Early Childhood Development & Health Symposium: The Intersection of Science, Policy, & Practice

April 23-24, 2015
Sheraton Uptown | Albuquerque, NM
AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Day 1 | April 23rd

11:00 - 12:00  Registration
12:00 - 1:00  Lunch & Welcome
1:00 - 2:45  Panel 1: The Critical Nature of Early Childhood
2:45 - 3:00  Break
3:00 - 4:45  Panel 2: Early Childhood Development & Health: Connecting Research to Policy
5:00 - 6:00  Reception
6:00 - 7:00  New Mexico EXCLUSIVE Film premier: “The Raising of America”

Day 2 | April 24th

8:00 - 8:15  Brief Opening and Introduction to the day’s Events
8:15 - 10:00  Panel 3: Understanding Intervention in Early Childhood
10:00 - 10:15  Break
10:15 - 12:00  Panel 4: Ensuring Policies and Programs Address Diversity and Equity
12:00 - 1:00  Lunch & Keynote Address
1:00 - 4:00  Applied Policy Action Session (Includes two breaks)
4:00 - 4:15  Break
4:15 - 5:15  Large Group Report Out & Closing

For a complete agenda go to page 3
Hello Early Childhood Health and Development Symposium Attendees,

I would like to welcome you to this event that has been organized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at UNM, and generously supported by both this Center and the McCune Charitable Foundation. We have worked hard to provide a program that integrates high level research presented by some of the nation’s and New Mexico’s leading experts on early childhood education and health policy and the opportunity to discuss best practices and where we should go from here in our community.

In addition to the panels, this symposium provides two other major activities that will enrich your experience. After the first day of panel presentations we invite you to join us for an advanced screening of the film “Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of our Nation.” The screening will take place here at the Sheraton. This film compliments the content from the event perfectly and will be preceded by a reception to help close out our first day together. We will come back on Friday ready to engage in two more amazing panels that will be followed by an opportunity for you to have direct input through a series of breakout sessions intended to engage you in small group discussions around some of the key questions facing our state’s policy-makers. We will learn about the latest research and practices that can inform our collective efforts to improve New Mexico’s early childhood system by applying what we learn from the panels towards early childhood policy action in New Mexico.

All policy action items that emerge from the symposium will be captured and articulated in a report that will be used to help inform policy makers and others working to improve and expand the early childhood system in New Mexico. It is vital to our goals at the RWJF Center that this event serve as a catalyst for a more long-term discussion of the questions raised during the Symposium. We are therefore going to use the Symposium webpage as a mechanism for communicating results from our on-going research. If you would like, we will add your email address to our Center newsletter and social media distribution list as another mechanism to keep you engaged with these efforts.

http://healthpolicy.unm.edu/node/559486 or call 505-277-0130

I am confident that you will be impressed with the depth of the content provided during the course of the two days you spend with us and I am optimistic about our ability to move forward with efforts to improve the early childhood development system in our state. While it will likely take time to phase in such improvements, we all hope that our work together over the course of this symposium will help ensure that another generation of New Mexico’s youngest children will not have to wait for a solution.

Sincerely, and on behalf of the entire RWJF Center Symposium Planning Committee.

Gabriel Sánchez,
Executive Director
RWJF Center for Health Policy at UNM
505-277-0123
sanchezg@unm.edu
Agenda

Day 1 | April 23rd
All events in Main Ballroom unless noted

11:00-12:00 Registration | Galleria

12:00-1:00 Lunch & Welcome

Welcome
Gabriel Sanchez, Executive Director, RWJF Center for Health Policy; Associate Professor, Political Science, University of New Mexico

The Landscape of Early Childhood Policy in the United States and Beyond
Frank Kessel, Professor, Early Childhood Multicultural Education, University of New Mexico

The Landscape of Early Childhood Policy in New Mexico
Hailey Heinz, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Education Policy Research, University of New Mexico

1:00-2:45 Panel 1: The Critical Nature of Early Childhood
What is the scientific basis for the renewed emphasis on the critical nature of the prenatal to early childhood experience for long-term human health and development?

Key Questions:
What is the emerging understanding of early biological, behavioral, and social development, and how has that been incorporated into the care and education of young children and their families in different socio-economic and life circumstances?

How have ‘culture’ and research on young immigrant children (and their families) been incorporated into our understanding of human development and health and related policy and programmatic interventions?

