

Biographies of Presenters

First 5 California and the Water Cooler **JOINT CONFERENCE**

March 1 and 2, 2011
Sacramento, California



Swati Adarkar

Swati Adarkar is executive director of the Children's Institute based in Portland, Oregon. Swati has a wealth of experience in research, communications, child advocacy, and public policy development. She plays a pivotal role in bringing business, civic and philanthropic leaders together with early childhood specialists and advocates creating meaningful change for Oregon's children. Swati was an instrumental leader in the 2007 expansion of Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten and continues to be a champion for high-quality early care and education prenatal to age 8. Swati has helped shape the growth of the Children's Institute since its inception, first serving as vice president of research and communications. Prior to that, she advised nonprofit organizations on public policy and communications, served as policy director for Children First for Oregon, and was director of community affairs for Children Now. Swati has a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor's degree in communications studies from University of California, Los Angeles.



Richard C. Alexander

Richard C. (Dick) Alexander is a business leader and entrepreneur with a deep commitment to the quality of life in Oregon. At age 29, and with modest initial capital, Alexander founded Viking Industries, Inc., which grew to be one of the West's leading manufacturers of windows and doors. Alexander also founded Viking International, Inc., a successful exporter of specialty foods. He has served as chairman of the board of Associated Oregon Industries, and on the boards of the Portland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and as president of the Portland Rose Festival. He currently serves as chairman of the board of Capital Pacific Bank and conducts business as Alexander Investment Co. Concordia University recently awarded its honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Alexander for his significant contribution to education and to improving the quality of life in Oregon. He presently serves as vice-chairman of the board of Marylhurst University and has served as president of the board of Oregon Episcopal School and on the board of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. Alexander served as president of the Cascade Pacific Council and the Metropolitan Group of Councils in the Western Region of the Boy Scouts of America and serves on the board of the Children's Institute. He has led campaigns in Oregon where the goal was to increase funding for early childhood education. He was the architect and leader of the Ready for School campaign which leveraged the power of business and civic leaders to secure an additional \$39 million in state funding for Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten. This additional funding made possible the enrollment of an additional 3,000 of Oregon's most vulnerable children in this program. Alexander continues his leadership of the Ready for School campaign in its efforts to further increase funding levels for Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten and for state support of early childhood education and health. Alexander served on the board of the National Center for Disaster Decision Making and the Citizens Crime Commission. As the chairman of the board of the Citizens Crime Commission, Alexander was part of the team that produced the landmark study, "KIIDS Report."



Diana Argenti

Diana Argenti is in her 18th year as a kindergarten teacher at Walter Hays Elementary School in the Palo Alto Unified School District. Argenti's political work led to the enactment of SB 1381, the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010. Argenti holds a Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential; general subjects and mathematics, and Clear Crosscultural, Language, and Academic Development Certificate.



Catherine Atkin

Catherine Atkin is President of Preschool California. She manages the organization's day-to-day work and collaborates closely with senior staff on strategy. She is an attorney with legal and policy expertise in the area of early care and education. Prior to joining Preschool California, she was the principal of a consulting firm specializing in strategic research, a directing attorney at Public Counsel Law Center in Los Angeles, and minority subcommittee counsel for the Banking and Financial Services Committee of the United States House of Representatives. She holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford, a law degree from University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall and a master's degree in urban planning from University of California, Los Angeles.



Richard S. Atlas

Richard Atlas is a graduate of UCLA and the Harvard Graduate School of Business. He spent almost 27 years with Goldman, Sachs & Co., retiring as a General Partner in 1994. The Atlas Family Foundation was established in 1985 by Rich and his wife Lezlie to support community based programs serving the needs of young children and their families through education, training, early intervention and consultation with parents, children, families and child care professionals. The Foundation concentrates its charitable resources in Early Child Development and Parenting Education programs impacting infant and toddler aged children and their families, focusing on low-income, high-risk families in Los Angeles County. The Foundation's mission is based on research that from the prenatal to preschool years the map and trajectory of one's life is pretty much set. Early intervention programs taking corrective action on children's social, emotional, and cognitive problems as they are developing have high success rates and are relatively inexpensive. As children get older, the interventions are much more costly and the probabilities of success much lower. There is no other community investment with comparable long-term economic and social returns. In addition to the Atlas Family Foundation, Richard serves on the Board and is Secretary/Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee of Zero to Three.



Natalie Bivas

Natalie Bivas is a reading specialist and English language development instructor at Palo Verde Elementary School. Bivas' political work led to the enactment of SB 1381, the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010. Bivas holds a Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, Clear Crosscultural, Language, and Academic Development Certificate, and Clear Reading Certificate.



David Brooks

David Brooks started his column in the New York Times in September 2003. He has been a senior editor at The Weekly Standard, a contributing editor at Newsweek and the Atlantic Monthly, and he is currently a commentator on "The Newshour with Jim Lehrer." He is the author of "Bobos In Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There" and "On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense," both published by Simon & Schuster. Mr. Brooks joined The Weekly Standard at its inception in September 1995, having worked at The Wall Street Journal for the previous nine years. His last post at the Journal was as op-ed editor. Prior to that, he was posted in Brussels, covering Russia, the Middle East, South Africa, and European affairs. His first post at the Journal was as editor of the book review section, and he filled in for five months as the Journal's movie critic. Mr. Brooks graduated from the University of Chicago in 1983, and worked as a police reporter for the City News Bureau, a wire service owned jointly by the Chicago Tribune and Sun Times. He is also a frequent analyst on NPR's "All Things Considered" and the "Diane Rehm Show." His articles have appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, Forbes, the Washington Post, the TLS, Commentary, The Public Interest and many other magazines. He is editor of the anthology "Backward and Upward: The New Conservative Writing" (Vintage Books).



April Canetto

April Canetto, MSW, is Vice President Community for North Texas United Way, and has dedicated her social work career to systems change through community mobilization. In 2009, April facilitated a successful community effort in Wichita Falls, Texas to implement the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to all kindergarten students in the Wichita Falls Independent School District. April is now leading efforts to leverage the EDI data and implement a comprehensive systems approach to decrease school readiness vulnerabilities through mobilizing neighborhoods, institutions, and communities. April has provided expert testimony to the Texas State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care on the local impact of the EDI and has broadened state and regional support to implement the EDI as a mobilization tool to improve school readiness outcomes.



Michele Cantwell-Copher

Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher has been an educator for 20 years and in her current capacity with the Fresno County Office of Education, she serves as Administrator for Educational Services overseeing the Early Care and Education Division and Charter Schools. As a P-12 educator, Dr. Copher has led the Fresno County Voluntary Preschool Master Plan strategic plan and is currently facilitating a Professional Learning Community for Transitional Kindergarten implementation of Fresno County school districts. Dr. Copher served as the Assistant Superintendent for the Central Unified School District where she provided leadership in all K-12, adult and continuation schools. Dr. Copher is active in the community and in 2006, she was recognized as a Top 10 Business Woman of the Year.

Carol Chase

Carol Chase, MS, RD, is the Nutrition Education Administrator for the Nutrition Services Division at the California Department of Education. She joined the CDE in January 2007 after working for the California WIC program for 13.5 years. Carol is currently responsible for oversight of the development and implementation of nutrition education & training projects for child and adult care sponsors, school food service, and school nutrition educators. Her team includes 13 Nutrition Educators, 2 analysts, student interns, and support staff. At WIC, she was responsible for managing the nutrition education, training, breastfeeding promotion, and outreach activities. Before coming to the CDE, Carol was a supervising nutritionist in Riverside County in southern CA coordinating the nutrition services for programs including WIC. Carol received her Bachelor's in Biology from the University of California, San Diego, and her Master's in Nutrition Science from the University of California, Davis. Carol is a Registered Dietitian.



