



## EVERYDAY PLACES & SPACES

This Directory of Practitioners, Scholars and Thought Leaders for Everyday Places & Spaces: Learning Happens Everywhere is a compendium of individuals who lead, practice or conduct research in the arena of early childhood development, education and out-of-school time programming. All these individuals support the importance of developing healthy, supportive and accessible informal learning-rich environments for children and their families.

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### **Tyson Barker**

*Executive Director*

Early Childhood Precision, Innovation and Shared Measurement (EC PRISM®)

<https://ecmeasures.instituteforchildsuccess.org/about>

EC PRISM efforts support improved implementation, measurement and evaluation of programs and policies supporting early childhood development and the overarching goals of empowering organizations to better identify what works about their program and why.

### **Gregg Behr**

*CEO, Grable Foundation*

Remake Learning/Grable Foundation

<https://remakelearning.org/person/behrgregg/>

Behr is Executive Director of the Grable Foundation where he directs an education grants portfolio that represents some of the nation's most innovative education initiatives that are genuinely remaking learning. He is also the founder and co-chair of Remake Learning — a network of educators, scientists, artists and makers who ignite children's curiosity, encourage creativity, and foster justice and belonging in schools, libraries, museums and more. Behr is also the co-author of *When You Wonder, You're Learning* with Ryan Rydzewski.

### **Jeanette Betancourt**

*Senior Vice President for US Social Impact*

Sesame Workshop

<https://www.sesameworkshop.org/who-we-are/our-leadership/jeanette-betancourt>

Betancourt directs the development and implementation of community and family engagement initiatives making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and their families. These research-based initiatives are designed to impact children's early learning, health and well-being, and provide strategies and resources to counteract the effects of trauma while fostering the critical connections that adults have on children's lives.

**Joan Blades***Co-Founder*

Move-On.org

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan\\_Blades](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Blades)

Blades is the co-founder of [MoveOn.org](#), [MomsRising.org](#), and [Livingroomconversations.org](#). All are open-source efforts designed to rebuild respectful civil discourse across ideological, cultural, and party lines while embracing shared core values.

**Jennifer Blatz***President & CEO*

Strive Together

<https://www.strivetogether.org/team/jennifer-blatz/>

Jennifer Blatz is the president and CEO of StriveTogether, a national nonprofit working in nearly 70 communities across the United States to enable more than 12 million young people to succeed in school and life. Blatz is a nationally recognized leader and expert in building place-based partnerships. For two decades, she has designed, developed and implemented strategies that drive large-scale community improvement through partnership with local leaders and organizations.

**Naila Bolus***CEO*

Jumpstart

<https://www.jstart.org/team/naila-bolus/>

Jumpstart is a national early education organization that advances equitable learning outcomes for young children in underserved communities by recruiting and supporting caring adults to deliver high-quality programming to children and drive systems to change through teaching, advocacy and leadership.

**Laura Bornfreund***Director, Early and Elementary Education Policy*

New America

<https://www.newamerica.org/our-people/laura-bornfreund/>

New America is dedicated to the renewal of American politics, prosperity and purpose in the Digital Age. New America is a vibrant intellectual community and public policy institute. Bornfreund leads the Early Elementary Education policy work. She examines state and federal policy related to learning and teaching birth through grade three.

**Vito Borrello***Executive Director*

NAFSCE

<https://nafsce.org/page/OurTeam>

The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE), addresses systemic issues to advance family, school and community engagement as a strategy for child development, student achievement and school improvement. Initiatives include Reframing the Family Engagement Conversation and the establishment of the National Alliance for Family Engagement; the 18-state State Consortium on Family Engagement in partnership with the Council for Chief State School Officers; and its Family Engagement Consortium on Pre-service Educator Preparation.

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**Telaekah Brooks***Partner*

Venture Philanthropy Partners + Raise DC

<http://www.vppartners.org/team/telaekah-brooks/>

Venture Philanthropy Partners is a philanthropic organization based in the DC metro area. VPP invests in high-performing nonprofits serving children and youth. Brooks focuses on community economic development. Rebuilding communities and neighborhoods impact the lives of youth, their parents and their grandparents.

**Michelle Brown***Executive Vice President, Programs Division*

Council for Professional Recognition

<https://www.cdacouncil.org/en/introducing-councilive-your-live-stream-source-on-the-most-important-issues-topics-in-early-childhood-education-today/>

The Council for Professional Recognition promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in the early childhood education of children ages birth to 5 years old. Brown is a nationally recognized early care and education expert with decades of experience serving children in underserved communities.

**Elizabeth Burke Bryant***Executive Director*

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

<https://www.rikidscount.org/About-Us/Staff>

KIDS COUNT, a Rhode Island nonprofit, seeks to improve the health, education, safety, economic well-being and development of RI's children with a commitment to equity and the elimination of unacceptable disparities by race, ethnicity, disability, ZIP code, immigration status, neighborhood and income. Bryant has been the Executive Director since the organization's inception in 1994, which started as an outgrowth and expansion of the Rhode Island and the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT project.

**Kymyona Burk***Senior Policy Fellow*

ExcelinEd

<https://excelined.org/people/kymyona-burk-ed-d/>

In 2016, NEHRO and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading signed a memorandum of understanding, which outlined NEHRO and CGLR's commitment to ensuring that children living in communities that NAHRO serves are set up for success in school. The engagement encourages children to arrive at school ready to learn, maintain consistent attendance and gain access to enrichment over the summer so they do not fall behind.

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**Andres Bustamante**

*Assistant Professor, Human Development in Context*

UC Irvine

[https://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty\\_id=6446](https://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty_id=6446)

Bustamante's research leverages empirically grounded theories of child development and rigorous statistical methods to identify applied ways to improve learning and development in children and families from low-income backgrounds. He uses high-quality early childhood science education as an engaging context to promote domain-general learning skills — approaches to learning, executive functioning and social-emotional development.

