

New Jersey Early Childhood Panel Biographies



Bonnie Eggenburg is a Vice President at Gateway Community Action Program in southern New Jersey area, providing leadership to the Early Head Start and Head Start programs in eight counties. Bonnie believes that when the early childhood community and families work together, children benefit greatly. Through the work of the Head Start programs, families are supported as they work toward creating a higher quality of life for their children. Children are engaged in a comprehensive preschool education, receiving their daily nutritional requirements, participating in healthy activities such as tooth brushing, and are helped through the challenges of growing up and getting ready for school. Bonnie has been active in state-wide early education initiatives, and currently serves as the President of the New Jersey Head Start Association, advocating for quality early childhood programs for children, ages birth to five. Bonnie has completed the UCLA Johnson and Johnson Head Start Management Fellows Program and she is also a Certified Community Action Professional. Bonnie holds a Master's degree in Education from Southern

Illinois University with a focus on Early Childhood Education. She has been a teacher, college instructor, a mentor, and an innovator, working to improve the lives of children.



Dr. Ellen Frede, Senior Co-Director at the National Institute for Early Education Research, is a developmental psychologist specializing in early childhood education. Her most recent previous position was Deputy Director for Early Learning at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation where she led the team in developing the first national strategy to improve provision of pre-k in the US. Prior to this, she oversaw all education and research initiatives for Acelero Learning, a large-scale Head Start grantee serving children in 4 states. Her research has focused on investigating the relationship of program quality to child outcomes, the longitudinal effects of preschool, policy and practice, supports for bilingual acquisition, and early education policy generally. During the early development and expansion of pre-k in New Jersey, Ellen served as Assistant to the Commissioner for ECE at the NJ Department of Education where she oversaw the implementation of the Abbott Preschool Program and other early learning in more than 150 school districts partnering with over 450 private providers, serving 50,000 children with a budget of over half a billion dollars annually. She applied her extensive and deep experience as a teacher, teacher

educator and researcher to develop a comprehensive continuous improvement system for accountability and program improvement. Under her leadership, a broad coalition of educators, advocates and researchers developed program standards which were the basis of data-based decision-making at the child, classroom, program and state level. This effort led to a preschool program that has shown benefits for participants into the fifth grade and is regularly referred to as a model for the nation. Ellen has also served as an ECE professor at The College of New Jersey, a project coordinator on evaluations of state-wide programs for serving young children with disabilities, consultant to local, state and international governments and NGOs, and as a curriculum and professional development specialist at the HighScope Foundation.



Beverly Lynn, CEO of Programs for Parents, the largest child care and resource and referral agency in NJ, is an innovative leader and effective communicator with more than thirty-five years of progressive public and non-profit sector experience with a particular focus on the provision of early education services for infants, toddlers, pre-school and school age children. Intimately familiar with the child care environment in New Jersey, her experience runs the gamut from college level teaching to management and oversight of child care centers and Head Start programs throughout New Jersey. She is known for providing exceptional and cutting edge services including professional development and technical assistance to child care center staff and to home based providers. She has extensive experience in early childhood policy planning and as a result of this expertise played a significant collaborative role in the implementation of the landmark Abbott reforms designed to address the educational inequities between urban school districts and their more affluent suburban counterparts. Ms. Lynn holds a BA in Elementary Education from Rutgers University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Baruch College,

CUNY, where she was a National Urban Fellow. She is currently an Ed.D candidate at Rutgers University.



Karen White, Director of Policy Analysis and Community Engagement at the Rutgers Center for Women and Work, School of Management and Labor Relations, is a leading expert on family-friendly workplace policies and was instrumental in the creation of New Jersey's Family Leave Insurance Program. She has been an invited participant in national dialogues, including a White House initiative on this topic and has provided advice, research and technical assistance to policy makers and other stakeholders in New Jersey and other states looking to establish paid leave policies. Current projects include research and analysis of state and national policies and programs that assist working poor families to achieve economic self-sufficiency, including family leave insurance, earned sick days, healthcare, and the minimum wage. She is co-author of "Economics and Politics of Work-Family Policies: the Case for State Family Insurance program." Prior to joining the Center for Women and Work, Karen worked at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, DC.