Kickoff Meeting: Building State Leadership

Magnolia Hotel Omaha • 1615 Howard St., Omaha, NE 68102

Agenda

The kickoff 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. Goals include:

- Build knowledge among legislators about new research and policy.
- Promote an exchange of ideas and solutions related to early learning, the early achievement gap, and many other birth to age 8 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.
- Facilitate access to leading researchers and policy experts.

**Wednesday, May 18, 2016 • Courtyard**

5-7 p.m.  Reception and Meet and Greet

Introduction
- Rochelle Finzel, NCSL

**Thursday, May 19, 2016 • Columbine & Bluebonnet Rooms – 1st Floor**

8-8:30 a.m.  Breakfast and Networking

*Lotus Room – 1st Floor*

8:30-9 a.m.  Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Day

Introductions
- Robyn Lipkowitz, NCSL
- Jessie Rasmussen, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

9-10:30 a.m.  Building a Foundation for Achievement: How Early Experiences Shape Brain Architecture

Pre-reading: [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, NCSL

Speaker
- Melanie Berry, University of Oregon

10:30-11:30 a.m. Building Off of the Science and Looking to Recent Trends
Building off of how early experiences shape the brain, hear about the current landscape and policy considerations based on the science. The presentation will lead into an interactive conversation where fellows are encouraged to engage in the discussion and contribute thoughts.

Introduction
- Julie Poppe, NCSL

Speaker
- Katharine Stevens, American Enterprise Institute, D.C.

11:30 a.m.- Noon Reflecting/Networking/Thinking about your Early Learning Plan

Noon-1 p.m. Lunch
Lotus Room – 1st Floor
Sponsor: Mattel, Inc.

1-2:30 p.m. New Opportunities in Child Care and Guided Discussion
Pre-reading: Implementing the CCDBG Reauthorization: A Guide for States

Child care is an important work support for parents and a child development opportunity for young children. Learn the basics of high-quality child care, the newest changes to the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the opportunities for lawmakers to enhance their child development system, including hearing the child care provider perspective.

Moderators
- Robyn Lipkowitz and Julie Poppe, NCSL

Speakers
- Christine Johnson-Staub, Center for Law and Social Policy, D.C.
- Karen Schulman, National Women’s Law Center, D.C.
- Michelle McCready, Child Care Aware, Virginia

2:30-3 p.m. Planning and Networking

3-4:15 p.m. Pay for Success: Innovative Financing to Support Early Childhood Programs
Pre-reading: Pay for Success 101
In tight budget times, policymakers are examining new and innovative ways to finance the services children need. Learn about a financing strategy gaining popularity: social impact bonds, or “pay for success.” You’ll hear about how some states are using it; the potential pitfalls; and South Carolina’s and Utah’s efforts to adapt this model.

Moderator
- Rochelle Finzel, NCSL

Speakers
- Joe Waters, Institute for Child Success, South Carolina
- Representative Greg Hughes, speaker of the House, Utah

4:15-4:30 p.m. Break

4:30-5 p.m. Closing Thoughts and Reflections
Provide one takeaway from the day.

6-8 p.m. Reception & Dinner
Le Bouillon - 1017 Howard Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Friday, May 20, 2016 • Lotus Room – 1st Floor

8-8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Networking

8:30 a.m. Bus departs for tour/site visit

9-10:45 a.m. Tour / Site Visit
Learning Community Center of North Omaha
1612 N. 24th Street, Omaha, NE 68110

10:45-11:45 a.m. The Superintendents’ Early Childhood Plan in Omaha
Pre-reading: Plan at a Glance: Superintendents’ Early Childhood Plan

Eleven metro Omaha school superintendents have launched a ground-breaking partnership to end achievement gaps. Hear from two local superintendents and researchers from the Buffett Early Childhood Institute about their work to improve early childhood outcomes in Metro Omaha.

Introduction
- Matt Weyer, NCSL

Speakers
- Sam Meisels, Buffett Early Childhood Institute
- Christine Maxwell, Buffett Early Childhood Institute
- Mark Evans, superintendent, Omaha Public Schools
- Jim Sutfin, superintendent, Millard Public Schools

11:45 a.m. Bus returns to Magnolia Hotel

Noon-1 p.m. Lunch and Wrap Up
Lotus Room – 1st Floor

This event is made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors: the Alliance for Early Success, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation and Mattel, Inc.