**Maureen Callanan**

*Professor*

UC Santa Cruz

<https://psychology.ucsc.edu/faculty/index.php?uid=callanan>

Callanan's expertise includes cognitive and language development in the social context of families, development of word meanings and causal explanations in parent-child conversations, and diversity in families' conversations about science and nature. Her research focuses on cognitive and language development in preschool children, exploring how children come to understand the world through everyday conversations with parents.

**Pamela Cantor, M.D.**

*Founder and Senior Science Advisor*

Turnaround for Children

<https://turnaroundusa.org/team/pamela-cantor/>

Cantor is a physician, author and thought leader on human potential, the science of learning and development, and educational equity. Cantor practiced child and adolescent psychiatry for nearly two decades, specializing in trauma. She founded Turnaround for Children in 2002 after co-authoring a study that assessed the impact of the 9/11 attacks on New York City school children. She recognized that the research on adversity, the developing brain, learning and health that she had studied in medical school had not been translated and shared with the systems and people that educate children. Science tells an optimistic story about what young people are capable of when the environments and relationships in their lives are designed intentionally to reveal their talents and skills.

**Allister Chang**

*Founder and CEO*

Civic Suds

<https://www.halcyonhouse.org/halcyon-incubator/fellows/allister-chang/>

Chang is the Founder and CEO of Civic Suds. He is now “flipping” coin laundromats as another means to build bridges: bridges across socio-economic classes, bridges out of information silos, bridges to new opportunities. His goal is to strengthen “social infrastructure.” Chang was the Executive Director of Libraries Without Borders and is now a member of its international board of directors.

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**Hedy Chang***Executive Director*

Attendance Works

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/about-us/our-team/hedy-chang/>

Chang directs Attendance Works, a national and state-level initiative aimed at advancing student success by addressing chronic absence. Deeply committed to promoting two- generation solutions to achieving a more just and equitable society, she has spent more than two decades working in the fields of family support, family economic success, education and child development.

**Carole Charnow***President and CEO*

Boston Children's Museum

<https://bostonchildrensmuseum.org/about/museum-leadership#carole>

Boston Children's Museum is the second oldest, and one of the most influential children's museums in the world. It was founded in 1913 by the Science Teachers' Bureau, a group of visionary educators dedicated to providing new resources for both teachers and students, as a center for the exchange of materials and ideas to advance the teaching of science. Charnow was appointed the President and CEO of Boston Children's Museum in 2010 and has leveraged her relationships to transform the Museum's cultural and science programming. Under her leadership, the Museum won the 2013 IMLS National Medal, the nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for extraordinary service to the community.

**Jeff Conyers***President*

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/meet-our-team/jeffconyers-2/>

Conyers is the President of the Dollywood Foundation, which includes the Imagination Library. He leads the efforts to fulfill its global mission to help provide free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to children each month.

**Staci Croom-Raley***President and CEO*

Children's Equity Coalition

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/croomraleyl/>

Through a network of partners, the Children's Equity Coalition works to create equitable opportunities and prepare children for success in school, work and beyond. The organization provides access to educational tools, training and resources for families that thrive. Croom-Raley is an impassioned advocate and thought leader for equitable access to resources and opportunities for BIPOC communities.

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**Lynn Dierking***Professor*

Oregon State University

<https://education.oregonstate.edu/people/lynn-dierking>

Dierking's research focuses on free-choice learning with an emphasis on engaging youth from backgrounds that are under-represented by STEM in meaningful ways. With a particular focus on museums, she studies the role of socio-cultural factors in free-choice learning, investigating how to meaningfully engage underserved communities (e.g., girls, low-income and racially ethnically diverse groups).

**Tanya Durand***Executive Director*

Greentrike – Children's Museum of Tacoma

<https://greentrike.org/childrens-museum-of-tacoma>

The work of the Children's Museum of Tacoma has evolved and grown over the last decade. The Children's Museum of Tacoma sees its work as an education and advocacy organization, and therefore, has become more than a museum. The Museum changed its name in fall 2019 to reflect their organizational growth, and are now called Greentrike, the nonprofit organization that supports existing programming and advocacy for children and youth in Pierce County, Washington.

**Aaron Dworkin***CEO*

National Summer Learning Association

<https://www.summerlearning.org/team/>

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is a national nonprofit organization with the goal to invest in summer learning to close the achievement gap. Dworkin joined NSLA as Chief Executive Officer in 2019. Prior to NSLA, he served as President of the After-School All-Stars National Network — a nonprofit organization providing free afterschool and summer programs to 90,000 low-income students in more than 450 Title I schools in 20 major cities.

**John Falk***Founder/Principal Researcher*

Institute for Learning Innovation

<https://www.instituteforlearninginnovation.org/person/john-h-falk-ph-d/>

Falk is the Founder of the Institute for Learning Innovation and Emeritus Sea Grant Professor of Free-Choice Learning at Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR. He is a leading expert on free-choice learning; the learning that occurs when people have significant choice and control over what, where and when of their learning. Falk's current research focuses on understanding the identity/self-related reasons people utilize free-choice learning settings during their leisure time; studying the community impacts of museums, libraries, zoos and aquariums, as well as helping cultural institutions rethink their educational positioning in the 21st century.

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**Yolie Flores**

*National Campaign Director, Parent Nation*

TMW Center for Early Learning and Public Health – University of Chicago

[https://tmwcenter.uchicago.edu/news\\_events/yolie-flores-joins-the-tmw-center-as-national-campaign-director/](https://tmwcenter.uchicago.edu/news_events/yolie-flores-joins-the-tmw-center-as-national-campaign-director/)

The Parent Nation initiative of the TMW Center is a mobilization effort, rooted in science, to help push for a society that better supports parents in their role as children's first and most important teacher. Flores joined the TMW Center from the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR), where she served as Chief Learning Officer and led the CGLR Successful Parents Initiatives.

