



# THE ROAD TO HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING: LESSONS FROM THE STATES

June 29, 2016 | 8:30 a.m. to noon

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel  
Salon 3

## HOSTED BY

The Learning Policy Institute

Council for a Strong America

First Five Years Fund

#QualityECE

## AGENDA

### 8:30 Registration and Breakfast

### 9:00 Welcome

Charmaine Mercer, Learning Policy Institute

Kris Perry, First Five Years Fund

David Kirp, Learning Policy Institute

### 9:30 Keynote

Roberto Rodríguez

Deputy Assistant to the President for Education

The White House Domestic Policy Council

### 9:50 Remarks

Jeremy Anderson

President, Education Commission of the States

### 10:00 Report Findings and Q & A

Marjorie Wechsler, Learning Policy Institute

### 10:30 Voices From the States: Panel Discussion and Q & A

Moderator: David Kirp, Learning Policy Institute

#### Participants:

- Susan Broman, Michigan  
Deputy Superintendent for the P-20 System and  
Student Transitions Division  
Michigan Department of Education
- Lloyd Jackson, West Virginia  
Vice President, West Virginia State Board  
of Education
- Ruth Kagi, Washington  
Washington State Representative, 32nd district
- Karen Ponder, North Carolina  
President, Ponder Early Childhood, Inc.

### 11:30 Reflections

David S. Kass, Council for a Strong America

## SPEAKER BIOS

### Learning Policy Institute

#### Linda Darling-Hammond

President and CEO

Linda Darling-Hammond is the President and CEO and the Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University. Darling-Hammond is an internationally recognized researcher on issues of educational quality and equity and has been named one of the nation's most influential leaders affecting educational policy. She has worked with government leaders on education policy in the U.S. and around the world. Having begun her career as a public high school teacher, Darling-Hammond helped to start several schools and works with educators on redesigning schools and systems to meet the needs of diverse learners. She is a member of the National Academy of Education, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and past President of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) from which she received awards for Distinguished Contributions to Research, Lifetime Achievement, and Research-to-Policy. Her more than 500 publications include the award-winning books *The Right to Learn*, *Teaching as the Learning Profession*, *Preparing Teachers for a Changing World*, and *The Flat World and Education*.

#### David L. Kirp

Senior Fellow in Residence, Learning Policy Institute

David L. Kirp, Senior Fellow in Residence, is the James D. Marver Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley. He has written 17 books, including *Kids First: Five Big Ideas for Transforming Children's Lives*; *America's Future and Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System*; and a *Strategy for American Education*, which was named outstanding book of 2013 by the American Educational Research Association. He is also a contributing writer to *The New York Times*.

#### Charmaine Mercer

Director, Washington, DC office and Senior Researcher

Charmaine Mercer is Director of the Washington, DC, office and a Senior Researcher. Previously, she worked at the Alliance for Excellent Education as the Vice President for policy and advocacy in standards, assessments, and deeper learning and as the Director of policy and research for Communities for Teaching Excellence. Mercer also served in the federal government, including as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education and as an analyst for the Congressional Research Service.

#### Marjorie Wechsler

Principal Research Manager

Marjorie Wechsler, Principal Research Manager, has more than 25 years of experience conducting policy research at the national, state, and local levels. Previously she was Co-Director of SRI International's Center for Education Policy where she led research studies on the preparation and induction of new teachers, teacher professional development and teacher leadership, and systems reform efforts. She specializes in teacher development, school- and district-level reform, preschool through 3rd grade education, and systems approaches to educational improvement.

### Event Co-Sponsors

#### David S. Kass

President, Council for a Strong America

David S. Kass serves as President of Council for a Strong America, which partners with law enforcement leaders, retired admirals and generals, heads of business, faith-based leaders, and coaches and athletes to effectively reach policymakers and win major legislative victories for at-risk kids that strengthen our country. Previously, Kass served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, overseeing its congressional affairs work. In addition, he spent time both on Capitol Hill and in the nonprofit sector.

### **Kris Perry**

Executive Director, First Five Years Fund

Kris Perry, Executive Director of the First Five Years Fund, understands that America's future lies in the health and well-being of the country's youngest children. She has dedicated her career to bringing resources and support to parents, caregivers, and early learning workforce professionals to ensure children grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life. Previously, Perry served as Executive Director of First 5 California, fostering its emergence as one of the most well-known and respected advocates for early childhood development on the state and national levels.

