NCSL Early Learning Fellows
August 2-3, 2015
Seattle, Washington

Early Learning Fellows Kickoff Meeting: Building State Leadership
Sheraton Seattle Hotel • 1400 6th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101

Final Agenda

The kick off meeting will set the stage for the work with the Early Learning Fellows and will provide issue content 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, including an early learning action plan; and
- Facilitate access to leading researchers and policy experts.

Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Location: Issaquah A/B Room – 3rd Floor

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
Virginia Room – 4th Floor

8:30 – 9:15 a.m. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Day
Introductions: Rochelle Finzel, National Conference of State Legislatures
Chief Steve Strachan, Bremerton, Washington

9:15 – 10:30 a.m. Building a Foundation for Achievement: How Early Experiences Shape Brain Architecture
Advances in neuroscience, molecular biology, and genomics now help us better understand why healthy development in the early years provides the building blocks for educational achievement, economic productivity, and lifelong health. The basic architecture of the brain is constructed through a process that begins early in life, continues into adulthood, and is powerfully affected by the experiences and environment of relationships in which children develop. Learn how these early
experiences are built into our bodies and brains, and about the complex set of skills scientists believe are foundational for success in school and in life.

**Introduction:** Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures  
**Speaker:** Melanie Berry, University of Oregon

**10:30 – 10:45 a.m.**  
Break

**10:45 a.m. – Noon**  
**Early Learning Trends: Show Me the Evidence**  
Hear from Steve Barnett about the current state of the early learning field, the latest research and what the future holds. His presentation will kick off an interactive conversation with Ron Haskins. Ron will frame his comments around early learning programs showing evidence for better outcomes in young children. The Fellows are encouraged to engage in the discussion and contribute thoughts about other emerging ideas.

**Moderator:** Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures  
**Speakers:** Steve Barnett, National Institute for Early Education Research, New Jersey  

**Noon – 1:15 p.m.**  
**Lunch and Networking with Fellows**  
*Virginia Room – 4th Floor*  
*Lunch Sponsor: Mattel, Inc. and Playworks*  
Learn about the power of play for young children in this experiential exercise led by Playworks. Playworks coaches will engage the group in a 10-minute *play exercise.*

**1:15 – 2:15 p.m.**  
**Early Childhood Cost-Benefit Analysis: Making the Best Use of Taxpayer Dollars**  
Hear the specifics on the cost benefits of early childhood research of what works and what’s economical. For over twenty years, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) has identified “evidence-based” policies for the Washington State Legislature. See how Washington is studying a portfolio of programs that gives taxpayers both the best early childhood outcomes and the best use of their taxpayer dollars. Learn about New Mexico’s experience in creating an early childhood accountability report card to inform state policymakers of high-level funding investments in home visiting, child care and preschool.

**Speakers:** Noa Kay, Washington State Institute for Public Policy  
Charles Sallee, New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee

**2:15 – 3:15 p.m.**  
**Bridging Health Care and Early Education Policy to Achieve Kindergarten Readiness**  
Learn how Oregon has leveraged opportunities to support a fundamental shift in how the health care and early learning systems function and align with each other.

**Speakers:** Megan Irwin, Early Learning Division, Oregon Department of Education  
Kate Nass, Oregon Health Authority

**3:15 – 3:30 p.m.**  
Break
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<td>3:30 – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Reflections of the Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Take a few moments to digest and reflect on what you have heard. This session will provide an opportunity to think about your own early learning action plan.</td>
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<td>Facilitators: Robyn Lipkowitz and Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures</td>
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<td>4:00 – 5:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Advice from State Capitols</strong>&lt;br&gt;Get an opportunity to hear from your colleagues. This session will feature state legislators to discuss political and financing challenges they have faced in their states and how they worked through those challenges.</td>
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<td>Moderator: Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures&lt;br&gt;Speakers: Representative Tana Senn, Washington&lt;br&gt;Senator Brice Wiggins, Mississippi</td>
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<td>6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Reception &amp; Dinner: Il Fornaio Seattle</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Located in Pacific Place shopping center – enter from 6th Avenue &amp; Olive Street</em></td>
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**Monday, Aug. 3, 2015**

**Sheraton Seattle Hotel**

**Location: Jefferson A/B Room - 4th Floor**

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<td>8:00 – 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast &amp; Networking</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Jefferson A/B Room – 4th Floor</em></td>
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<td>8:30 – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Organizing and Boarding Bus</strong></td>
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<td>9:15 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Site Visit</strong>&lt;br&gt;Educare School of Greater Seattle&lt;br&gt;<em>Sponsor: Heising-Simons Foundation</em></td>
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<td>Introduction: Matt Weyer, National Conference of State Legislatures</td>
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<td>Noon – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Lunch and Networking with Fellows</strong>&lt;br&gt;Spend the first half of lunch relaxing and networking with others. We will finish up our lunch time together talking with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation about their new early education initiative.</td>
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<td>Speaker: Ellen Frede, Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
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<td><strong>Final Thoughts and Wrap Up</strong>&lt;br&gt;National Conference of State Legislatures</td>
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*This event is made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation, Mattel, Inc. and the Alliance for Early Success*