**Lynette Fraga**

*Executive Director*

Child Care Aware

<https://www.childcareaware.org/about/leadership/>

Fraga has over 25 years of experience as an educator, program director and executive leader working on behalf of children and families. As an authority on child development, she serves in an advisory capacity on several national panels and committees that have included the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Early Childhood (COEC), the Institute of Medicine Early Care and Education Collaborative, Healthy Kids Healthy Futures Steering Committee, NAEYC's Power to the Profession Task Force, and the Early Care and Education Innovation Collaborative (ECE IC).

**Janice Fuld**

*Associate Director, Education*

The WNET Group

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/janicefuld/>

Fuld oversees evaluation for WNET's education department and assesses the impact of the department's initiatives. She works to strategize ways to increase the impact of the education department's work by developing innovative approaches to engage diverse audiences in informal and formal learning opportunities. WNET works closely with Sesame Street by conducting professional development workshops with early childhood providers to help promote Sesame Street in Communities.

**Gillian Gainsley**

*Program Director*

Michigan Learning Channel, Detroit PBS

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gillianream/>

Gainsley oversees content development for the Michigan Learning Channel, a distance learning resource for Michigan's public television (PBS) stations. Partnering with local educators and curriculum specialists, the channel selects and creates high-quality standards-based instructional videos and materials for PreK-12th grade students. "Read, Write and Roar," recently aired to deliver instructional content and programming to students, parents and teachers throughout Michigan to provide at-home to families particularly during times when many families are learning from home.

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**Ellen Galinsky***Executive Director*

Mind in the Making

<https://www.mindinthemaking.org/stories/mind-in-the-making-transforming-communities-with-science-and-heart>

MITM combines deep research focused on executive function skills, with signature science-fueled training and resources, for professionals across sectors who work with children and families. Mind in the Making: Seven Essential Life Skills helps adults understand and encourage the critical executive function-based skills children need to thrive. Mind in the Making is a program of the Bezos Family Foundation. MITM's Founder Ellen Galinsky's life's work focuses on identifying critical emerging societal questions, conducting research to seek answers and turning the findings to action.

**Alejandro Gibes de Gac***CEO & Founder*

Springboard Collaborative

<https://www.springboardcollaborative.org/who-we-are/staff/alejandro-gibes-de-gac/>

Springboard Collaborative coaches teachers and parents to help kids read on grade level. The Collaborative helps schools dramatically improve outcomes by harnessing the untapped potential in family engagement. Springboard's Summer and Afterschool programs are designed as immersive professional development experiences that build lasting internal capacity. Kids become stronger readers, parents learn to teach reading at home and teachers improve their practice.

**Matt Glickman***Co-Founder and Partner*

Promise Venture Studio

<https://www.promisestudio.org/about-us>

Promise Studio is a nonprofit venture studio that attracts, supports and connects entrepreneurs focused on early childhood education and development. Glickman is a career technology entrepreneur and executive. At Stanford Business School, he teaches entrepreneurship and management advising, investing in and serving on the boards of growing organizations.

**Roberta M. Golinkoff***Unidel H. Rodney Sharpe Chair and Professor in the School of Education*

University of Delaware

<https://roberta-golinkoff.com>

In addition to serving as a Professor in the Department of Education, Golinkoff is a member of the departments of Psychological and Brain Sciences. She has authored more than 16 books and numerous professional articles; she founded and directed the Child's Play Learning & Development Lab whose goal is to understand how children tackle the amazing feat of learning language and much else about their world. Her work focuses on language development, the benefits of playful learning, the effects of media on children and early special development. Her main goal is to bring attention to the importance of language development for children's social, academic and occupational success.

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**Jodi Grant***Executive Director*

Afterschool Alliance

<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/aboutUsPeople.cfm>

Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. Grant has been with Afterschool Alliance since 2005. She is responsible for overseeing federal policy efforts, working with the field to help programs tap into federal funding streams supervising research to help national, state and local afterschool advocates and providing support to create and expand quality afterschool programs.

**Constance Gully***President and CEO*

Parents as Teachers

<https://parentsasteachers.org/executive-team>

Grounded in the latest research, Parents as Teachers develops curricula that supports a parent's role in promoting school readiness and healthy development of children. Parents as Teachers match parents and caregivers with trained professionals who make regular personal home visits during a child's earliest years in life, from prenatal through kindergarten. As President and Chief Executive Officer of Parents as Teachers, Gully is responsible for leading the strategic direction of the organization while ensuring the overall growth and maintaining the fiscal stability and impact of the organization's efforts.

**Noel Gunther***Executive Director*

Reading Rockets

<https://www.readingrockets.org/about/staff#noel>

Gunther is executive director of Reading Rockets, a national multi-media project that offers a wealth of research-based reading strategies, lessons and activities designed to teach children how to read and read better. He has overseen the project since its inception. Gunther has broad experience in radio, television, print, and the web, and has co-written and co-produced award-winning documentaries for NPR and Public Radio International.

**Sandra Gutierrez***Founder*

Abriendo Puertas

<https://ap-od.org/board-staff/>

Gutierrez has over 40 years of experience with legal, advocacy and community organizations. Prior to founding Abriendo Puertas, she developed programs for families in the child welfare system, founded the first organization to assist Central American refugees, developed health programs for the United Farm Workers of America and led campaigns promoting the benefits of preschool to the Latino community. Gutierrez served as a founding member and State Commissioner for First 5 California and serves on the Advisory Board for the Too Small to Fail Initiative.

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**Helen Hadani**

*Fellow, Global Economy & Development*

The Brookings Institution

<https://www.brookings.edu/experts/helen-shwe-hadani/>

An expert in early childhood and creativity development, Hadani designs and evaluates products and environments that promote children's curiosity and love of learning. As a fellow at the Brookings Institution, she leads the Playful Learning Landscapes project — an initiative that brings together the fields of developmental science and placemaking with the goal of improving child and community outcomes. Prior to joining the Brookings Institution, Hadani spent 20 years in research and education settings applying her knowledge of early childhood development to creating innovative learning experiences for children and families.

