



Early Childhood Education: Partnering Up to Amplify Impact

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

KATHRYN SANTORO is Director of Programming at the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to transforming health care through evidence and collaboration. Ms. Santoro currently leads NIHCM's programs to highlight market and policy innovations, including webinars and Capitol Hill briefings, and directs the organization's journalism and population health programs.

Ms. Santoro joined NIHCM Foundation in September 2004 after receiving her Master's degree in Public Policy from the George Washington University with a focus on women's health policy. Ms. Santoro previously served as a Project Consultant for Women in Government where she was responsible for compiling a state-by-state report card on access to cervical cancer screening. While pursuing her Master's degree, Ms. Santoro was a Communications Assistant for a health policy consulting firm and a Graduate Intern for a Washington, D.C. based women's and children's policy research organization. Ms. Santoro attended Villanova University in Villanova, PA and graduated with a BA cum laude in Political Science.

ALISON BAULOS is the Executive Director of the Center for the Economics of Human Development. She works closely with CEHD's Director, Professor James Heckman, to operationalize and oversee large-scale research initiatives on human capital development.

She began in the Economics Research Center in 2005, and played a key role in the creation of CEHD. She worked with Professor Heckman to found the Pritzker Consortium on Early Childhood Education, which brings together experts to identify when and how early childhood intervention programs can be most influential. She also oversees the Heckman Equation project which disseminates comprehensive and accurate research on early childhood to policymakers, non-profits, and the business community, and creates tools for advocates to more effectively make the case for economic investment in early childhood education. She is also the Executive Director of the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group which fosters interdisciplinary human capital development research across the globe. The first two projects are funded by the Pritzker Children's Initiative, and HCEO is funded by the Institute for New Economic Thinking.

Ms. Baulos has held Research Assistant roles at the University of Chicago Hospitals, including investigating interventions for failure-to-thrive infants (La Rabida Children's

Hospital), as well as investigating the correlation of the MMR vaccine to the onset of Autism Spectrum Disorders (Department of Psychiatry).

Ms. Baulos graduated from the University of Chicago with a B.A. (with honors) in psychology, and holds an M.A. from the University of Chicago's Social Service Administration and an MBA from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business.

LINDA SMITH is director of Bipartisan Policy Center's Early Childhood Development Initiative. She most recently served as the deputy assistant secretary for early childhood development in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role she provided overall policy coordination for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs and the Child Care and Development Fund. She also served as the department's liaison to the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies.

Previously, Ms. Smith served as the executive director for the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), where she represented more than 650 community-based agencies concerned with the care of children in their earliest years. Key components of NACCRRA's advocacy efforts included strengthening child care licensing and oversight, requiring comprehensive background checks, and establishing minimum training requirements for all child care workers.

Ms. Smith served as a legislative fellow and professional staffer on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee under the chairmanship of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Prior to this work, she was the director of the Office of Family Policy for the Secretary of Defense, where she was one of the primary architects of the military's child care program. Additionally, she has held positions with both the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

Ms. Smith began her career in early childhood education on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in her native state of Montana. She is a graduate of the University of Montana.

ALLISON CORRADO is a senior program officer at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation. Before joining the team in 2014, Ms. Corrado was an employment specialist at the American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center in Minneapolis, where she worked with local community and technical colleges along with community-based organizations to connect graduates of health care programs with jobs. Ms. Corrado holds a bachelor's degree in family social science and master's degrees in public policy and social work from the University of Minnesota.

Ms. Corrado is passionate about working in partnership with other organizations and advocates to advance health equity and dismantle systems of oppression. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband, daughter and two cats.

REBECCA NOECKER is an innovative leader, a community-builder, and a strong advocate for social justice. Ms. Noecker grew up in St. Louis Park and earned her bachelor's degree in Social Studies from Harvard College. She dedicated her early career to educational equity, as a middle school science teacher with Teach For America

in Baton Rouge, a program officer at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and Teach For India, and as director of community engagement at AchieveMpls.

Ms. Noecker has served on the board of the West Side Community Organization and the St. Paul Planning Commission, and she founded West Siders for Strong Schools, a neighborhood group dedicated to promoting excellent public schools on the West Side.

In 2015, Ms. Noecker was elected to be the first woman to represent Ward 2 on the Saint Paul City Council. Her priorities are equity, economic development and creating opportunities for young people.

Ms. Noecker lives with her husband Shane Noecker, and their sons, Whitman and Fitzgerald, on St. Paul's West Side.