



June 6-8, 2018 | Denver, Colorado

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## Speaker Biographies

**Lauren Hogan** is the senior director of public policy and advocacy at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). She previously served as the vice president of program and policy at the National Black Child Development Institute. Hogan began her career working with an after-school program in Louisville, Kentucky and later served as the director of an early literacy and family support program in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She also served as a Rappaport Public Policy Fellow in the Department of Social Services in Boston. Hogan earned a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a master's degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

**Kay Johnson** has become nationally recognized for her work in maternal and child health policy over the past 30 years. She is president of Johnson Group Consulting, Inc.—a national firm based in Vermont since 1998. Johnson has been active in Medicaid and health policy at the federal and state levels since 1984, and has served as an adviser to more than 40 states. Her expertise encompasses a range of program and policy issues, including: perinatal and preconception care; home visiting; early childhood development and mental health; immunization; oral health; genetics and newborn screening; adolescent health, and services for children with special needs and disabilities.

**Sarah Lytle** is the director of the Outreach and Education division at the Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences (I-LABS) at the University of Washington. The I-LABS Outreach and Education team communicates the latest science of child development to those who can act on it, including parents, educators, policymakers, and opinion leaders. Lytle has personally had the opportunity to communicate science to thousands in the early learning community. Under her leadership, the Outreach and Education team has launched an online library of free training modules designed to make science accessible to a broad audience. Lytle was previously a postdoctoral fellow at I-LABS working under the supervision of Dr. Patricia Kuhl. Before coming to the Institute, she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and Spanish from the University of Notre Dame and a doctorate in developmental psychology at Temple University. Her research focused on the role of social cues in infants' and toddlers' language learning and how social interactions might help toddlers learn from screen media.

**Katrina Miller** serves as an education industry consultant for Statistical Analysis System's (SAS) state and local government practice. She uses her experience in K-12 and higher education policy to support SAS EVAAS for K-12 in the educational community. She previously worked with the Council of Chief State School Officers and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, where she supported state efforts to use data to improve teacher and leader preparation for all students, including students with disabilities. Miller holds a bachelor's degree in communication and master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Jennifer Stedron** currently serves as executive director of Early Milestones Colorado, a new intermediary organization that advances success for young children across Colorado by accelerating innovation, use of best practices and systemic change. Recently, she worked at the Aspen Institute as senior program manager for the Ascend initiative focused on two-generation approaches to family economic security. She has also

served as the executive director of Colorado’s Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) and the policy director for Early Childhood in the Office of Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia. In this last capacity, she spearheaded the ECLC’s work to establish Colorado’s new Office of Early Childhood and led the grant application effort that resulted in Colorado’s \$45M Early Learning Challenge Fund award. Stedron has also managed bipartisan policy efforts in early childhood and K-12 education for the National Conference of State Legislatures. She has been published in variety of formats including peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and national policy briefs focused on topics spanning neural network models of development, early childhood data systems, and two-generation approaches to poverty. Stedron received her bachelor’s from Michigan State University and her doctorate from the University of Denver in child clinical psychology with a specialty in developmental cognitive neuroscience.

**Phil Strain**, James C Kennedy Endowed Chair in Urban Education at the University of Denver. Phil has worked in the field of early intervention since 1974, is the author of over 300 scientific papers and he serves on the editorial boards of over a dozen professional journals. His primary research interests include: a) intervention for young children with early onset conduct disorders; b) remediation of social behavior deficits in young children with autism; c) design and delivery of community-based, comprehensive early intervention for children with autism; and d) analysis of individual and systemic variables affecting the adoption and sustained use of evidence-based practices for children with severe behavior disorders.

**Margie Vandeven** has more than 27 years of student-centered service in education, including three at Missouri's top educational post. She is currently the director of educational partnerships at the SAS Institute in Cary, N.C. Vandeven has provided leadership in the classroom, school, state and national roles assumed throughout her career. She is passionate about ensuring that each child has the opportunity to graduate prepared for success.

**Albert Wat** is a senior policy director at the Alliance for Early Success, where he supports the organization’s strategy and goals for early education, including increasing access to high-quality pre-K, improving the early learning workforce, and enhancing alignment with K-12 policies. Before joining the Alliance, Wat was a senior policy analyst in the Education Division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, a research manager at Pre-K Now, an advocacy campaign at the Pew Center on the States. In 2014, Wat served on the committee of the Institute of Medicine’s study on The Science of Children Birth to Age 8: Deepening and Broadening the Foundation for Success, which released the report, “Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation” in April 2015. He also serves on the board of the Council for Professional Recognition.

**Molly Yost** is the senior project manager for LAUNCH Together – a “first in the nation” public-private initiative designed to fuel community collaboration for improved social-emotional health and development programs and systems. Yost most recently worked as a policy specialist at Clayton Early Learning where she led policy development and advocacy efforts to support Colorado's youngest children and their families, including nationally recognized legislative reform to improve the state's child care assistance program. She also served as research and special projects manager in the Office of Lt. Governor Joe Garcia where she advanced several statewide governance and data efforts including Colorado’s Race to the Top–Early Learning Challenge Fund grant application under the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, Colorado’s Early Childhood State Advisory Council. Yost holds a Bachelor’s degree in political science from Kenyon College and was also a member of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation’s Impact Denver Class of 2014.