**Steve Hannon**

*President & CEO*

LENA

<https://www.lenab.org/advisors/stephen-m-hannon-phd/>

Hannon is the President and Chief Executive Officer of LENA, a national nonprofit focused on increasing adult-child talk to improve child outcomes. He is privileged to lead a talented team in the shaping and scaling of the organization's caregiver-directed initiatives that integrate LENA's "talk pedometer" technology. Hannon leverages a wealth of technical and leadership skills honed over a 25-year career spanning multiple industries. He has been instrumental in transitioning LENA from an organization known solely for its research on early language to one known for putting research into action and positively impacting children and families around the world.

**Brenna Hassinger-Das**

*Assistant Professor*

Pace University

<https://hassingerdas.wixsite.com/brennahassingerdas/research>

Hassinger-Das is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Pace University-NYC. She directs the Science of Development (SciDev) Lab, where she questions how children and families learn and develop specifically in areas including language, mathematics and executive functioning. Her research examines children's play and learning in home, school and community contexts, particularly for children experiencing poverty. Her areas of experience encompass executive functioning, early numbers sense and vocabulary acquisition. Hassinger-Das is particularly interested in investigating the effects of both play and digital media on caregiver-child interactions and child learning.

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**Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek***Senior Fellow*

Brookings Institution

<https://kathyhirshpasek.com>

Hirsh-Pasek is the Stanley and Debra Lefkowitz Faculty Fellow in the Department of Psychology at Temple University and a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Her research examines the development of early language and literacy as well as the role of play in learning. She collaborates extensively with Dr. Roberta Golinkoff of the University of Delaware. Hirsh-Pasek is the founder of Playful Learning Landscapes and the Playful Learning Landscapes Network, which aims to transform everyday places into fun, engaging learning opportunities that extend education into the public realm.

**Bibb Hubbard***Founder and President*

Learning Heroes

<https://bealearninghero.org/about/our-team/>

Learning Heroes is a national nonprofit education-based organization that provides parents with tools and resources to help them be learning heroes and support their children's success in school. Hubbard brings extensive experience in communications, policy and advocacy from the public, private and philanthropic sectors.

**Anya Hurwitz***Executive Director*

SEAL

<https://www.sobrato.com/people/anya-hurwitz/>

SEAL (Sobrato Early Academic Language) is a research-based model that transforms school systems by providing professional development, curriculum support and technical assistance to teachers to meet the needs of their diverse populations and English Learners. Hurwitz has a longstanding commitment to creating the conditions for public schools to meet the diverse needs of their student's academic and socio-emotional development. She has worked as a teacher, school leader, district administrator and within the educational nonprofit sector.

**Michelle Siosan Hyman***Senior Vice President, Programs and Partnerships*

Raising A Reader

<https://www.raisingareader.org/about-us/our-team/>

As Senior Vice President of Programs and Partnerships, Hyman is responsible for overseeing program development, growth and impact. She has worked within the philanthropic sector and across the public systems that are in place to support the education, health and well-being of young children as Deputy Director, Center for Early Learning at Silicon Valley Community Foundation and program officer for First 5 San Mateo and First 5 Santa Cruz Counties. She has also collaborated directly with children and families as an AmeriCorps member, GirlVentures mentor and birth support, which has fueled her passion to ensure that family is at the center of both program and public policy decisions.

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**Alvin Irby**

*Founder and Chief Reading Inspirer*

Barbershop Books

<https://barbershopbooks.org>

Irby is a former kindergarten teacher turned award-winning social entrepreneur, national speaker, comedian and author. He is Founder and Chief Reading Inspirer at Barbershop Books, a literacy program that creates child-friendly reading spaces in barbershops and provides early literacy training to barbers. His work connecting reading to male-centered spaces and involving men in boys' early reading experiences earned him the National Book Foundation's 2017 Innovations in Reading Prize. Irby works with school districts, library systems and nonprofits to provide customized cultural competency training that helps educators and administrators translate learning objectives into engaging communication and relevant learning experiences.

**Cynthia Jackson**

*Executive Director*

Educare Learning Network

<https://www.startearly.org/team/cynthia-jackson/>

Jackson leads the Educare Learning Network, a generative, coast-to-coast network of high-quality birth-to-five schools that function as innovative learning labs for the field of early childhood education. In her dual role as Senior Vice President at Start Early (formerly known as the Ounce), she works alongside other senior leaders to advance the organization's mission. In collaboration with the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Educare Learning Network school leaders and other early childhood stakeholders, Jackson advances practice, research and policy solutions to create greater system-wide impact.

**Pamela Johnson**

*Executive Director, Ready To Learn*

PBS KIDS

Corporation for Public Broadcasting

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/pamela-johnson-ph-d-2431b739/>

Pamela Johnson is the executive director of the CBP-PBS Ready To Learn initiative, a school readiness program that teams public media content with community collaboration to support improved educational outcomes for children, especially those from low-income families.

**Michelle Kang**

*Chief Executive Officer*

NAEYC

<https://www.naeyc.org/about-us/people/executive-team/michelle-kang>

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy and research. It advances a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and supports all who care for, educate and work on behalf of young children. NAEYC's membership works to achieve a collective vision: that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

**Portia Kennel***Senior Advisor*

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/portia-kennel/>

The Buffett Early Childhood Fund amplifies the impact of its investments through a partnership with other funders, government agencies and other local organizations supporting complementary and parallel programs and through persistent long-term investments in key programs. In her role as Senior Advisor, Kennel leads efforts to develop family engagement program models that empower parents as a force for change in their families, schools and communities. She is a leading advocate for changes to our education system to better support those children living in poverty.

**Brian King***CEO*

Betty Brinn Children's Museum

<https://www.bbckids.org/>

The Betty Brinn Children's Museum provides interactive exhibits and educational resources that promote the healthy development of children in Milwaukee. It's known as "a fun place where children and grown-ups learn together." They have a collaborative working relationship with the City of Milwaukee's Office of Early Childhood Initiatives.