National Panelists:
Donald Hernandez, Professor of Sociology, Hunter College & the Graduate Center, City University of New York

Deborah Phillips, Professor of Psychology and Associated Faculty in the Public Policy Institute, Georgetown University

Local Panelists:
Vickie Ybarra, RWJF Center for Health Policy at UNM, Political Science, University of New Mexico

Lisa Cacari-Stone, Associate Professor, Public Health, Family & Community Medicine, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
Panel 2: Early Childhood Development and Health: Connecting Research to Policy
What are the connections between research, policy formation and implementation regarding early childhood development and health?

Key Questions:
- What are instructive examples of recent effective policy changes and programmatic initiatives (at the international, Federal, State, and local level), and how have these been influenced by research and evaluation?
- Do these research-based policy initiatives integrate health, education and development? If not, what steps towards conceptualizing and measuring such integrated outcomes need to be taken?

National Panelists:
- Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Courtney Sale Ross Professor of Globalization and Education at New York University Steinhardt; University Professor, New York University
- Greg Duncan, Distinguished Professor, School of Education and Departments of Economics and Psychology, University of California, Irvine

Local Panelists:
- Dan Haggard, Deputy Director for Programs, Early Childhood Services Division, New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department
- Kira Villa, Assistant Professor, Economics, University of New Mexico

Chair/Moderator:
Claire Dudley Chavez, Executive Vice President for Policy & Stakeholder Engagement, United Way of Santa Fe County

Day 2 | April 24th

Opening and Introduction to the day’s Events
Panel 3: Understanding Intervention in Early Childhood
How do interventionists tackle the need to support caregivers and their children while attending to the realities of poverty, poor neighborhood conditions, and inferior education?
Key Questions:
What are the benefits of early childhood interventions aimed at improving parent-child interactions, fostering social support among families, and linking families to health care and social support services?

Do service providers of such interventions possibly reinforce stigmatization among vulnerable populations such as immigrants? And can universalized interventions de-stigmatize early care and education, in the best case fostering resilience and flourishing for individuals, families, and communities?

National Panelists:
Ann Masten, Regents Professor, Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychology; Distinguished McKnight University Professor, University of Minnesota

Ajay Chaudry, Senior Fellow & Visiting Scholar at the Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy

Local Panelists:
Trisha Moquino, Director/Teacher, Keres Children’s Learning Center, Cochiti Pueblo

Marisol Atkins, Vice President, Operations and Program Development, United Way of Santa Fe County

Chair/Moderator:
Veronica Garcia, Executive Director, New Mexico Voices for Children

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15 –12:00 Panel 4: Ensuring Policies and Programs Address Diversity and Equity
Do current social policies regarding early childhood development, health, and education address the issues of diversity, equity, and social justice?

Key Questions:
What role can maternal and early childhood social policies play in decreasing poverty and racial and ethnic inequities in all aspects of well-being?

What role do political and social institutions play in perpetuating or decreasing disparities in health and educational outcomes among families and children, and how can research and policy effectively address such influences?

National Panelists:
Lisa Sun-Hee Park, Professor, Department of Sociology; Director, Asian American Studies Program, University of Minnesota

Jane Waldfogel, Compton Foundation Centennial Professor for the Prevention of Children’s and Youth Problems, Columbia University

Local Panelists:
Claudia Benavidez, Director, Peanut Butter and Jelly Home Visitation Program

Jamal Martin, Clinical Assistant Professor and Lecturer, Family and Community Medicine, and Africana Studies, University of New Mexico
Chair/Moderator:
Shannon Sanchez-Youngman, *RWJF Health Policy Fellow, Political Science, University of New Mexico*

12:00-1:00 Lunch & Keynote

Introductions | Adrian Pedroza, *Executive Director, Partnership for Community Action*

Keynote | The Honorable Senator Tom Udall, D-New Mexico

1:00-4:00 Applied Policy Action Session (Includes two breaks)
This session will focus on early childhood development and health research and initiatives in New Mexico. The structure of the sessions seeks to ensure that the ideas and energy generated by the Symposium panels are translated into sustained research innovation, policy changes, and programmatic initiatives. Each participant will be randomly assigned a color at the time of registration. Each group will rotate through the following applied policy-related sessions:

**Scalability: Scaling Up ECDH in New Mexico | Ambassador Room**

   **Co-Facilitators:**
   - David Atentcio, *Associate Professor, Department of Individual, Family & Community Education; Program Coordinator Early Childhood Multicultural Education Program, College of Education, University of New Mexico*
   - Eric Griego, *Health Policy Fellow, Political Science, University of New Mexico*

**Funding: Next Steps for ECDH in New Mexico | Registry Room**

   **Co-Facilitators:**
   - Sam Howarth, *Research Professor, Economics, University of New Mexico*
   - Gabriel Sanchez, *Executive Director, RWJF Health Policy at UNM*

