toddlers, including early care and learning, early intervention, home visiting, child welfare, and infant-early childhood mental health. Cole has over 30 years of experience in policy at the federal and state levels. Prior to her current position, she was a consultant on children and family policy, working with ZERO TO THREE and the National After School Association. Previously she served as staff to Senator Chris Dodd, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families. She was instrumental in enactment and oversight of key legislation, including two reauthorizations of Head Start and the creation of Early Head Start; the Human Services Act; the Child Care and Development Block Grant; the Family and Medical Leave Act; the Children of Substance Abusers Act, which included a home visiting component; and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, including creating a Dodd initiative that became the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention program. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and political science and a master's degree in history from Duke University.

Major General Gary Dylewski is retired from the United States Air Force and current president and CEO of Patriot Solutions Intl, a service disabled veteran-owned small business providing government and commercial clients with executable solutions including analysis, test and evaluation; training; engineering services and energy security. Before entering the corporate world, Dylewski spent 27 years in the Air Force in a variety of assignments in tactical aviation, staff and command billets. He was commissioned in 1974 through the ROTC program at Kent State University. He served as the Air Force Aide to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush; commanded the 90th Fighter Squadron and served as Joint Director of Operations for Alaskan Command at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. He also served as the Commandant of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. He commanded the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia and the Space Warfare Center at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado. He was assigned as Director of Operations, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, before finishing his career as the Commander 9th Aerospace Expeditionary Task Force, Southwest Asia, and Deputy Combined Forces Air Component Commander (DCFACC), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). He holds a masters degree in management from Troy State University and a bachelor's degree in biology from Kent State University.

Lindsay Dolce serves as the chief advancement officer for the Reading and Math Foundation. She is responsible for sourcing growth capital and working with emerging states to successfully start up and implement the Reading Corps and Math Corps models. Dolce brings extensive national and state-level advocacy and outreach experience to the position, having served as executive director of Serve Colorado, the state's service commission, and Colorado Reads—Colorado's Early Literacy Initiative. She provided statewide leadership in Colorado's AmeriCorps' State program including strategic planning for national and community initiatives, program development, community outreach, organizational and financial operations, and administration. Prior to this, she worked as the senior program manager for the David and Laura Merage Foundation. She also worked as a domestic relations attorney and was a staff member for Senator J. Robert Kerrey and President Bill Clinton. Dolce received her bachelor's degree in English, political science and

international relations from William Jewell College, studied at Oxford University and received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek is the Stanley and Debra Lefkowitz Faculty Fellow in the Department of Psychology at Temple University and a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Her research examines the development of early language and literacy as well as the role of play in learning. With her long-term collaborator, Roberta Golinkoff, she is author of 14 books and hundreds of publications. She is the recipient of the AERA Outstanding Public Communication for Education Research Award, the American Psychological Association's Bronfenbrenner Award, the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Service to Psychological Science, the Association for Psychological Science James McKeen Cattell Award, the Society for Research in Child Development, Distinguished Scientific Contributions to Child Development Award and the APA Distinguished Lecturer Award and is a fellow of the Cognitive Science Society. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society, is the Past President of the International Society for Infant Studies and served as the associate editor of "Child Development." She is on the steering committee of the Latin American School for Education, Cognitive Neural Science as well as on the advisory board for Vroom, The Boston Children's Museum, Disney Junior, The "Free to Be Initiative" and Jumpstart. Her book, "Einstein Never Used Flashcards: How Children Really Learn and Why They Need to Play More and Memorize less," (Rodale Books) won the prestigious Books for Better Life Award as the best psychology book in 2003. Her recent book, "Becoming Brilliant: What the Science Tells us About Raising Successful Children," released in 2016 was on the New York Times best-seller list in education and parenting. Hirsh-Pasek received her bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and is a frequent spokesperson for her field appearing in The New York Times, National Public Radio and in international television outlets.