**Michelle Knapik***President*

Tremaine Foundation and AIM Pathways

<https://www.ncfp.org/people/michelle-knapik/>

Knapik is the President of The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation (EHTF). She joined EHTF after more than nine years in the philanthropic sector where she led strategy, program development and innovative grantmaking at the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Surdna Foundation. EHTF works with and invests in people, communities and places that are best suited to explore and find what works for those children with Learning Differences.

**Michael Levine***Senior Vice President, Learning and Impact*

Noggin

<https://www.jstart.org/team/michael-h-levine-ph-d/>

Levine is Senior Vice President, Learning and Impact, for Noggin, Nickelodeon's online direct-to-consumer interactive learning service for preschoolers. His focus is to deepen Noggin's value to children and families through content and interactive experiences developed for learning and impact. Levine previously spent 12 years at Sesame Workshop where he served as Chief Knowledge Officer, responsible for driving organization-wide learning, educational partnerships, knowledge exchange and policy leadership. He is also the Founding Executive Director of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center, a pioneering thought leader in the digital media and learning field. Levine's recent book, co-authored with Lisa Guernsey of New America, is *Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens*.

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**Doug Linkhart***President*

National Civic League

<https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/team/doug-linkhart/>

At the National Civic League, Linkhart's lifelong values of inclusiveness and equity are in close alignment with the organization's mission and are used to guide his leadership as President. He is an expert in civic engagement and works to connect residents, government, nonprofits and businesses. His vision and strategic planning efforts include a focus on collaboration with other key organizations focused on the advancement and nurturing of inclusive communities. The mission of the National Civic League is to advance civic engagement to create equitable, thriving communities. It does this through inspiring, supporting and recognizing inclusive approaches to community decision-making.

**Joan Lombardi***Advisor*

CEELO

<http://ceelo.org/pioneer-joan-lombardi/>

The Center for Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) fosters sustainable change in state policy and practice for children from birth to third grade. A pioneer in this work, Lombardi currently directs Early Opportunities LLC, a philanthropic advisement service focused on the development of young children, families and the communities that support them. In this role, she provides overall advisement to the Buffett Early Childhood Fund and to the Pritzker Children's Initiative, among others. She is a Visiting Scholar at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University.

**Marty Martinez***Chief Executive Officer*

Reach Out and Read

<https://reachoutandread.org/about/national-leadership/>

Reach Out and Read believes all families should have the tools and information they need to make reading aloud a daily routine. It helps integrate reading into pediatric practices, advises families about the importance of reading with their children and shares books that serve as a catalyst for healthy childhood development. Reach Out and Read's work is done through a national network of clinicians who deliver vital information to parents — at routine check-ups — about the importance of reading to their children.

**Gina Martinez-Keddy***Executive Director*

Parent Teacher Home Visits

<https://pthvp.org/who-we-are/our-staff/>

Martinez-Keddy worked with parents and other organizers to help launch PTHV in Sacramento, California, from 1997–1999, then rejoined PTHV as executive director in June 2017. Parent Teacher Home Visits seeks to bridge the gap between families and educators by breaking down barriers, building trust and opening communications between students, families and schools. Martinez-Keddy has served as executive director, director of professional development and consultant in the field of community and parent organizing.

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**Elizabeth McChesney***Consultant for LaundryCares Foundation*

LMcC Consulting, LLC

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lizmcchesney/>

McChesney served as Director of Citywide Children's Services at the Chicago Public Library for 32 years. She won numerous national awards for expanding early literacy programming across Chicago, placing play spaces in branch libraries, and refocusing summer reading to include critical 21st-century skills. She now serves as a Senior Advisor to the Urban Library Council where she is building national models for children's services in libraries, as well as a Clinton Global Foundation consultant developing early literacy nooks in "everyday spaces" across the country. McChesney is a full-time consultant for the LaundryCares Foundation.

**Brenda McLaughlin***Chief Impact Officer*

BellXcel

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brenda-mclaughlin-a2a7865/>

McLaughlin leads SCRI as Managing Partner and serves as Chief Impact Officer for BellXcel. She is a longtime visionary in the field of OST and youth development. She oversees research and evaluation and develops solutions to elevate the quality and impact of educational experiences nationally. For 20 years, McLaughlin has worked at the intersection of research, policy and practice, translating key learnings to positively influence the education and well-being of young people and their families and strengthen organizations and systems. Her insight and expertise have led organizations, philanthropies and communities to develop strategies that expand their capacity to serve more young people.

**Jean McSpadden***President & CEO*

Bright by Three and Bright by Text

<https://orapin.co/inspired-impact-bright-by-three/>

Bright by Three and Bright by Text serves hard-to-reach and at-risk families across the nation with research-based informational texts that contain bite-sized developmental targeted tips between two to four times a week to the caregivers' cellphone. Bright by Text counts on a network of health, education, social service and public media organizations to inform families of the program.

**Matthew Melmed***Executive Director*

Healthy Steps/ZERO TO THREE

<https://www.zerotothree.org/team/matthew-melmed/>

ZERO TO THREE is a membership organization providing a vibrant, connected community for professionals in diverse disciplines focused on child development who are committed to advancing their knowledge and skills to support the mission of ensuring that all babies and toddlers have a strong start in life.

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**Judith Meltzer***President*

Center for the Study of Social Policy

<https://cssp.org/team/judith-meltzer/>

The Center for the Study of Social Policy works to achieve a racially, economically and socially just society in which all children, youth and families thrive. The organization translates ideas into action, promotes public policies grounded in equity and supports strong and inclusive communities. CSSP advocates with and for all children, youth and families marginalized by public policies and institutional practices.

**Marina Merrill***Director of Research and Strategy*

Children's Institute

<https://childinst.org/who-we-are/our-staff-team/marina-merrill/>

Merrill joined Children's Institute in 2013 to lead the organization's research on prenatal through third-grade issues, evaluation, data collection and analysis. She also advises the Children's Institute's advocacy and policy work. Merrill was instrumental in advocating for and winning a new, mixed-delivery preschool program in Oregon during the 2015 legislative session. She has experience in program evaluation and technical assistance for early learning programs, prenatal to third-grade initiatives at the program and policy levels, parenting education programs, home visiting, education reform, safe schools, community partnerships and school/community health.

**Patti Miller***CEO*

Too Small to Fail Initiative at the Clinton Foundation

<https://clinton-foundation.org/2018/people-first/too-small-to-fail/>

Miller is the chief executive officer of Too Small to Fail for the Clinton Foundation. Too Small to Fail is an initiative of the Clinton Foundation designed to help parents and businesses take meaningful actions to improve the health and well-being of America's youngest children, ages zero to five, and prepare them to succeed in the 21st century. Prior to joining the Foundation, Miller was the vice president of public policy for Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit producer of "Sesame Street." She previously served as vice president of the Children and the Media Program at Children Now. In that role, she led a broad coalition in advocacy and policy efforts to improve the media environment for children.

**Malcolm Mitchell***Executive Director*

READMarathon (Share the Magic Foundation)

<https://www.readwithmalcolm.com>

Mitchell is a native of Valdosta, Georgia. After graduating from UGA with a degree in Communications in 2015, he was drafted by the New England Patriots, becoming a Super Bowl Champion in February 2017. Among his numerous awards and accomplishments both on and off the field, he considers discovering a love of reading his greatest achievement. Mitchell has authored and published children's books, created a youth literacy initiative called "Read with Malcolm," and established Share the Magic Foundation to transform lives through literacy.

**Luis Moll***Professor*

Univ of Arizona

<https://coe.arizona.edu/person/luis-c-moll>

Moll is a Professor in the Language, Reading and Culture Program of the Department of Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies, College of Education, University of Arizona. His main research interest is the connection among culture, psychology and education, especially as it relates to the education of Latino children in the United States. Among other studies, he has analyzed the quality of classroom teaching, examined literacy instruction in English and Spanish, studied how knowledge is produced in the broader social contexts of household and community life, and, in collaboration with teachers, attempted to establish pedagogical relationships among these domains of study.

**Omwale Moses***CEO & Founder*

Math Talk

<https://math-talk.com/about-us/>

Moses founded Math Talk, a community-based ed-tech startup in 2015. Math Talk products help adults and children enjoy math everywhere! Moses is the former Executive Director and founding member of the Young People's Project (YPP), a national nonprofit organization with programs in over 10 U.S. cities that utilize mathematics to prepare students to succeed in school and in life. YPP evolved out of the Algebra Project, which grew out of the Civil Rights activism of the Algebra Project's founder Bob Moses, Omo's father.

**Anne Mosle***Executive Director, Ascend*

Aspen Institute Ascend program – Access to a network of leaders

<https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/profile/anne-mosle/>

From its inception, Ascend at the Aspen Institute has embraced a commitment to racial equity along with a gender lens and engaging the voices of families. Ascend's policy expertise and cross-sector collaboration approach are well respected and have been highlighted in White House forums and hundreds of communities across the country. Mosle is a vice president at the Aspen Institute and executive director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute. She is an innovative and inclusive leader in building pathways to opportunity for low-income children, women and families.

**Susan B. Neuman***Professor and Chair of the Teaching and Learning Department*

Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University

<http://sbneuman.com>

Neuman is Professor and Chair of the Teaching and Learning Department at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University. Before coming to NYU, she served on the faculty in Educational Studies at the University of Michigan, directing the Ready-to-Learn Research Program. She is especially proud of her work in establishing the Early Reading First program, the Early Childhood Professional Development Education Program and enhancing accountability efforts to improve children's achievement. Neuman is currently working on interventions that change the odds for children at risk, focusing her efforts on bringing content-rich instruction to children through shared books and media experiences.

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**Ruth Ann Norton***President & CEO*

Green &amp; Healthy Homes Initiative

<https://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/person/ruth-ann-norton/>

Norton is President & CEO of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to advancing racial and health equity and opportunity through healthy housing. A national expert and advocate on green and healthy homes, she directs GHHI's groundbreaking work across the United States where 65 cities, counties and states are using housing as a platform for improved health and social outcomes. Through the implementation of the GHHI comprehensive housing intervention model and its best practices Toolbox, cities are improving the ability of children to arrive in the classroom healthy and ready to learn and to stay in school through reduced asthma-related absences.

**Amy O'Leary***Executive Director*

Strategies For Children

<http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/staff.html>

O'Leary is Executive Director of Strategies for Children, an advocacy and policy organization that works to ensure that Massachusetts invests the resources needed for all children, from birth to age five, to access high-quality early education and care programs. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she has led SFC's support efforts including hosting the daily "9:30 call" for the early education and care field.

**Ron Ottinger***Executive Director*

STEM Next Opportunity Fund

<https://stemnext.org/ron-ottinger/>

A national leader and expert in STEM learning, Ottinger is known for his expertise in informal and out-of-school-time STEM education and in building collaborations among schools, science centers, communities and after-school opportunities that increase STEM learning opportunities for young people. He is the Executive Director of the STEM Next Opportunities Fund. Under his leadership, STEM Next leads the Million Girls Moonshot, a national movement to empower one million girls with an engineering mindset. Ottinger served as the founding co-chair of the STEM Funders Network and the National STEM Learning Ecosystem Initiative.

**Karen Pittman***Creator and Creative Partner*

Changing the Odds Remix

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/karenjpittman/>

Pittman's career has been dedicated to closing policy and systems gaps to ensure that all young people are ready for college, work and life. Through Changing the Odds, she seeks to package and promote the strategies used by state and local leaders to sustain the strong partnerships and accountability systems needed to create "needle-moving" change in child and youth outcomes.

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**Lysa Ratliff***Chief Executive*

KABOOM!

<https://kaboom.org/about/staff>

With a mission to end playspace inequity for good, KABOOM! unites with communities to build kid-designed playspaces that can spark joy and a sense of belonging for the kids who are often denied opportunities to thrive.