Frances Chasen

Fran Chasen is an Early Childhood Consultant to Children's Issues and Answers that focuses on system change in the areas of early childhood, early intervention, and health services for families and children with special needs. She is currently California Association for the Education of Young Children's Public Policy Chair. She serves in public policy leadership positions in other early childhood associations such as Infant Development Association and CEC/CAN. She works successfully in collaboration with parents and other community groups to develop and implement legislation benefiting young children. Fran has directed community early intervention services, high risk infant and child care, Head Start, and resource and referral, and alternative payment programs. Currently, she is a member of the Los Angeles Children's Roundtable, California Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention Community, member on the Quality Data Committee, and other early childhood committees. Fran holds an MA degree.



Charlene Clemens

Ms. Clemens, MPA, was the Deputy Director for Family Service Agency's (FSA) Teen and Family Services Department Division, beginning in 1996, and had served in other capacities beginning in 1988. Since 1991, through 2010, she also served as FSA's Program Director of Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Project. At the State level, Ms. Clemens holds leading roles with organizations serving young people throughout the state of California. She was a Maternal and Child Health Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP) Co-Regional Representative for the Greater Bay Area, and she continues to consult as an Emeritus AFLP Regional Representative. Since 1995, she has been the President of the California Adolescent Family Life Association. She is the AFLP and Cal Learn representative on the California Cal SAFE Advisory Work Group. Ms. Clemens is a member of the California Adolescent Health Collaborative, and was an appointed member of the Mayor's Transitional Youth Planning Task Force. Ms. Clemens also participates on the San Francisco Adolescent Health Work Group and is a member of the San Francisco Steering Committee. She sits on the San Francisco Citywide CBO-School Task Force. Ms. Clemens is a current Co-Chair of the San Francisco Family Support Network; she represents that organization as an ex-officio representative on the CAC.



Dan Cohen

Dan Cohen founded Full Court Press in 2001 with a vision of providing public relations, public affairs, and crisis counsel to companies, foundations and non-profits who wish to use strategic communications to make social change. Dan is a veteran public relations, political communications, and media strategist. He applied his belief in brand building public relations to all of the General Mills Brands including Wheaties, Cheerios, Box Tops for Education & Betty Crocker. His work at General Mills in the mid-1990's was recognized by the Wall Street Journal as being on the forefront of leveraging brands to greater PR success. Dan was a political consultant for initiatives and Democratic candidates for offices from mayor to Congress. He was recently named by the East Bay Business Journal as one of its "40 under 40," and serves on the Board of Directors of Alameda County Meals on Wheels. Dan is also on the Board of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Dan is a licensed attorney but chooses to practice strategic communications ... his passion.



David L. Crippens

David Crippens is the Vice Chair of the Education & Workforce Development Committee of Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Chair of the Los Angeles Unified School District Bond Oversight Committee. Mr. Crippens is a consultant specializing in non-profit management, fund raising, and interim management. Prior to becoming a consultant Mr. Crippens was Senior Vice President of Foundations and Education for KCET-TV. Mr. Crippens experience includes thirty-two years of non-profit management, fundraising, and media development with a major focus of providing interim leadership and management for non-profit agencies facing transitional challenges. Mr. Crippens has a long history of public service to the community, providing leadership to and actively involved in a variety of local and national organizations. Mr. Crippens accomplishments includes raising over \$70 million for programs and educational services for KCET-TV, founding and serving current chair of Unite-LA, and pioneered the use of educational outreach in prime-time television for educational programming, and chair of the Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board Youth Council. Mr. Crippens received his BA from Antioch College in Ohio and his MA in Social Work from San Diego State University.



Carol Danaher

Carol Danaher is a Registered Dietitian, with a MS in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She co-founded and now directs the Childhood Feeding Collaborative within the Santa Clara County Public Health Department. She has designed and administered nutrition programs for nonprofit childcare programs, and was a consultant to Early Head Start and Head Start in Santa Clara County. Carol served for 5 years as Child Health and Disability Prevention Nutritionist in Santa Clara County where she worked closely with pediatricians. Carol has worked at the federal level evaluating child nutrition programs for the Food and Nutrition Service of USDA. Volunteer work in Jakarta, Indonesia led to her interest in Public Health. She has been a public school teacher and a Girl Scout leader.



Jan DeLapp

Jan DeLapp is a professor of early childhood education at American River College in Sacramento, where she teaches adults and mentors students working in the child development lab. She has been teaching in early childhood for over 30 years, working in a variety of programs serving young children. Jan is a graduate of the first group of interns in CAEYC's Leadership in Diversity program. Helping students and other professionals understand and implement issues relating to diversity is one of her passions. She has also served on the Curriculum Committee at American River College for eight years.



Sandy Escobedo

Sandy Escobedo, deputy field director for the California Community Foundation's Preschool Advocacy Initiative, works to increase support for quality preschool among elected officials and key community leaders in Los Angeles by building constituencies, mobilizing communities and advocating for related public policies. Before joining CCF as a Palevsky Fellow in July 2007, Escobedo was a data analyst with the SchoolStat project in Philadelphia. She tracked performance in the areas of student achievement, attendance, and school climate. She worked closely with two regional superintendents to share her monthly findings with 46 elementary, middle school and high school principals. The principals used her research to improve student performance and accountability. Escobedo also taught pre-kindergarten in New York City's South Bronx as a Teach for America corps member. She has a master's in government administration from the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania and a master's in teaching from Fordham University. Escobedo received her bachelor's from the University of California, Santa Barbara.



The Honorable
Noreen Evans

Senator Noreen Evans represents California State Senatorial District Two, covering all or portions of Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Solano & Sonoma counties. Senate District 2 covers one third of California's coastline and is home to a world-renowned wine industry and California's beloved giant redwood forests. Senator Evans currently Chairs the Senate Committee on Judiciary and the Legislative Women's Caucus. Her policy priorities include: protecting our environment, fighting for families and children, and reforming our legal system. She also serves as a member of the Agriculture, Budget, Governmental Organization, and Natural Resources & Water Committees. Evans previously served in the State Assembly where she consistently took on leadership roles. She served as Majority Whip, Democratic Caucus Chair, and Budget Committee Chair. She was also a member of the Committees on Banking and Finance, Governmental Organization, and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. Representing much of California's premium wine growing region, Evans chaired the Assembly Select Committee on Wine for all of her six years in the Assembly. Senator Evans also serves as a Commissioner for the Commission on the Status of Women where she advises the Governor and the Legislature on inequities in laws, practices, and conditions that affect women. She has also served as a member of the Law Revision Commission, where she studied intricate legal problems to resolve deficits in our laws and identified major policy questions for legislative attention. Additionally she served as a member of the Coastal Conservancy where she worked to protect, preserve, and restore California's beautiful coastline. Prior to her election to the Assembly in 2004, Evans served two terms on the Santa Rosa City Council, and three years on the Santa Rosa Planning Commission. An attorney by training, Evans also practiced law for more than twenty years, focusing on civil litigation and appeals. She litigated before both state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. Evans has a Juris Doctor degree from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of Pacific and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from California State University, Sacramento.



Cecelia Fisher-Dahms

Cecelia Fisher-Dahms is the Administrator of the Quality Improvement Office for the CDE Child Development Division, responsible for development of the state's early learning foundations (standards) and quality improvement activities described in the California's Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan. Prior to this appointment in September of 2008, Mrs. Fisher-Dahms was a child development consultant in the CDD Policy Office for eight years working on a variety of issues including the federal CCDF State Plan, regulations, CalWORKs child care, alternative payment programs, the market rate survey, and the centralized eligibility list. Prior to joining the CDE, Cecelia worked at the Department of Social Services in Child Welfare Services and CalWORKs Child Care and at the Department of Health Services in Medi-Cal Operations Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment services for children. Prior to entering state service, Cecelia was involved in education for over 25 years, having taught mathematics at the middle school level and early childhood courses at the community college level, with 18 years of experience in early childhood administration.



Bryn Fortune

For approximately 25 years Bryn Fortune's career has been focused in the area of authentic parent engagement in a variety of community collaboration models. Throughout the 90's she directed a statewide parent leadership training program for Michigan's early intervention system. She is the Director of Parenting Leadership for Michigan's Early Childhood Investment Corporation. Previously, as the Director for ECIC's Great Start Parent Coalition Assistance and Development she oversaw the growth and development of the statewide parent volunteer network from 1200 to 9000 members through 68 locally based parent coalitions in 15 months time.



Lenny Goldberg

Lenny Goldberg is a public interest lobbyist and Executive Director of the California Tax Reform Association. He has been involved with major tax legislation and tax initiative campaigns in California for the past 25 years. He is on the board of Citizens for Tax Justice in Washington, D.C. and has published extensively on tax policy. He also advocates on energy, consumer, privacy, and housing issues for non-profit and public interest groups, and has advocated on human services and children's issues as well. He was named in a recent poll of legislators and staff as "the most effective liberal crusader" in the legislature. He has degrees in economics from Williams College and University of California, Berkeley.



Fernando Guerra

Fernando J. Guerra has been the Director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles since 1996. Dr. Guerra is also a professor at LMU in the departments of Chicano studies and political science. Guerra has authored numerous publications that focus on politics and ethnicity issues in California including, "Latino Politics in California: The Necessary Conditions for Success," "Minority Electoral Representation Patterns During the Pat Brown Years," and "Theory, Reality, and Perpetual Potential: Latinos in the 1992 California Elections." Guerra's community service has included membership on the Los Angeles Transportation Commission and the Los Angeles Rent Adjustment Commission. Guerra received his BA in political science and international relations from University of Southern California and earned his doctorate in political science from the University of Michigan.



Neal Halfon

Neal Halfon, MD, MPH, is director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities. He is also a professor of pediatrics in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, health services in the UCLA School of Public Health, and policy studies in the UCLA School of Public Affairs. He served as a member of the Board on Children Youth and Families at the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council from 2001-2006. He also served on the IOM Committee on Child Health that produced the 2004 report Children's Health the Nation's Wealth. Dr. Halfon is the Principal Investigator for the Los Angeles and Ventura Study Center for the National Children's Study and serves on the study's steering committee. The Ambulatory Pediatric Association awarded Dr. Halfon its annual Research Award in recognition of his lifetime achievement in the field of pediatric research in 2006. Dr. Halfon's research has spanned clinical, health services, epidemiologic and health policy domains. This includes studies focused on health and health care needs of children in foster care, trends in childhood chronic illness and disability; access to health insurance and care; quality of health care and developmental services; provisions of preventive services. Dr Halfon has also played a significant role in developing new conceptual frameworks for the study of health and health care, including the Life Course Health Development (LCHD) model. Dr. Halfon received his MD at the University of California, Davis, and MPH at University of California, Berkeley. He completed his pediatric residency at University of California, San Diego and University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Halfon was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at both the University of California, San Francisco and Stanford.



Whitcomb Hayslip

Whitcomb W. Hayslip has worked in the field of early childhood education for over thirty-five years. He currently serves as Assistant Superintendent, Early Childhood Education for the Los Angeles Unified School District and is responsible for programs serving over 35,000 children between birth and five years of age. Whitcomb has a Masters Degree in Human Development with graduate training in both Child Development and Special Education. Prior to his current position he worked as an infant program teacher, a kindergarten teacher, a preschool teacher in a Federally funded mainstreaming model, a Federal Outreach Grant coordinator, an Infant and Preschool Program Specialist and the Director of Infant and Preschool Special Education. He has also served as a consultant for the State of California Preschool Personnel Development Project, the Early Intervention Technical Assistance Network, the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, and as a Senior Trainer for a national staff development project. He has served on a number of local, state and national-level advisory groups including the California First 5 Commission Advisory Committee on Diversity, California Education Master Plan School Readiness Workgroup, California Preschool Standards Workgroup, the Professional Expert Panel for the California Child Development Division's Curriculum Project, Los Angeles County Universal Preschool Advisory Committee, Los Angeles County Childcare Policy Roundtable, Governing Board of the California Association for the Education of Young Children, the Advisory Committee for the California Child Development Facility Accreditation Project, the National Professional Advisory Board for Easter Seals, the Editorial Advisory Board for the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Advisory Committee for the Center on Early Childhood Outcomes.



Armando Jimenez

A long-time Public Health advocate, Armando Jimenez has lead First 5 LA's Research and Evaluation Department since 2000. A critical part of the organization, Armando has helped to create and implement the tools that measure First 5 LA's impact on the community. He has a deep understanding of how well-designed research and evaluation can help change the lives of children in L.A. County. Born and raised in Bakersfield, Armando traveled south to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received a BA in Psychobiology and his Masters in Public Health with an emphasis in Behavioral Science and Public Education. After receiving his MPH, he began work on improving the health of Angelinos through research and evaluation. For eight years Armando held various evaluation-related leadership positions at the Los Angeles Department of Health Services (LADHS). He also continued post-MPH coursework at University of California, Los Angeles, while simultaneously working at LADHS, with a particular interest in cancer education. In 1996, he decided to change his job as well as his role at University of California, Los Angeles; stopping coursework, he became the evaluation and research coordinator for the Public Health Program's technical assistance group. Armando joined First 5 LA as it was just getting off the ground and helped First 5 LA grow to be the teaming organization it is today.



Jacqueline Jones

Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Education for Early Learning, Jacqueline Jones joined the United States Department of Education from the New Jersey State Department of Education where she served as assistant commissioner for the Division of Early Childhood Education. Prior to state government, Jones worked for 16 years at the Educational Testing Service (ETS) as a senior research scientist and director of early childhood research and development. Jones also has been a visiting associate professor at Harvard University and a visiting scholar for the National Assessment of Educational Progress at ETS. Jones has directed numerous federally- and foundation-funded projects on early childhood learning. She has many published writings and conference presentations on the topic and has lectured extensively on the subject. Jones earned her doctorate and master's degrees in communication science and disorders from Northwestern University, and has a Bachelor of Arts in speech pathology from Hunter College.



Marianne Jones

Marianne Jones, Ed.D., is a Professor of Child Development and Chair of the Child, Family, and Consumer Sciences Department at California State University, Fresno. She holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from University of California, Davis, and California State University, Fresno and Master's and Bachelor's degrees from Pacific Oaks College. Dr. Jones served on the California Department of Education Panel of Experts to develop California Early Childhood Educator Competencies, and currently directs the Competencies Integration Project (CIP), a quality improvement grant to develop tools and procedures to map ECE curricula in higher education and Quality Improvement Programs to the state ECE Competencies. Dr. Jones has done extensive work in authentic assessment and pedagogy in higher education, particularly in the preparation of early care and education practitioners, public policy, and leadership related to ECE. She developed and coordinates the Child Development Practitioner Option, a baccalaureate degree completion program for ECE professionals, and is co-author of *Developing Your Portfolio: Enhancing Your Learning and Showing Your Stuff* – a guide for early childhood students and professionals. She is a founding member and chair of Baccalaureate Pathways in Early Care and Education (BPECE), a Child Development faculty organizations dedicated to improving early care and education through higher education. She serves on the board of the California Children's Collabrium, and has been a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for 35 years, presenting at numerous state and national conferences.

Lisa Kaufman

Lisa Kaufman is the Director of the Early Learning Services Department at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). The department, which leads the county-wide Early Learning Master Plan, includes Head Start, State Preschool, the Inclusion Collaborative, the California Preschool Instructional Network, and the staff for the Local Planning Council. Prior to joining SCCOE, she worked in San Francisco and Los Angeles. In San Francisco, Lisa served as the Chief of Early Childhood Education at San Francisco Unified School District, where she was responsible for the district's PK-3 strategic planning efforts and led the city's largest early learning program. In Los Angeles, Lisa oversaw Early Advantage, an early childhood education effort of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), consisting of five different programs that served over 30,000 young children, caregivers, and early education professionals annually. Lisa received her PhD and AM in Developmental Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and her BA from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Kerry Kriener-Althen

Kerry Kriener-Althen is the Director of the Center for Child and Family Studies (CCFS) Evaluation Team at WestEd. She has extensive experience leading research and evaluation in center-based and home-based early care and education settings serving infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Under Kriener-Althen's direction and leadership, the CCFS Evaluation Team has specialized in developing observational assessments that support children's development in early care and education programs; assessing the quality of environments and relationships in early care and education programs serving infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children for the purposes of evaluation and program quality improvement; and evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of services, practices, and policies designed to promote quality care in early childhood settings. The core of Kriener-Althen's work at WestEd has been overseeing the development and field-testing of two observational assessment instruments — the PITC PARS and the DRDP. Prior to joining WestEd, Kriener-Althen was a member of the First 5 California Statewide Evaluation Team and led major facets of the evaluation including the Kindergarten Entry Profile data collection, the First 5 and School Readiness Initiative systems change surveys, and participation of First 5 LA School Readiness Initiative programs in statewide data collection efforts. She has also led a policy evaluation study of the Minnesota child support guidelines while at the University of Minnesota, evaluated parent-support programs while at the University of Tennessee, and conducted research on foster family satisfaction while at State Public Policy Group in Iowa. Kriener-Althen received a BS in child, parent, and community service and an MS in social science from Iowa State University, and a PhD in family social science from the University of Minnesota.



Brian Lee

Brian Lee is the Deputy Director for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *California* and author of several research reports on early education. Prior to joining FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *California* in 2000, Mr. Lee served as General Counsel to Senator Herb Kohl on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, where he worked on issues including crime prevention, juvenile justice, litigation reform, and intellectual property. He also served as Political Strategy Assistant for the Clinton/Gore '96 Campaign and as a litigation associate for Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Washington, D.C. Before completing his law degree, he worked at the National Center for Youth Law and People For the American Way. Mr. Lee is a graduate of Boalt Hall (UC Berkeley) School of Law and Yale University. He is a member of the Bar in California and the District of Columbia.



Ted Lempert

Ted Lempert is the President of Children Now, a national research and advocacy organization based in Oakland, California. Previously, Mr. Lempert was the founding CEO and co-founder of EdVoice, a California grassroots organization advocating for education reform and support for public education. He also serves on the San Mateo County Board of Education. Mr. Lempert was a California State Assemblymember representing San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties from 1996 to 2000 and 1988 to 1992. He served as chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and the Select Committees on Education Technology and Coastal Protection, and co-chair of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education. Mr. Lempert also served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, where he was President of the Board in 1995. He was the founder of the County's Youth Commission and chaired the Task Force on Violence Against Women. Prior to holding public office, Mr. Lempert was special counsel and an associate for the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter, and Hampton in San Francisco. He graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and earned his law degree from Stanford University.



Kathryn Lindholm-Leary

Kathryn Lindholm-Leary is professor of Child and Adolescent Development at San Jose State University, where she has taught for 16 years. At San Jose State, Dr. Lindholm-Leary received a Teacher-Scholar award, was a finalist for the President's Scholar award, and was a San Jose State nominee for the prestigious Wang Family Excellence award. Dr. Lindholm-Leary has worked with dual language education programs for the past 20 years and during that time has evaluated over 30 programs and helped to establish programs in over 50 school districts in 10 states. Dr. Lindholm-Leary has presented her findings on dual language education programs at many local, state, national, and international meetings. Her findings appear in newspapers, professional newsletters, professional journal articles, and book chapters. She has authored or co-authored two books in dual language education. One book, entitled *Dual Language Education* focuses on the theory, implementation issues, and evaluation outcomes in dual language education. Another book, entitled *Profiles in Two-Way Immersion Education*, with coauthors at the Center for Applied Linguistics, is a case study of three different two-way bilingual immersion models. Dr. Lindholm-Leary also prepared a booklet for the US Department of Education and the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition entitled *Biliteracy for a Global Society: An Idea Book on Dual Language Education*.



Kitty Lenhart

Kitty Lenhart, RD, Med, is a Child Health and Nutrition Specialist with the Contra Costa Child Care Council. She is a registered dietitian (RD) who specializes in healthy environments in childcare and childhood obesity prevention. She teaches nutrition at Diablo Valley College and is certified in Adult Weight Management by the American Dietetics Association. Prior positions include 7 years as a Supervising Public Health Nutritionist with the WIC program with Solano County, Supervising Child Nutritionist with the Cumberland County Unified School District North Carolina, and Director of the Lifelong Wellness Center as a Department of Defense dietitian with US Army in Japan.



The Honorable
Carol Liu

Carol Liu is the California State Senator from the 21st District, representing Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, San Gabriel, Temple City, several City of Los Angeles communities, and portions of other surrounding cities and communities. She was a teacher in the Richmond, California, public schools from 1964 through 1978 – teaching history at the junior and senior high school level. She also worked as a school administrator from 1978-1984. After relocating to Southern California, Ms. Liu emerged as a key community volunteer and civic leader. Initially she focused on education and other issues affecting children, including serving as a PTA President and as President of the Pasadena City College Foundation Board. She has been involved in a whole range of issues – from affordable housing to preservation of open space – that affected local quality of life. In 1992 Ms. Liu was elected to the La Cañada Flintridge City Council. She served on the Council for eight years, including two very successful terms as Mayor. In 2000, she was elected to the State Assembly to represent the 44th District and served three terms. She was elected to the state senate in November 2008 where she continues pursuing her agenda to improve public education, increase access to higher education and to career and technical education, and assure essential services for the elderly, low-income and disabled. She attended public schools and graduated from San Jose State College in 1963. She continued her education at the University of California, Berkeley School of Education where she earned both a lifetime teaching credential and a credential in education administration.



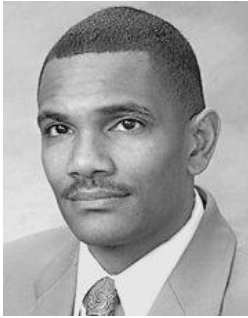
Janet Lopez

As the Senior Policy Analyst for Preschool California, Janet works with staff and stakeholders to develop policy recommendations that will expand access to high-quality early learning programs statewide. Prior to joining Preschool California, Janet served as a Policy Analyst with Governor Schwarzenegger's Secretary of Education's Office. She has also served as a Policy Analyst for the California Primary Care Association, a statewide non-profit health care association, and as a Program Officer for Governor Davis's Secretary of Education's Office. As a child, Janet participated in both a Head Start and state-subsidized Preschool program – both of which helped foster her interest in learning. She holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and History from University of California, Berkeley.



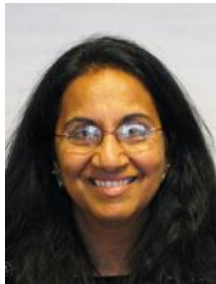
Camille Maben

Since March 2008, Camille Maben, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, has served as Division Director of the Child Development Division at the California Department of Education. She was previously appointed by the Governor to serve as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Secretary of Education. She worked closely with the Secretary on the coordination and development of the Governor's education policy agenda. Prior to her current appointment, Ms. Maben worked in the California Department of Education, where she was the Director of the School and District Accountability Division. Her division included the No Child Left Behind office, oversight of the Categorical Program monitoring process, the Title I Policy and Partnerships Unit, and the English Learner Accountability Unit. She served as the Superintendent's representative to the California Interscholastic Federation. Ms. Maben also served as Senior Advisor to former State Superintendent Delaine Eastin and worked as a consultant to the Assembly Committee on Education. Ms. Maben is serving her 16th year as a school board member for the Rocklin Unified School District. Camille also worked for 10 years with Bev Bos at the Roseville Community Pre-School where she served as business manager, teacher, and parent.



Adonai Mack

Adonai Mack is a Legislative Advocate on behalf of members of Association of California School Administrators in the areas of the state budget, special education, transportation, pupil services, and preschool. He is well known for his political insight and understanding of the legislative process. Prior to joining ACSA, Adonai was a legislative advocate at the California School Boards Association, where he focused on the issues of charter schools, facilities, retirement, and professional development. He has also served as a Legislative Advocate for Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and for then-Governor Gray Davis in the Office of the Secretary for Education. The son of former longtime Sacramento-area superintendent Carl Mack, Adonai has been involved in public education issues for most of his life. Having grown up in Davis, he attended Morehouse College in Atlanta before returning to the Sacramento area. Mack serves on the executive board of the local parent teacher organization at his daughter's middle school. In addition, Adonai serves on the board of a local nonprofit that specializes in advocating for children with mental health needs.



Meera Mani

Dr. Meera Mani has dedicated the majority of her professional life to improving the early learning experiences of young children. Before joining the David and Lucile Packard Foundation as a Program Officer, she worked with policy at Preschool California, and served as president of The Clayton Foundation, an early education-focused foundation located in Denver, Colorado. She also led a statewide initiative in Colorado to improve children's early learning experiences through a quality rating and improvement system. She holds a master's degree in child development from India and a doctorate of education from Boston University.



Carola Matera

Dr. Carola Matera provides early childhood consulting services to support programs in implementing and delivering quality educational services to young Head Start children and their families. She specializes in early learning and effective teaching practices for young children who are dual language learners. In order to accomplish this, Carola assists programs in preparing culturally responsive teachers and addressing dual language learning focusing on program policies and a systemic approach for instruction. Previously, Carola worked as a training and technical assistance provider with Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Project at the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C. She co-authored, with Dr. Michael Gerber, a research article based on a literacy intervention study with dual language learners in Head Start. She is a former early childhood education teacher, a researcher and advocate for children and families.



Anita S. McGinty

Anita McGinty, CCC-SLP; PhD, is a clinical speech-language pathologist and Research Scientist in the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Dr. McGinty's research focuses on identifying and establishing practices within classrooms and homes that support young children's language and literacy development. She is also interested in how aspects of instruction (such as instructional intensity) relate to children's learning and why children may respond differently to such instructional efforts. Dr. McGinty has published a number of peer-reviewed articles and book chapters concerning early language and literacy development and co-authored a curricular supplement called Read It Again! Pre-K (Justice & McGinty, 2008), which is currently being evaluated in a multi-state effort through a federally-funded grant.



Harriet Meyer

Harriet Meyer, MA, is a nationally recognized leader in shaping public policies and creating innovative programs that help young, at-risk children and their families. Ms. Meyer currently heads Strategic Initiatives for the Ounce of Prevention Fund, including supporting the national expansion of the network of Educare schools and providing consultation with key stakeholders to improve early childhood programs and policies across the country. Previously, Ms. Meyer was President of the Ounce for two decades, during which time she established the organization as a leader in advocating for and providing early childhood education. In Illinois, Ms. Meyer led the state's push to expand preschool opportunities and investments in early childhood, beginning at birth. She helped to fight for and secure an expansion of early education funding by \$90 million over three years, a landmark commitment to serve more young children. In 2003, the Governor of Illinois chose Ms. Meyer to co-chair the Early Learning Council, the first coordinating council for young children to be housed in an Illinois Governor's office. During this tenure, she has helped win passage of *Preschool For All*, historic legislation making Illinois the first state to offer a quality preschool opportunity to all 3- and 4-year-olds, and that includes a set-aside devoted to programs focusing on at-risk infants and toddlers. Ms. Meyer also co-chaired the Finance Committee of Governor Ryan's Task Force on Universal Preschool. On the national level, Ms. Meyer served on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee that created our country's Early Head Start program. She presented at the White House Conference on Early Brain Development in 1997, participated in the White House Conference on Early Cognition in 2001, and testified in 2009 before the House Committee on Education and Labor about the importance of expanding access to high quality early childhood programs for the youngest, most vulnerable children. Under her direction, the Ounce of Prevention Fund opened the Educare Center in February 2000. Educare has become one of the nation's premier early learning program models. On another front, Ms. Meyer has been instrumental in expanding the use of "douglas" – specially trained home visitors who help young, low-income mothers across Illinois. Ms. Meyer received her undergraduate degree from Syracuse University and her graduate degree from Middlebury College after completing most of her studies in Paris. Ms. Meyer also serves as a Board Member of The Irving Harris Foundation and a number of other philanthropic and civic organizations throughout Chicago.



The Honorable
Holly J. Mitchell

Assemblymember Holly J. Mitchell was elected in November 2010 and serves the 47th Assembly District, which includes the Los Angeles communities of Baldwin Hills, the Crenshaw District, Culver City, West Los Angeles, Westwood, Cheviot Hills, Leimert Park, Windsor Hills, Ladera Heights, Little Ethiopia and portions of Koreatown, the Fairfax district and South Los Angeles. Mitchell comes to the State Assembly from leadership in California's non-profit sector where, as the chief executive officer of Crystal Stairs for the last seven years, she has championed family-focused policymaking throughout the state. Previously, Mitchell worked in the Los Angeles district office of former State Senator Diane Watson providing community and constituent services. As a policy analyst for the California Senate's Health and Human Services Committee, she sought fiscally sound ways to expand health care and other vital services for all Californians. As the legislative advocate of the Western Center for Law and Poverty she helped develop, implement and increase enrollment in the groundbreaking Healthy Families program, later serving as executive director of the Black Women's Health Project in Los Angeles where she fought to further improve access to affordable care. At Crystal Stairs she guided one of the largest childcare agencies in California, improving the lives of families by providing access to daily childcare services for nearly 25,000 children in the Los Angeles area, while meeting a monthly payroll for hundreds of employees. Mitchell's commitment to community service and social justice began in elementary school as a student volunteer in a congressional campaign, which eventually led to an extensive record of student activism and a Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs, following her undergraduate studies at University of California, Riverside.



Scott Moore

Scott Moore is executive director of the California Early Learning Advisory Council. Moore has sixteen years working as a social entrepreneur in education policy and management. He was formerly a senior policy advisor for Preschool California and is co-owner of a private Montessori school in Oakland. He is former director of early education for the non-profit Kidango, where he supported fifty-one child development and Head Start centers. Prior to this, Scott was a researcher and senior analyst at the UCLA Anderson School of Management and the School of Public Affairs, supporting numerous organizational change efforts for large public and non-profit organizations. Scott received his BA in political science from University of California, Los Angeles, and his MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Alex Morales

In the 22 years that Mr. Morales has been with Children's Bureau, he has been instrumental in growing the organization's budget from \$6.6 million (5 sites) to \$27 million (20 sites) and, most importantly, in developing Children's Bureau into a preeminent leader in child abuse prevention. He is responsible for overall program development and operations of the agency and he advocates publicly with local and state leaders seeking child welfare policy reform. Alex holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California. He earned his BA in Physics from California State University, Long Beach, and his interest in science has moved the organization towards the role of discovery through its research and evaluation programs.



Molly Munger

Molly Munger is a co-founder and co-director of the Advancement Project, a national organization founded in 1998 to create and promote new strategies for achieving inclusion and equity. A 25 year litigation veteran, she is also a co-founder and partner in the Los Angeles civil rights law firm English, Munger & Rice. Between 1994 and 1998, Munger served with her current law partner, Connie Rice, as Western Regional Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Between 1974 and 1994, she served as an assistant United States Attorney, a partner in the all-women litigation firm Baird, Munger & Meyers, and a partner in the Los Angeles office of New York-based Fried, Frank, Harris, and Shriver & Jacobson. Munger is a graduate of Radcliffe College and Harvard Law School. She serves on the boards of the James Irvine Foundation, First 5 California, and Alliance for College-Ready Public Schools.



Sarah Neville-Morgan

Sarah Neville-Morgan is deputy executive director of the California Early Learning Advisory Council. Before ELAC, she joined First 5 California as a child development consultant in May of 2000 and became the deputy director of program management in July of 2007. As deputy director, she oversees approximately 20 major statewide programs that cover issues related to healthy child development, family support, and systems change and also participates on many advisory groups. During her tenure at First 5, Sarah has focused on using programs to influence policy as well as emphasizing quality and continuous program improvement. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Earlham College and a Master's of Science in Child Development from the University of California Davis. Sarah started her career at the University of California Davis' Center for Child and Family Studies as an Infant/Toddler Head Teacher and was promoted to serve as an academic child development specialist. In that role, she directed three full-inclusion preschool programs while specializing in infant mental health and supporting healthy families. She also worked at a child care resource and referral agency where she conducted home visits with family child care providers and participated as an evaluator of a statewide training program. Sarah also spent time as adjunct faculty for a Foster Care Education Program and as a Program for Infant/Toddler Care trainer consulting with the Yolo County Teen Parent Centers.



Lucy L. Okumu

Lucy Okumu is a policy and communications strategist with Strategic Council PLC in the firm's government group. Ms. Okumu provides strategic advice on politics, legislative and communications issues. Ms. Okumu has successfully built bonds between communities, businesses, and public institutions to bring about a mutual understanding around critical issues. In doing so, Ms. Okumu honed her analytical problem-solving and negotiating skills while developing a keen insight in fostering collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders. Previously, Ms. Okumu worked as director of external affairs and acted as the primary political and strategic advisor to the superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Prior to working with the LAUSD, Ms. Okumu was the executive director for New Schools Better Neighborhoods in Los Angeles, where she managed the organization's operations and project development, led strategic planning with consultant teams, interacted with funders, and secured new clients from school districts, local municipalities, and non-profit groups. Ms. Okumu also worked as a legislative deputy to Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, where she provided guidance on labor and education issues. Ms. Okumu began her career as a policy analyst for the California School Board Association where she trained school districts in building system-wide service programs. Ms. Okumu earned a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of California, Davis, and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Southern California.



Monet Parham-Lee

Monet Parham-Lee serves as a regional program manager within the Network for a Healthy California; a program of the California Department of Public Health funded by the USDA-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program). She spends most of her time at the Network providing consultation, technical assistance and on-going support for the Regional Networks which facilitate the full integration of a variety of State Network-level functions on the regional level, bringing services and support closer to Network-funded projects and partners serving the low income audience. Ms. Parham-Lee also serves as the Network's lead staff person on early childhood matters, working closely with several Network funded Statewide Leadership Projects focused on early nutrition and physical activity. Prior to joining the Network, she worked in a variety of health services, children's services, and public health programs at the State-level, as well as with the Greater Sacramento Urban League.



Dan Pedersen

Daniel Pedersen is founding president of the Susan A. Buffett Foundation (2000-2005) and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund (2005 to present). The Fund invests in three areas – practice, policy, and knowledge – and is spearheading efforts to establish a nationwide network of well-researched and well-implemented Educare Centers. Each Educare provides the highest possible quality care and education to 150-200 children and families and serves as a platform for policy change within its community and state to benefit children at greatest risk from birth. In 2005, the Fund created the Birth to Five Policy Alliance, now backed by multiple philanthropies, to galvanize the efforts of 13 organizations to work more comprehensively together on state-based and national initiatives. Pedersen also chairs the executive policy council of the First Five Years Fund – a new national communications effort by seven philanthropies to change federal early childhood policy. Before entering philanthropy, Pedersen worked for 25 years as a journalist – including 18 years as a *Newsweek* bureau chief at home and abroad, primarily in London. Pedersen was in Berlin the night the wall fell, chronicled the fall of Margaret Thatcher and the rise of Tony Blair, and commented frequently for BBC radio and television on U.S. and world affairs. Pedersen holds BA and MA degrees from Boston College.



Kris Perry

Since July 2005, Kris Perry has been the executive director of First 5 California and has helped strengthen First 5 California's position as a leader in the early childhood development arena with its emphasis on the whole child. Under her guidance, First 5 California has emerged as one of the primary advocates for California's youngest children and their families. Kris brings a wealth of experience to First 5 California, including having previously served as executive director of First 5 San Mateo County. Ms. Perry worked closely with other counties and was the chair of the 2003 Statewide Preschool for All Summit, chair of the Association's Preschool for All task force, and the 2005 vice president of the First 5 Association of California. Ms. Perry's dedication to children and their families began at the Alameda County Social Services Agency where she worked for more than 12 years in various capacities, including Dependency Investigator, Family Preservation Case Manager, Unit Supervisor, Supervising Program Specialist, and Program Manager with an emphasis on Service Integration and Agency Planning. Ms. Perry is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Board Certified Diplomat who also holds a post-graduate certificate as a Service Integration Specialist. In 2003 she completed the Stanford Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and master's in Social Work from San Francisco State University.



Robert Pianta

Robert C. Pianta, a longtime faculty member in the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education, is its eighth dean. Pianta is an expert on early childhood education and teacher quality whose work spans the worlds of policy, practice, and basic science. In addition to his teaching and research, he directs the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL). Pianta is the Novartis U.S. Foundation Professor of Education and a professor of psychology. Pianta's current research focuses on the effects of schooling on children's social and academic life and ways to improve the classroom experience through teachers' professional development. He also heads several interdisciplinary research and training efforts with more than \$25 million in funding, including the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning, which he founded in 2005. CASTL's mission is improving the educational outcomes of the nation's children from preschool through grade 12 through scientific study of teaching and classroom learning. The outgoing editor of the *Journal of School Psychology*, Pianta has published more than 300 scholarly papers and is the lead author of several books, including the recent "School Readiness and the Transition to Kindergarten in the Age of Accountability." A frequent consultant to foundations and state and federal agencies regarding early childhood issues, Pianta is the University of Virginia's representative to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's Virginia Preschool Initiative. Pianta joined the University faculty after receiving his doctorate from the University of Minnesota. He received his BA and MA from the University of Connecticut.



J.B. Pritzker

Mr. Pritzker is the Founder of New World Ventures. A founding board member of the Illinois Venture Capital Association, a founding director of the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center, and co-founder of the Illinois Innovation Accelerator Fund with the state of Illinois, Pritzker has been a forceful and active proponent of a stronger technology base and entrepreneurship in the Midwest region. In 2008, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce awarded Mr. Pritzker the Entrepreneur Champion Award for his efforts assisting business creation. Pritzker is also Managing Partner of The Pritzker Group, a private investment firm acquiring late stage companies in a wide range of business sectors including industrial, business services, media, and technology. Acquisitions have included Amsafe, Signicast, and Carter-Waters. Crain's Chicago Business honored Mr. Pritzker with the designation as a business leader in its "40 under 40," and "Who's Who of Chicago Business." The Chicago Sun-Times named him to their "Hot 100" most prominent members of Chicago's technology economy. The City Club of Chicago awarded him Citizen of the Year, and he received the Humanitarian Award from the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois for his philanthropic activities. Pritzker is a trustee and serves on the investment committee of Northwestern University and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Northwestern University School of Law. He served as Chairman of the Illinois Human Rights Commission until 2006 and is Chairman of the Illinois Holocaust Museum Campaign. Pritzker is an attorney and a member of the Illinois and Chicago Bar Associations. He graduated with an AB in political science from Duke University and earned his JD from Northwestern University School of Law.



Terri Rosales

Terri Rosales joined Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) in 2007 and brings nearly 20 years of corporate and agency public relations experience to the organization. Her work is well noted for creating strategic marketing and public relations campaigns that meet organizational objectives and capture the attention of their audience. Ms. Rosales has worked in multinational corporations interested in advancing their market share or simply have a desire to establish community goodwill and visibility. Prior to LAUP, she held a number of progressive communications positions at Nissan North America, Inc. There, she developed strategic communications programs designed to increase the automaker's visibility among stakeholders worldwide, managed its corporate image nationally, and led many highly visible media relations and cause-related marketing campaigns. Ms. Rosales also served two years as a board member and administrator for the Nissan Foundation. During her tenure, she was the lead communications counsel to Nissan's former president and Chief Executive Officer on President Clinton's panel on Race Relations in the United States during 1997-1998. Prior to Nissan, Rosales spent six years at Fleishman-Hillard International where she specialized in crisis communications, consumer marketing and media relations. In this position, Rosales also led communications programs for a variety of blue-chip clients, including Levi Strauss & Co., Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., Avery Dennison, California Milk Advisory Council and other consumer companies. In addition, Rosales was a key team member in new business development for the agency and co-led the firm's multi-ethnic group communications team. Rosales is a member of the Public Relations Society of America. Throughout her career, she has received numerous awards for her work, including the prestigious *Silver Anvil* award from the National Public Relations Society of America for a multi-million dollar, public relations campaign for the California Department of Food and Agriculture; the Public Communicator of Los Angeles-Nissan North America Award for Excellence; the Levi Strauss & Co. Award of Excellence; and, the *Inside PR-Merit* Award for Multicultural Communications for the California Milk Advisory Board. Ms. Rosales is a graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership, and received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Los Angeles.



Ernesto Saldana

As field director for Preschool California, Ernesto develops and executes preschool advocacy strategies across the state. Previously he served as executive director for Public Allies Los Angeles; deputy director of constituency services and director of communications at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund; and he currently serves on the Liberty Hill Foundation's Fund for a New Los Angeles Community Funding Board. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science from California State University, Fullerton and his law degree from Whittier Law School. Born and raised in Santa Ana, California, Ernesto is a second-generation Latino born of Bracero farm worker parents.



Lois Salisbury

Lois joined the Packard Foundation as the director of the Children, Families, and Communities Program in March of 2002. The Children, Families, and Communities (CFC) Program works to ensure opportunities for all children to reach their potential and under her leadership has focused on three goals: achieving high-quality preschool for California's children, starting with the children who need it most; promoting access to health insurance that ensures appropriate health care for all of the nation's children; and ensuring that California's commitment to provide after-school programs for all elementary- and middle school-aged children is well implemented and becomes a platform for expansion into summer enrichment. Lois leads a program staff of 11 in devising grantmaking strategies to achieve these goals. She also participates in the senior management of the Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, from 1993 to 2002, Lois served as the chief executive of Children Now, a research and action organization recognized nationally for its policy expertise, up-to-date information, and work with the media. She also worked for 19 years at Public Advocates, a public interest law firm, where she conducted complex litigation and advocacy concentrating on civil rights, education, health, and consumer issues. She previously worked as a school administrator, counselor, and inner city teacher. She holds a JD from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, and a BA from Reed College. Lois was the founding chair of Health Access, a California consumer coalition representing over 200 organizations. She served as the national co-chair of the advisory committee to the Children's and Adolescent Health Measures Initiative, a joint effort of the National Committee on Quality Assurance and the Foundation for Accountability (FACCT). Recent responsibilities include the working group on early education appointed by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Masterplan for Education, the Executive Planning Committee of the California Initiative to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health, the Board of Directors of the Parkinson's Action Network, and the chair of the strategic advisory committee for Teach with Africa. In May, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Lois to California's Early Learning Advisory Committee, which is responsible for developing and coordinating a comprehensive plan for early education in California. Lois has appeared frequently in the media including *The Today Show* and NPR and has authored numerous opinion pieces published in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Sacramento Bee*, and other publications.



Sarah Samuels

For more than 25 years, Dr. Samuels has worked on public health and health policy issues for government, university, and philanthropic institutions. As a program officer at the Kaiser Family Foundation, she was instrumental in developing major foundation initiatives in disease prevention. She conceived and directed Project LEAN, a national nutrition social marketing campaign. Dr. Samuels is the Principal Investigator for the Healthy Eating Active Communities (HEAC) Initiative funded by the California Endowment and Kaiser Permanente. She is co-chair of the California Project LEAN steering committee, a founding member of the California Nutrition Network and the Strategic Alliance to Promote Healthy Food and Physical Activity Environments, and she is on the board of California Food Policy Advocates. Dr. Samuels has recently been appointed to serve on the Women's Health Council for the State of California. She has served as an evaluation adviser to the CDC Youth Media Campaign and she was a Pew Health Policy Fellow at the Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Samuels received the 2005 Catherine Cowell award for Public Health Nutrition Practice from the American Public Health Association. She holds a Doctorate in public health from the University of California, Berkeley and Masters' degrees in nutrition and education from Columbia University, Teacher's College.

Diana Schaack

Diana Schaack is a consultant with the BUILD Initiative where she provides leadership for their Quality Rating and Improvement System National Learning Network (NLN). The NLN provides technical assistance and opportunities for states and national QRIS experts to come together to build more effective QRIS. She also works with the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership and the RAND Corporation conducting research on issues concerning measuring quality in early childhood settings. Prior to becoming a consultant, she was the Director of Research for Qualistar Early Learning in Colorado where she assisted in the development of Colorado's QRIS and managed a longitudinal evaluation of the state's system. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the Erikson Institute, Loyola University, Chicago.



Patty Siegel

Since 1970, Patty Siegel has been actively involved in the development and delivery of child care services, combining perspectives as a teacher, a parent-organizer, and the founding director of one of the nation's first child care resource and referral agencies, The Children's Council/Childcare Switchboard in San Francisco. Ms. Siegel developed California's legislation that provides state funding for child care resource and referral services (R&Rs) in every county of the state. Since 1980, Patty has served as the executive director of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, a private non-profit agency, which represents and assists fifty-six local child care resource and referral agencies. In her role as executive director, Ms. Siegel is an active participant in shaping state and federal policy for children and families. Her current work includes the Child Care Initiative Project, a statewide public-private partnership to expand the supply of licensed quality child care by recruiting and training new family child care providers. She has inspired and guided the development of Parent Voices, a grassroots parent-led effort, to engage and empower parents to actively and successfully participate in the policy process.



The Honorable
Joe Simitian

Joe Simitian was elected to the California State Senate in November 2004 to represent the 11th State Senate District, which includes portions of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties. He is the author of SB 1381, the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010. His public service over the years includes stints as a State Assemblymember, member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Mayor of Palo Alto, and President of the Palo Alto School Board. He has also served as an election observer/supervisor in El Salvador and Bosnia, and participated in refugee relief and resettlement efforts in Albania and Kosovo. In the Senate, Simitian chairs the Environmental Quality Committee and serves as a member of the following committees: Budget & Fiscal Review, where he is Chair of Subcommittee #2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, and Transportation; Education; Energy, Utilities & Communications; Natural Resources & Water; and Transportation & Housing. Simitian received his Bachelor of Arts degree, with academic honors, from The Colorado College. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in International Policy Studies from Stanford University, a Master in City Planning degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall. Raised in Palo Alto and a graduate of Palo Alto ("Paly") High, Simitian's roots are in the Midpeninsula. His community involvement includes service on the boards of local organizations such as American Leadership Forum – Silicon Valley, Adolescent Counseling Services, and the Clara-Mateo Alliance, and he co-chairs the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's Housing Leadership Council. Simitian brings to his work a unique perspective and background – service at all levels of local government; hands-on experience in the private sector as a public schools attorney, businessman, and certified city planner; a breadth of international interests and experience; as well as professional education and training particularly applicable to his work in the Legislature.



Rick Simpson

Rick Simpson is Deputy Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the California State Assembly, John Pérez. In that capacity, Rick is responsible for advising the Speaker and other members of the Assembly on a wide variety of policy and budget issues. Rick has spent more than 32 years working in and around the State Capitol, primarily on issues of public education. He served as a senior advisor for seven Assembly Speakers: Willie L. Brown Jr., Antonio Villaraigosa, Bob Hertzberg, Herb Wesson, Fabian Nunez, Karen Bass, and now, John Pérez. He served for two years as Chief of Staff for the Senate Education Committee, for more than six years as Chief Consultant for the Assembly Education Committee, and worked for a short time as a lobbyist for the California Teachers Association. In 1999, Rick served for six months as the first Legislative Secretary for California Governor Gray Davis. Rick's appointment to this cabinet level position was one of the first appointments in the Davis Administration. Rick is one of California's experts on education policy and school finance. He was the lead negotiator on Propositions 1A, 47, 55, and 1D the multi-billion dollar school bond measures. He has either written or played a key role in developing most of California's major education reforms of the past decade including the Class Size Reduction program, the law creating California's system of academic standards and assessment, the zero tolerance law, and the law limiting social promotion. Rick also drafted the budget reform measures contained in Propositions 1A and 1B for the 2009 special election. Rick is the Assembly's lead negotiator on the annual budget for public education. A frequent speaker at statewide conferences, Rick has received numerous awards for public service including the highest award given by the California State PTA for service to children and youth. In 2009 and 2010 Rick was named by Capitol Weekly as one of the 100 most influential people in California. Rick received his Bachelors degree in economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz and earned a Masters degree in public policy from the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. Rick is also active in his local community. He served for 12 years as an elected trustee of the Sacramento County Board of Education and was elected president of that board three times. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Chapter of the American Heart Association and the Sacramento Urban League.



Jennifer Stedron

Jennifer Stedron is the Executive Director of Colorado's Early Childhood Leadership Commission and Policy Director for Early Childhood Education, Health, and Human Services in the office of Governor John Hickenlooper. Established in statute in 2010, the Commission is charged to identify opportunities for, and address barriers to, the coordination of policies that affect the health and well-being of Colorado's children. Prior to this position, Jennifer served as a Program Director in the Education Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures, where she dedicated over five years to managing policy issues in early childhood, time and learning, school finance and special education. She is a founding member of the national Early Childhood Data Collaborative, which supports state policymakers' development and use of state early childhood data systems. Ms. Stedron has written extensively in the areas of early childhood policy, assessments, and data systems and has published books chapters and journal articles in areas of cognitive neuroscience. She received her BA from Michigan State University and her master's degree and PhD from the University of Denver in child clinical psychology with a specialty in developmental cognitive neuroscience.



Nancy Strohl

Nancy Strohl is staff to Assembly Member Holly Mitchell. She was executive director of the Child Care Law Center in San Francisco until its close in 2009, and was actively involved in the Center's state policy work and in a number of advocacy coalitions. Prior to joining Law Center, Ms. Strohl served as executive director of Contra Costa Legal Services Foundation, a California legal services program; the Public Interest Clearinghouse, a coordination and advocacy agency for California public interest law organizations; and program coordinator of the Alameda County Bar Association Pro Bono Program. Ms. Strohl has been a passionate advocate for low-income people and families and has devoted her entire career to help them. She attended Pitzer College in Claremont, California majoring in Sociology.



Susan Sifuentes Trigueros

Susan Trigueros is a highly skilled Public Relations professional with twenty years experience in corporate, governmental, community, and media relations. She joined the Southern California Gas Company in 1982. Prior to her current position in External Affairs, Susan held several positions the company's departments. In her capacity as Regional Public Affairs Manager for Southern California Gas Company, she is responsible for the Public Affairs' and local community giving strategies in the Los Angeles County area. Susan manages a professional staff of nine and a budget of approximately 1.5 million dollars. Susan attended the University of Southern California where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. Susan also serves in a number of leadership capacities. She currently serves as Board Chair of University of Southern California-Mexican American Alumni Association, Past Chair of the League of Cities Partners Steering Committee, Past President of HOPE (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality), and is a Board Member of the San Fernando Valley Economic Alliance and the Valley Industry & Commerce Association. Susan has received numerous legislative certificates of recognition for her community and advocacy work. In 2002 Susan was honored by Women's Enews as one of the "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" for her work in civic participation, in 2004 she received the HOPE PAC leadership award, in 2007 she received the Corporate Award from Girls Today Women Tomorrow mentoring program and in 2009 received a University of Southern California Widney Alumni House Award.



Elita Amini F. Virmani

As a Senior Research Associate with WestEd's Center for Child & Family Studies (CCFS), Elita Amini Virmani works on a variety of projects designed to enhance the quality of early childhood education. Amini Virmani is managing the development of the California Department of Education, Child Development Division's Desired Results Developmental Profile School Readiness instrument. This instrument will be designed to provide kindergarten teachers with a valid and reliable measurement of children's development in the key domains of school readiness so that teachers can better understand and meet the individual learning needs of kindergarteners. She also provides content expertise and guidance for an online learning curriculum for early care professionals. In addition, Amini Virmani collaborates with the CCFS Evaluation Team on a variety of research and evaluation projects. For these projects, she conducts observations, interviews, focus groups, and both quantitative and qualitative data analyses. Prior to joining WestEd, Amini Virmani served as an instructor at San Francisco State University and West Valley College. Amini Virmani received intensive clinical training at the University of California, San Francisco Infant-Parent Program/Daycare Consultants where she provided clinical services to low-income, multi-ethnic families and mental health consultation to child care program staff and parents of children with special needs. Amini Virmani received an MS in child development



and a PhD in human development from the University of California, Davis.



Virginia Vitiello

GINNY VITIELLO is the Director of Research and Evaluation at Teachstone, whose mission is to support teaching and learning through proven, evidence-based assessments and programs including the Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS™). Ginny was previously a Research Associate at the University of Virginia and has worked closely with First 5 in the design of the CARES Plus Program.



Margie Wallen

MARGIE WALLEN is currently the Early Learning Project Manager at the Ounce of Prevention Fund. She coordinates the work of the Illinois Early Learning Council, a council comprised of gubernatorial and legislative appointees charged with developing a high-quality early learning system for young children in Illinois, which is co-chaired by Elliot Regenstein of Governor Blagojevich's Office and Harriet Meyer, President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund. The Illinois Early Learning Council recently released the Preschool for All report upon which Governor Rod Blagojevich's Preschool for All program is built. The Governor's preschool expansion legislation was passed the Illinois General Assembly with strong bipartisan support in May 2006. Previously, Margie managed the Task Force on Universal Access to Preschool, which was charged with developing a multi-year plan for achieving high-quality early childhood education opportunities for all 3- and 4-year olds whose parents choose to participate. Her work also included coordinating the Universal Financing of Early Care and Education for Illinois' Children Project in conjunction with Drs. Sharon Lynn Kagan and Richard Brandon. Margie served for six years as a Senior Policy Associate for the Ounce of Prevention Fund where she focused on promoting partnerships between school district Prekindergarten, Head Start, and Child Care programs as well as strategies to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers and for children served in license-exempt settings. She has also consulted on a variety of state initiatives to enhance access to high-quality early care and education, including designing and implementing a comprehensive early childhood professional development system. She is currently a State Early Childhood Policy Leadership Forum Fellow sponsored by the National Governor's Association and Zero to Three and a member of the McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership's Advisory Board. Margie is a frequent presenter at conferences, and has produced numerous reports and papers. She holds a Master's Degree from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.



Debra Weller

DEBRA WELLER has been an educator for 30 years. She has taught preschool for three years, kindergarten for 18 years, and first grade for 3 years in the Capistrano Unified School District. She currently teaches kindergarten at Bathgate Elementary School in Mission Viejo, CA. Debra is a professional storyteller who has performed internationally and was the Storyteller In Residence at the J.P. Getty Museum in Los Angeles in 2008. For the past 16 years she has served as the adult leader of an after school Voices of the Future Storytelling club for children. She teaches parenting classes in Capistrano Unified. Debra has served on the Board of Directors of California Kindergarten Association for 10 years and is currently Past-President after serving a two year term as president from 2009-2011. She is a musician, calligrapher, and artist.

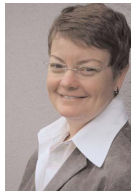


Tricia Zucker

DR. TRICIA ZUCKER is an assistant professor in the Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston. Dr. Zucker's research interests include early identification and prevention of reading disabilities, early childhood curriculum and instruction, literacy and technology, family- and school-based interventions, and early childhood assessment. Dr. Zucker currently serves on research projects examining language and literacy development of English language learners, the role of coaches in early childhood professional development, and implementing Preschool Response to Intervention (P-RTI) frameworks in classrooms across the state. Dr. Zucker formerly served on research projects investigating teaching quality in toddler classrooms and projects identifying effective methods for reading aloud with young children.



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