**Equity: Achieving/Addressing Equity in ECDH in New Mexico | Regal Room**

   **Co-Facilitators:**
   - Meriah Heredia-Griego, *Research Assistant Professor, Center for Education Policy Research and Division of Equity and Inclusion, University of New Mexico*
   - Shannon Sanchez Youngman, *RWJF Health Policy Fellow, Political Science, University of New Mexico*

4:00-4:15 Break

4:15-5:15 Large Group Report Out and Closing
Speakers

The Honorable Tom Udall, D-NM has earned a reputation as a principled leader who has the integrity to do what is right for New Mexico and our nation. Tom began serving as United States Senator in 2009, after two decades of public service as U.S. Representative and New Mexico’s State Attorney General. Throughout his career, Tom has been a strong advocate for the hard-working families of New Mexico, fighting for the resources to ensure all New Mexico children have the opportunity to fulfill their potential and thrive. Tom has established himself as a leader in the push to expand and improve access to quality early education programs, improve childhood outcomes in well-being, and reduce childhood poverty. Tom continues to work on solutions to lift up New Mexico’s children and families, strengthen our communities, and boost our economy. Tom serves on five committees as New Mexico’s senior senator: Appropriations; Foreign Relations; Indian Affairs; Commerce, Science and Transportation; and Rules and Administration.

David J. Atencio, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Individual Family & Community Education in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. David’s research focuses on the development of self-regulation and motivation in young children and on effective models of early childhood teacher preparation and professional development. His second area of study focuses on early childhood professional development. In this area, he has been an active member of the New Mexico Early Childhood Higher Education Task Force and has coauthored major revisions to the state early childhood teacher competencies, statewide syllabi, and teaching licenses in New Mexico. His current work in this area focuses on developing an assessment of professional dispositions of early childhood professionals working with dual language learners. David is the program coordinator of the Early Childhood Multicultural Education and the Family Studies programs in the College of Education. He currently serves as chair of the Early Childhood Transformative Action Group as part of project “START: Supporting Transformative Action in Reciprocity Together in the UNM College of Education” funded by the Kellogg Foundation.

Marisol Atkins, MA, currently serves as the Vice President of Operations and Program Development with the United Way of Santa Fe County. Marisol previously served as the Deputy Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and is a lifelong infant, child, and family advocate. Marisol has extensive experience in the areas of child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health, though she feels exceptionally passionate about infant and early childhood care and education and the importance of supporting our families in the very early years. Marisol has served in a variety of roles throughout the child and family serving systems and within the various levels of care and support – from consumer of services to direct care provider to program and systems administrator (and not necessarily in that order!). Marisol is the mother of one fantastic daughter, Luz, and has a Master of Arts degree in Clinical Counseling Psychology from John F. Kennedy University.

Claudia Benavidez, BA, has worked at Peanut Butter & Jelly (PB&J) for eight years. During that time she has served as a home visitor for families with infants and young children, a dynamic community organizer, Director of Home Visitation Program and Director of PB&J’s Pathways program. Currently Ms. Benavidez is Program and Site Director for PB&J’s International District site in Albuquerque’s SE Heights. Through her outstanding leadership, Ms. Benavidez has brought together a system of collaborative partners to provide comprehensive developmental, physical, and behavioral health services to vulnerable children and their families. In addition, she has developed systems to enhance support in educational success for children and parents, legal support, immigration support, and other...
social services. She has also established important new initiatives, including the Mas Mamas and Mas Papas programs. These programs provide specialized support for immigrant families with unique parenting needs. Ms. Benavidez is recognized throughout New Mexico as an effective community activist and advocate for vulnerable families.

Lisa Cacari-Stone, PhD, is an Associate Professor with the Public Health Program, Department of Family and Community Medicine and Director of the Community Engagement Core with the National Institutes of Health funded NM CARES Health Disparities Center at the University of New Mexico. Her research interests encompass the macro-level determinants of health (e.g. immigration policy), the community level (e.g. impact of neighborhood context and migration on substance use), and the interpersonal level (e.g. role of family and provider communication on chronic disease management among Latinos). She collaborates with multidisciplinary research teams on mixed-methods and community engaged research. Two recent studies examined the social-structural barriers to health care access, including a binational comparison of social determinants of Mexican women’s health in two colonias in the Paso del Norte Region and a study of county-state policy responses to health and social welfare benefits to immigrants in the US.