**Munro Richardson***Executive Director*

Read Charlotte

<https://www.readcharlotte.org/who-we-are/staff/munro-richardson/>

Read Charlotte is a 10-year initiative with the aim of increasing third-grade reading proficiency to 80%. The organization uses research, data and strategic funding to coordinate, integrate and align the efforts of dozens of organizations, across Charlotte-Mecklenburg, to improve children's language and literacy development from birth through third grade. Richardson notes that he is "obsessed" with using data and evidence to understand the real-world physics of literacy with the goal of doubling third-grade reading to 80%.

**Elena Rivera***Senior Health Policy and Program Advisor*

Children's Institute

<https://childinst.org/who-we-are/our-staff-team/elenarivera/>

The Children's Institute works to improve the lives of children from prenatal to age 8 who experience institutional or systemic barriers to opportunity in Oregon: children from low-income families, children of color, disabled children, dual-language learners and children in rural areas. The research, policy and advocacy, learning initiatives and community partnerships of CI all aim to keep children healthy and safe and prepare them to be active and engaged learners. Rivera is responsible for establishing strong linkages between health and early learning in policy and advocacy efforts, including identifying opportunities to leverage Oregon's health system transformation to improve outcomes for young children.

**Roberto Rodriguez***President & CEO*

Teach Plus

<https://teachplus.org/teacher/rebecca-rodriguez/>

Rodríguez is President and Chief Executive Officer of Teach Plus. He spearheads the movement to grow and strengthen teacher leadership by empowering excellent, experienced and diverse teachers to advance change in education that will yield success for students. Rodríguez has dedicated his career to advancing equity, access and excellence in education. He is nationally recognized for his expertise in education policy and governance, and for his leadership in building multi-sector partnerships with schools, families and communities to improve educational opportunities for all children. He is devoted to the principle that all students deserve a complete and competitive education that prepares them for college, a career and lifelong success.

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**Kwesi Rollins**

*Vice President for Leadership and Engagement*

Institute for Educational Leadership

<https://iel.org/staff-and-board/kwesi-rollins/>

A member of IEL's Senior Leadership Team, Rollins guides IEL's portfolio of programs designed to develop and support leaders with a particular emphasis on Family and Community Engagement, Early Childhood Education and Community-based Leadership Development. He directs the District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement and Leaders for Today and Tomorrow, an initiative that designs and delivers professional learning and support opportunities for school and district leaders.

**Patty Isacson Sabee**

*Executive Director*

Planet Word

<https://planetwordmuseum.org/about/>

Planet Word opened in 2020 as a new kind of interactive and self-guided museum. Using the museum's state-of-the-art technology, visitors determine their experience through their own words and choices. Planet Word is a bold and imaginative response to the life-long importance of literacy and to the challenge of growing a love of language. Sabee was appointed Executive Director of Planet Word in March of 2017 and is a 30+-year veteran of nonprofit cultural leadership.

**Jessica Sager**

*Co-Founder and CEO*

All Our Kin

<https://allourkin.org/staff>

All Our Kin is a national nonprofit organization that trains, supports and sustains family child care providers. The mission is to transform the nation's child care system, resulting in a triple win: child care providers succeed as business owners; working parents find high-quality, stable care for their children; and children gain the educational foundation that lays the groundwork for achievement. Sager is the co-founder and chief executive officer of All Our Kin. A graduate of Barnard College and Yale Law School, she co-teaches a Yale University seminar on "Child Care, Society, and Public Policy."

**Sarah Sayko**

*Deputy Director*

National Center on Improving Literacy

<https://improvingliteracy.org/about>

Sayko is a Deputy Director of NCIL, an organization operated by Boston University's Wheelock College of Education and Human Development. Its mission is to increase access to, and use of, evidence-based approaches to screen, identify and teach students with literacy-related disabilities, including dyslexia. Sayko leads the Parent and Family Strand of the center. She is a Senior Research Associate at RMC Research Corporation in Arlington, Virginia, and was previously a literacy content specialist with the Center on Instruction (COI) and a technical assistance provider with the National Reading Technical Assistance Center (NRTAC).

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**David Shapiro***CEO*

MENTOR

<https://www.mentoring.org/senior-leadership-and-staff/>

Shapiro is the CEO of MENTOR, the unifying national champion for expanding quality mentoring relationships for young people. For more than 25 years, MENTOR has helped build and serve the mentoring field by providing a public voice; developing and delivering resources to mentoring programs nationwide; and promoting quality for mentoring through evidence-based standards, innovative research and essential tools.

**Christine Sims***Associate Professor*

Univ of New Mexico

[https://ncela.ed.gov/files/uploads/2017/Christine\\_Sims.pdf](https://ncela.ed.gov/files/uploads/2017/Christine_Sims.pdf)

An associate professor in the Department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico, Sims completed her doctoral work at the University of California at Berkeley, focusing on issues of heritage language maintenance and revitalization among American Indian tribes. She specializes in Indigenous language revitalization and maintenance issues, providing technical assistance to Indigenous nations in language program planning and training Native American language teachers.

**Joshua Sparrow***Executive Director*

Brazelton Touchpoints Center

<https://www.brazeltontouchpoints.org/about/who-we-are/joshua-d-sparrow-md/>

Sparrow is executive director of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center in the Division of Developmental Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, where he also holds an appointment in the Department of Psychiatry. He is a co-principal investigator for the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (Office of Head Start, Office of Child Care, ACF, HHS), and is a part-time associate professor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. At the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, his work has focused on cultural adaptations of family support programs, organizational professional development, cross-sector collaboration and aligning systems of care with community strengths and priorities.

**Alison Wunder Stahl***Director of Partnerships*

All Our Kin

<https://allourkin.org/staff>

Stahl was previously the All Our Kin New Haven Director for four years. She came to All Our Kin with a strong background in nonprofit management and a commitment to equity of educational access for all. Prior to joining All Our Kin, she was the Director of Implementation for City Connects (Boston College) where she was responsible for their model of optimized student support across 60+ schools in MA, NYC and Ohio. Prior to that, she was the Director of Programs for Families United in Educational Leadership (FUEL), which works with low-income families in the Boston area to realize their dreams of higher education and break the cycle of poverty. Stahl helped to develop their model and facilitate implementation in new sites.

