



# NCSL Early Learning Fellows

May 15 – 16, 2014  
Denver, Colorado



## Policy, Research and Innovation in Early Learning Kick Off Meeting Final Agenda

The kick off meeting will set the stage for the work with the Early Learning Fellows and will provide issue content information in a peer learning community setting with additional facilitated small group time. Other goals include:

- Build knowledge among legislators about new research and policy;
- Promote exchange of ideas and solutions related to early learning, the early achievement gap, and many other birth to age eight issues;
- Introduce and connect legislators to other legislative leaders;
- Provide Fellows with practical information they can use in their state; and
- Facilitate access to leading researchers and policy experts.

Thursday, May 15, 2014  
*Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Floor • Ballroom A/B*

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	<b>Breakfast – Snowmass Room</b>
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Day</b> Robyn Lipkowitz and Bruce Feustel, National Conference of State Legislatures
8:45 AM – 9:45 AM	<b>Building a Foundation for Achievement: How Early Experiences Shape Brain Architecture</b> Learn about the recent research on brain development, and take an in-depth look at self-regulation/executive function (SR/EF) and the link between those skills and later school achievement. Hear how high-quality early learning environments can promote the development of these skills in children, and how make-believe play can help young children develop SR/EF. Introduction: Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deb Leong, Tools of the Mind</li></ul>
9:45 AM – 10:15 AM	<b>Digesting the Science: Legislative Applications</b> Bruce Feustel, National Conference of State Legislatures
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	<b>Break</b>

- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM**      **Legislative Governance Examples in Early Childhood**  
 A state system of early childhood programs and services for children from birth to age five can exist under several different governance models. Hear about the three different structure approaches, current state examples and where legislatures have provided the framework to increase policy and program coordination.  
 Moderator: Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Gerrit Westervelt, BUILD Initiative
- 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM**      **Early Learning Planning: Thinking Through Your Top Priorities**  
 Identify your top priorities in a small group setting and begin to work on your individual Early Learning Plan worksheet.
- Bruce Feustel, National Conference of State Legislatures
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**      **Lunch – Snowmass Room**  
*Lunch Sponsor: Mattel Foundation and Playworks*  
 Learn about the power of play for young children in this experiential exercise led by Denver’s Playworks. Playworks coaches will engage the group in a 10-minute *play exercise*.
- 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM**      **Home Visiting: A Legislative Primer**  
 Home visiting is a voluntary, evidence-based prevention strategy used in states for more than a decade to support at-risk pregnant mothers and new parents. State legislators play an important role in developing policies that incorporate evaluation findings, accountability measures, and quality improvement strategies to ensure positive results for children and families while promoting long-term cost savings for states. Learn about efforts in Colorado and Iowa to promote infant and child health, healthy child development, and school readiness through home visiting. You’ll hear what quality home visiting looks like through first-hand experiences.  
 Moderator/Presenter: Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Janet Horras, Iowa Department of Public Health
  - Michelle Neal, Invest in Kids, Colorado
- 2:15 PM – 2:45 PM**      **Early Learning Planning: Putting Pen to Paper**  
 Decide your next steps and fill in your individual Early Learning Plan.
- Bruce Feustel, National Conference of State Legislatures
- 2:45 PM – 3:00 PM**      **Break**
- 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**      **Pay for Success: Innovative Financing to Support Early Childhood Programs**  
 In tight budget times, policymakers are examining new and innovative ways to finance the services children need. Learn about a new financing strategy gaining popularity, Social Impact Bonds, or “Pay for Success,” and two states’ efforts to fund early childhood programs.  
 Moderator: John Grossman, Third Sector Capital Partners, Massachusetts
- Janis Dubno, Voices for Utah Children
  - Joe Waters, Institute for Child Success, South Carolina

**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**      **Reflections from the Day**  
Reflect on the information gained from today’s sessions.  
• Bruce Feustel, National Conference of State Legislatures

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**      **Reception and Dinner – Snowmass/Aspen Rooms**

**Friday, May 16, 2014**  
*Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Floor • Ballroom A/B*

**8:00 AM – 8:30 AM**      **Breakfast – Snowmass Room**

**8:45 AM – 11:45 AM**      **Educare and Clayton Early Learning Site Visit**  
Take part in a site visit to Educare of Denver at the Clayton Early Learning Center, a nationally recognized, high-quality early childhood program that produces positive results for low-income children and parents. Learn how programs like Educare are helping at-risk children prepare for kindergarten success and achieve sustain academic benchmarks into the early grades. Observe first-hand how teachers translate research and evaluation into positive and stimulating early learning environments. Discuss the role that state legislatures can play in developing high-quality early childhood education and learn how strategic collaborations and partnerships can achieve intergenerational outcomes for children, families and communities.  
Introduction: Phuonglan Nguyen, National Conference of State Legislatures  
• Charlotte Brantley, Clayton Early Learning

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**      **Lunch – Snowmass Room**

**1:00 PM – 2:15 PM**      **Two-Generation Strategies: The Potential for Early Childhood Programs to Support Children and Parents Together**  
A two-generation strategy focuses on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both vulnerable parents and children together. It can refer to policy, programs or research, and, it can include components of early childhood education, job training/post secondary education, and wrap-around family support services. Hear from two states on their strategy for implementing a two-generation policy and the implications for families.  
Moderator: Jennifer Stedron, Ascend, Aspen Institute  
• Mary Anne Snyder, Colorado Department of Human Services  
• Elaine Zimmerman, Connecticut Commission on Children

**2:15 PM – 3:00 PM**      **Reflections and Next Steps**  
Reflect on the day and discuss what is in store for the Fellows program in 2014.  
• Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures