



PARTNER SUMMIT

Alliance *for* Early Success / 10 Years 

November 9-10, 2015

Hilton Hotel

Omaha

Sunday, November 8

7:00-9:00 Whine and Cheese Reception (Hotel Lobby)
Join us for a chance to raise a glass, say hello, and complain about having to travel on the weekend.

Monday, November 9

7:30 Registration

7:30 Breakfast and Consultation Time (Ballrooms A)

Breakfast Session: Teaching and Learning Community (Build and CELO)

9:00 **Welcome and Opening Plenary** (*Ballroom C*)

Lisa Klein, Alliance for Early Success

Pete Festersen, Omaha City Council

The Alliance at Age 10: Reflecting on the Past, Celebrating the Present and Looking to the Future

In 2005, ten organizations gathered at an Educare Center in Omaha to mark the first meeting of the Birth to Five Policy Alliance. Today, the Partner Summit attracts more than 60 state, national, and funding partners, learning and working together, to improve outcomes for young children and families. We reflect on where we have been, and where we are going, with *the wild patience that has brought us this far.*

Susie Buffett, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Joan Lombardi, Founding Chair of the Birth to Five Policy Alliance

Jack Shonkoff, Harvard Center on the Developing Child

Moderator: Michael Burke, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Please submit questions for the panelists. Notecards will be on the tables.

10:30 Break

11:00 Breakout Sessions (see list below)

12:15 Lunch and Consultation Time (Ballroom A)

Lunch Session: Are You On the Map?

A new interactive mapping tool from New America is helping policymakers, advocates, and innovators see how their states and localities compare across the country with a new tool called Atlas. See data of customized searches that draw from three New America projects: a 50-State Scan of Birth-through-Third-Grade Policies, a map of localities that are Integrating Technology in Early Literacy, and a map-based view of site-based reports on early and elementary education published this year.

Laura Bornfreund and Lisa Guernsey, New America

1:30 Breakout sessions (see list below)

2:45 Break

3:15 **Changing Lives—From Birth Onwards** (*Ballroom C*)

Samuel J. Meisels

University of Nebraska Buffett Early Childhood Institute

New research concerning the impact of multiple risk factors on young children's development, differences in how parents speak to and interact with their children, and the effects of poverty on children's brain growth makes it more important than ever to develop and evaluate new models of intervention. Hear how the Buffett Early Childhood Institute is linking research to practice and policy in order to narrow the achievement gap and improve children's success in life.

4:30 Adjourn

5:15 *Shuttles leaves the hotel*

5:30 Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Hosted by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Tuesday, November 10

7:30 Breakfast and Consultation Time

8:45 Depart for Site Visits:

- Indian Hill Educare
- Community Resource Center in North Omaha
- Project Harmony

10:30 Busses return to the hotel

10:45 Breakout Sessions (see list below)

Investor Session - Herndon

12:00 Lunch and Consultations (Ballroom A)

Lunch Session: Lessons from the Ready States Initiative (RI, OR, CA, MA)

12:45 **Closing the Achievement Gap:**

The Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan in Omaha (*Ballroom A and B*)

Panel Discussion by School Superintendents, Principals, and Staff

Moderator: Christine Maxwell, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska and 11 metro Omaha school superintendents have launched a ground-breaking partnership to end achievement gaps between less advantaged and more advantaged children by starting at birth and continuing through Grade 3. Mandated by the Nebraska legislature and funded through an early childhood levy, the initiative focuses on elementary school sites as "hubs" to connect young children and families with high-quality, comprehensive, and continuous early childhood education and services. Key components include birth – age 3 home visiting; intensive preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds; aligned Kindergarten through third grade; and sustained family partnerships. Participating superintendents, principals, and family-community engagement leaders will discuss the promise of this collaborative birth through third grade approach and identify levers for sustainability and replication.

2:30 Adjourn

Breakout Sessions:

Advocating for Innovation Around CCDBG Implementation

States are deep into the process of designing and implementing the new policy requirements under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

Reauthorization Act of 2014. The expanded focus to promote child development and support the economic stability of low-income working families offers many

opportunities, but states are struggling with the costs of implementation, limited federal and state resources, and a tight implementation timeline. Hear how state advocates are managing these challenges, and learn about Alliance resources to support state advocates and policy makers in maximizing the opportunities in the new law.

Helen Blank, NWLC

Christine Johnson Staub, CLASP

Shannon Cotsoradis, Kansas Action for Children

Betty Holcomb, Center for Children's Initiatives

Cynthia Rice, Advocates for Children of New Jersey

Charlotte Brantley, Clayton Early Learning

Cultivating State-based Philanthropy for Early Childhood Policy and Advocacy

While more foundations understand that advocacy is a strategic investment, private philanthropy is still hesitant to make significant long-term grants to organizations that engage in policy. Even supportive philanthropists often do not know how to safely and effectively make grants to advocacy organizations. Frontera Strategy will share a five-step process for how to engage foundations in supporting early childhood advocacy.

Jennifer Esterline and Jason Sabo, Frontera Strategies

Strategic Storytelling: Framing for More Effective Advocacy

The only way to know if your advocacy story is effective is to test it—and the results can be surprising! This interactive workshop will introduce participants to Strategic Frame Analysis®, an evidence-based communications practice developed by the FrameWorks Institute. Participants will explore research that reveals the gaps between how advocates and average Americans understand early childhood development, disparities, and related issues, and will practice using rigorously tested tools and strategies that bridge those gaps in order to boost public support for policy solutions.

Jennifer Nichols, FrameWorks Institute

Mental Health and Medicaid

Regulating behavior, developing empathy for others, building and maintaining relationships, and coping and managing difficult feelings are some of the emotional and social skills children need to succeed in school and in life. Hear the results of a 50-state survey of state Medicaid policies to pay for mental and behavioral health services, and learn how the state of Maine is making these services a priority.

Sheila Smith, National Center for Children in Poverty

Rita Furlow, Maine Children's Alliance

Margie Wallen, Ounce of Prevention Fund

Cultivating Business Champions

Business leaders are some of our most effective champions in building momentum

to advance early childhood policy. Come hear how Nebraska established a statewide Early Childhood Business Roundtable that has been dedicated to raising awareness about the early childhood years. Learn about this unique partnership between business and advocacy, including tools to engage business partners as champions, and examples of how they work together in a conservative political environment.

Pete Festersen, Nebraska's Early Childhood Business Roundtable
Jim Krieger, Gallup, Inc., and Chair of Nebraska's Early Childhood Business Roundtable
Becky Veak, First Five Nebraska

Priority 2015: Majority of Americans Want Big Investment in Young Children

For the third year in a row, a bipartisan national poll conducted by the First Five Years Fund demonstrates overwhelming support for investments in children birth through 5. Hear the polling results in detail, including how key demographics of voters feel about the issue, and discuss how you can use the results in the coming year.

Kris Perry, Sarah Rittling and Charlie Joughin, First Five Years Fund
Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Ceil Zalkind, Advocate for the Children of New Jersey

Transforming the Early Childhood Workforce

The Institute of Medicine's report on the early childhood workforce includes 13 ambitious recommendations for unifying and advancing the profession. Learn more about the report, and how NAEYC will be working to define the early childhood profession in the coming years. Join the conversation about the role of state and national advocates in turning these recommendations into reality.

Rhian Evans Allvin, Marica Cox Mitchell, and Alison Lutton, NAEYC
Albert Wat, Alliance for Early Success

Supporting Parents of Young Children

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) is conducting a study to inform a national framework for strengthening the capacity of parents of young children from birth to age 8. The resulting report will serve as a "roadmap" for the future of parenting and family support policies, practices, and research in this country. As a member of the committee, Dr. Iruka will summarize information that has been publicly shared at these meetings, followed by an in-depth discussion and feedback session facilitated by Ms. Kennel about what this information may mean for state and local policies and practices, as well as research.

Portia Kennel, Buffett Early Childhood Fund (invited)
Iheoma Iruka, University of Nebraska Buffett Early Childhood Institute