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**Alfred Tatum**

*Professor*

University of Illinois at Chicago

<https://ccsb.uic.edu/black-history-makers/alfred-tatum/>

A Professor, Department of Literacy Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Tatum is the author of more than 50 publications. He is a nationally recognized expert on the literacy development of African American youth. The author of three books, he has written literacy curricula distributed by Scholastic Inc. for use by millions of students throughout the country. He participated in the National Summit on Educational Excellence and Opportunity for African American Males, part of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. For more than 10 years, Tatum has served on the national reading committee for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. He was a board member of two major literacy organizations, the International Reading Association and the Literacy Research Association.

**Jennifer S. Vey**

*Director, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking*

Brookings Institution

<https://www.brookings.edu/experts/jennifer-s-vey/>

Vey's work primarily explores how place-based policies and practices can generate widespread social, economic and environmental benefits. She is author or co-author of dozens of Brookings publications examining the changing place needs of people and businesses; the implication of these shifts on how we live and work; and how transformative placemaking investments can support the development of vibrant, connected and more inclusive communities.

**Yasmina Vinci**

*Executive Director*

National Head Start Association

<https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/bio/yasmina-vinci>

As a seasoned leader in both executive and policy roles, Vinci's professional experience and capabilities have delivered improvements in the lives of children at the national, state and local levels. She is now Executive Director of the National Head Start Association (NHSA). Its mission is to coalesce, inspire and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education. NHSA is committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life.

**Brian Wallace**

*CEO*

Coin Laundry Association/Laundry Cares Foundation

<https://www.coinlaundry.org/about/staff/>

Wallace, along with the Coin Laundry Association and its members, founded the LaundryCares Foundation in 2006 as a means of focusing the industry's support to underserved communities through its network of laundry owners and their facilities. LaundryCares Foundation teams with multiple organizations to deliver educational programs promoting children's literacy and family interactions at the local laundromat.

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### **Elliot Weinbaum**

*Chief Philanthropy Officer*

William Penn Foundation

<https://williampennfoundation.org/about/staff/elliot-weinbaum>

Weinbaum oversees over \$30 million in annual grantmaking to improve educational outcomes at critical points from early childhood through high school graduation. Under the Great Learning portfolio, which he manages, the William Penn Foundation supports efforts that dramatically increase the number of children from Philadelphia low-income communities who experience academic success. William Penn Foundation supports key initiatives such as the Read by 4th Campaign and PHL Pre-K which focus on school readiness and literacy proficiency.

### **Patricia Wellenbach**

*President & CEO*

Please Touch Museum

<https://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org>

Wellenbach is the President & CEO of the Please Touch Museum, one of the country's leading children's museums located in the Centennial District of Philadelphia. The museum welcomes over 500,000 visitors a year and facilitates early childhood learning development through play through its exhibits, education and special programs. In collaboration with Giant Supermarkets, PTM has established an exhibit that focuses on the journey of food — where it comes from — to the market to the community to the family table. In addition, PTM has been piloting a Kindergarten Readiness program at the museum to provide an informal, playful learning experience for 2–4 years old. It anticipates taking the initiative citywide in five years.

### **Adeola Whitney**

*CEO*

Reading Partners

<https://readingpartners.org/person/adeola-whitney/>

Whitney brings over 20 years of educational leadership experience to the CEO role, including three prior years with Reading Partners. Prior to being named CEO of Reading Partners, she provided leadership around the expansion and implementation of iMentor's college-success program, serving 10,000 pairs of students and their mentors nationally. In this role, she oversaw executive leadership in the Bay Area, Baltimore, Chicago and New York City, and partnered with over 15 nonprofit organizations nationwide to ensure the effective application of iMentor's program.

### **Maryanne Wolf**

*Director*

Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners and Social Justice, UCLA

<https://www.maryannewolf.com/>

Wolf is a scholar, a teacher and an advocate for children and literacy around the world. She is the Director of the newly created Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners and Social Justice at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. She is the author of *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain; Dyslexia, Fluency, and the Brain; Tales of Literacy for the 21st Century; and Reader, Come Home: The Reading Brain in a Digital World*.

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**Dea Wright**

*Director, Office of Early Childhood Initiatives*

City of Milwaukee

<https://city.milwaukee.gov/home>

Wright is the Director of the City of Milwaukee's Office of Early Childhood Initiatives (OECI), serving as a champion for Milwaukee's youth and a leader in early education learning. With her passion for Milwaukee's families, she is an advocate for advancing learning in all places and ensuring families are preparing their early learners for successful futures. Wright believes that all children should have equitable access to evidence-informed programs and services. The Milwaukee Cares project, which is part of the Office of Early Childhood Initiatives, is devoted to bringing language and literacy-rich environments to places where the need is greatest. In January 2020, Wright was named a Presidential Leadership Scholar.

**Ben York**

*Founder*

Ready4K

<https://ready4k.com/about.html>

York is the Founder of Ready4K and the CEO of ParentPowered Public Benefit Corporation, the creator of Ready4K. Prior to starting ParentPowered, he was the founding Executive Director of CEPA Labs at Stanford University's Graduate School of Education. At Stanford, York spent a decade researching technological innovations in education. He has a B.A. in economics from the University of Colorado, summa cum laude, as well as an M.A. in political science and a Ph.D. in education from Stanford.

**Kyle Zimmer**

*President, CEO and Co-Founder*

First Book

<https://firstbook.org/about/first-book-leadership/>

First Book creates a market force that drives down costs and increases access to diverse, high-quality educational resources. Zimmer pioneered the organization's sustainable, nonprofit e-commerce model that provides educators with free and affordable, diverse and inclusive new books, educational resources and basic needs items. She also expanded First Book's capacity to conduct original research with educators on the front lines; accelerate educators' access to actionable resources developed with leading experts; and engage cross-sector partnerships to deliver targeted funding solutions.

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