Janet Horras oversees administration of Iowa's MIECHV program including the provision of evidence-based home visiting services and home visiting system coordination. She serves as the family support policy advisor to the Early Childhood Iowa state board and administration. Horras is a founding member and facilitates the Family Support Leadership Group that coordinates Iowa's state and federally funded home visiting programs. She is also a founding member of the steering committee of the Association of State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives. She has worked for 19 years for the state of Iowa administering publicly funded home visiting programs, and has a total of 29 years of experience in administering home visitation programs at both the community and state level. She was awarded a Golden Dome award by Governor Thomas Vilsack for significant cost savings to the state and excellence in program administration. She holds a bachelor's degree in human services and has completed additional graduate study in public administration.

Gail Joseph is a former Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program teacher, and the Bezos Family Foundation Distinguished Professor in Early Learning at the University of Washington. She teaches courses, advises students, provides service, and conducts research on topics related to early learning and equity, child care quality, teacher preparation, early childhood mental health, and school readiness. She is the founding executive director of Cultivate Learning at the University of Washington and was the director of the Head Start Center for Inclusion (Headstartinclusion.org) and co-director of the National Center for Quality Teaching and Learning funded by the Office of Head Start. At Cultivate Learning she oversees the work of quality ratings in all licensed childcare and PreK programs in the state and creates professional learning resources such as Circle Time Magazine and the Meaningful Makeover series. Additionally, she is the founding director of the EarlyEdU Alliance. The EarlyEdU Alliance is focused on increasing the quality of early learning settings nationwide by making relevant, affordable bachelor's degrees accessible to the early childhood workforce. Gail is the 2018 recipient of the David R. Thorud Leadership Award at the University of Washington.

Kacee Miller is project director for the Transforming the Early Childhood Workforce, at Early Milestones. She has over 12 years of experience working with Colorado's Early Childhood workforce. She served as director of professional development and communications for the Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council where she managed a variety of professional development opportunities and strategies for developing the early childhood workforce. Kacee also managed the T.E.A.C.H. program at Qualistar Colorado. She has spent the past 12 years coordinating professional development for early childhood educators as a credentialed early childhood coach and trainer. Miller earned a bachelor's degree in communication from Missouri State University and a master's degree in international and intercultural communication from the University of Denver.

Allison Mosqueda earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa and a master's degree in nursing education from Regis University. Her career as a nurse has been focused on maternal/child health and supporting underserved families. She was a home visitor with NFP starting in 2008, a supervisor in 2013 and has been a nurse consultant with Invest in Kids since 2015. She enjoys spending her free time with her husband and sons exploring Colorado.

Linda Smith is the director of the early childhood initiative at the Bipartisan Policy Center, a Washington D.C. based think tank that promotes bipartisanship and actively works to find consensus and common ground on key challenges facing the nation. Smith is the former deputy assistant secretary of early childhood development for the Administration for Children & Families at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Previous positions included serving as executive director for the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (now Child Care Aware of America), supporting community-based agencies concerned with the care of children in their earliest years. Before joining NACCRRRA, Smith served as a professional staffer on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee under the chairmanship of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Prior to this work, she was the director of the Office of Family Policy for the Secretary of Defense, where she was one of the primary architects of the military's child care program. Additionally, Smith held positions with both the United States Army and United States Air Force. Smith began her career in early childhood education on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in her native state of Montana. She is a graduate of the University of Montana.

Representative James Wilson was elected to represent House District 60 in southeast Colorado in 2012. Prior to the legislature he dedicated 40 years as an educator in several capacities including a government and history teacher, athletic director, principal and superintendent. He is the recipient of the CASEY Award for outstanding service to public education and the Colbert Cushing Award for service to his professional organization, the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE). He is the former president of CASE, an 11-year member of the CASE Coordinating Council and completed two terms as the president for Colorado School Superintendents. He has also served on the Colorado High School Activities Association Executive Board and State of Colorado's Educational Technology Plan Task Force. Representative Wilson serves as an elder in his church and teaches the adult Bible classes. He is an active member of the Salida Rotary Club. He volunteers as an auctioneer for several nonprofit organizations in his community. He enjoys presenting to elementary school classrooms and participating as a basketball play-by-play announcer for Chaffee county local radio and the 3A State Basketball Tournament. Representative Wilson and his wife of 38 years, Kristi (also a retired educator and administrator) reside in Salida, Colo. and enjoy spending time with their four daughters, two sons-in-law and five grandkids.