### **Keynote Speaker**

#### **Roberto J. Rodríguez**

Deputy Assistant to the President for Education, White House Domestic Policy Council

Roberto J. Rodríguez serves in the White House Domestic Policy Council as Deputy Assistant to the President for Education. He coordinates the Administration's education policy initiatives from early learning through college and career training. Previously, he was Chief Education Counsel to United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Prior to working on Capitol Hill, Rodríguez worked as Senior Education Specialist at the National Council of La Raza, where he conducted research and analysis of federal and state education reform issues and developed and evaluated community-based education programs.

### **Panelists**

#### **Susan K. Broman**

Deputy Superintendent for the P-20 System and Student Transitions Division, Michigan Department of Education

Susan K. Broman is currently the Deputy Superintendent for the P-20 System and Student Transitions Division in the Michigan Department of Education. The Division is comprised of the Office of Great Start, which includes Early Childhood Development and Family Education, Preschool and Out-of-School Time Learning, the Head Start State Collaboration Office, and Child Development and Care. Before becoming Deputy Superintendent, Broman was President of the Steelcase Foundation, an endowment unit of Steelcase Inc., the global leader in the office furniture industry.

### **Lloyd Jackson**

Vice-Chair, West Virginia Board of Education

Lloyd Jackson currently serves as Vice-Chair of the West Virginia Board of Education, having been appointed by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin in 2011. Jackson served as Prosecuting Attorney of Lincoln County, West Virginia, for six years and as a State Senator for 12 years, where he chaired the Education Committee for eight years. During his legislative service, Jackson played a pivotal role in a number of important initiatives, including being the lead sponsor on bills creating the PROMISE Scholarship, West Virginia's merit scholarship, and West Virginia's Comprehensive Early Childhood Legislation, which created the state's universal 4-year-old pre-kindergarten program.

#### **Ruth Kagi**

Represents 32nd Legislative District in Washington State and small-business owner

Ruth Kagi is a small-business owner and represents the 32nd Legislative District in Washington State. She chairs the House of Representatives Early Learning and Human Services Committee, and nationally, she is the past Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Human Services Committee. First elected to the WA State House in 1999, she has focused on improving the quality of early learning and child care, strengthening foster care, and reforming the state's drug sentencing and truck safety laws.

#### **Karen W. Ponder**

Early Childhood Consultant

Karen W. Ponder is an early childhood consultant and has worked in 48 states in some area of early childhood systems building. She is currently working with three national organizations: the BUILD Initiative, the Alliance for Early Success, and Child Trends. Ponder is the former President of the North Carolina Partnership for Children where she helped to create Smart Start and implemented it statewide for 15 years. During her presidency, Smart Start's National Technical Assistance Center was created to assist other states in developing comprehensive early childhood efforts. Karen has been involved in all aspects of early care and education, as a teacher, center director, board member, teacher trainer, and policymaker.

## ABOUT THE SPONSORS



### LEARNING POLICY INSTITUTE

The Learning Policy Institute conducts and communicates independent, high-quality research to improve education policy and practice. Working with policymakers, researchers, educators, community groups, and others, the Institute seeks to advance evidence-based policies that support empowering and equitable learning for each and every child. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, the Institute connects policymakers and stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels with the evidence, ideas, and actions needed to strengthen the education system from preschool through college and career readiness.

[www.learningpolicyinstitute.org](http://www.learningpolicyinstitute.org)



### COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

Council for a Strong America is a national, nonprofit 501(c)3 whose membership consists of unexpected messengers—law enforcement leaders, retired admirals and generals, prominent heads of business, coaches, athletes, and faith-based leaders—working together to ensure the next generation is citizen ready. For almost two decades, Fight Crime: Invest In Kids and Mission: Readiness, ReadyNation, Shepherding the Next Generation and Champions for America's Future have promoted policies and practices that strengthen family, community, the economy, and our national security.

[www.councilforastrongamerica.org](http://www.councilforastrongamerica.org)



**First Five Years Fund**

### THE FIRST FIVE YEARS FUND

The First Five Years Fund helps America achieve better results in education, health, and economic productivity through investments in quality early childhood education programs for disadvantaged children. FFYF provides knowledge, data, and advocacy—persuading federal policymakers to make investments in the first five years of a child's life that create greater returns for all.

[www.ffyf.org](http://www.ffyf.org)