Claire Ellen Dudley Chavez, MPA, serves as the Executive Vice President for Policy and Stakeholder Engagement with United Way of Santa Fe County. In this position, she leads the policy efforts of the organization through the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership. Prior to this position, Claire served as the Governance Excellence Manager at Presbyterian Healthcare Services where she was in charge of all of the organization’s governance activities at hospitals around the state and led the implementation of community health activities. From 2003 to 2010, Claire served as the Child and Youth Policy Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Denish where she developed and directed the nationally recognized New Mexico Children’s Cabinet. Additionally, Claire developed and co-authored the annual Children’s Cabinet report card and budget report which provided a comprehensive overview of state and federal funding of programs that support children and young people. A native New Mexican, Claire received her Bachelor of Art in American Studies from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA and received a Masters of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin where her research focused on child and family policy.

Ajay Chaudry, PhD, was until recently the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the US Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to that appointment in the Obama administration, Dr. Chaudry was a Senior Fellow and Director of the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. He has led public policy research focused on child poverty, child well-being and development, human service programs in the social safety net, and the early childhood care system for young children. From 2004 to 2006, Dr. Chaudry served as the Deputy Commissioner for Child Care and Head Start at the New York City Administration for Children Services, where he oversaw the city’s early childhood development programs serving 150,000 children in low-income families. He is the author of Putting Children First: How Low-wage Working Mothers Manage Child Care, and many articles related to child poverty, children of immigrant families, and US social policies. Dr. Chaudry graduated with an AB from Columbia University, an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and PhD from Harvard University.
**Greg Duncan, PhD**, holds the title of Distinguished Professor in the School of Education at the University of California, Irvine. Duncan received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan and spent the first 35 years of his career at the University of Michigan and Northwestern University. Duncan’s recent work has focused on estimating the role of school-entry skills and behaviors on later school achievement and attainment and the effects of increasing income inequality on schools and children’s life chances. Duncan was President of the Population Association of America in 2008 and the Society for Research in Child Development between 2009 and 2011. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2010.

**Veronica C. García, EdD**, is the Executive Director of New Mexico Voices for Children. She previously served as New Mexico’s first Cabinet Secretary of Education (a seven-year term under Governor Bill Richardson). As Secretary, she advocated for the passage of the state’s Pre-K Act and Hispanic Education Act, programs that extend the school year for at-risk children, and rigorous academic standards that were recognized nationally. She also pushed for funding for programs such as school-based health clinics, breakfast in the schools, and elementary physical education. Her decades of work within the state’s K-12 education system ranged from teaching in the classroom to principal and regional superintendent in the Albuquerque Public Schools to associate superintendent and superintendent of the Santa Fe Public Schools. She also served as Executive Director of the New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators.

**Eric Griego, University of New Mexico Health Policy Fellow** has worked for the past two decades as a researcher, analyst, and policy maker at the local, state, national, and international level on applied public policy issues ranging from economic development to early childhood education. After receiving his Master’s degree from the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy, Eric spent the first ten years of his career working on international economic issues at several agencies and on Capitol Hill. As an Albuquerque City Councilman, State Senator, and senior appointed state official, he worked on economic, social, and tax policy issues from increasing the minimum wage to campaign finance reform. He later ran New Mexico Voices for Children, the largest and most active anti-poverty advocacy, research, and policy organization focusing on children and families in the state. Currently he is a UNM Health Policy Fellow, and his research interests include the connections between economic development, human capital, healthy communities, and social investment.

**Hailey Heinz, MA**, is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Education Policy Research at the University of New Mexico, where her emphasis is on early childhood education projects. She also focuses on bringing data stories to life and making those stories meaningful for readers from all backgrounds. She holds a Master’s degree in political science from the University of New Mexico, with an emphasis on public policy. Before joining CEPR, Hailey was a reporter for the Albuquerque Journal, where she covered K-12 education for four years spanning two gubernatorial administrations. Her reporting included the politics of education as well as the real-world implications of different education policy choices. Before taking on the education beat, Hailey covered crime at the Albuquerque Journal, and she has past reporting experience on a variety of topics for the Boston Globe and the Anchorage Daily News.
Meriah E. Heredia-Griego, PhD, currently serves as a Research Assistant professor at the Center for Education Policy Research and the Division of Equity and Inclusion at the University of New Mexico. Within this position she conducts research and evaluation on several large-scale projects, including the Lumina Latino Student Success Initiative, WKKF New Mexico Learning and Evaluation Consortium, and U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Training investments in New Mexico. During the NM legislative session she serves as the UNM Legislative Bill Tracker, conducting legislative bill and policy analysis. She has over ten years of experience working on college readiness, access, persistence, and graduation issues with students, families, leaders, and policymakers. She teaches courses for emerging educational leaders in the areas of policy research and politics in the College of Education, Teacher Education, Educational Leadership and Policy Program. She has a BA in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Chicano Studies and Masters of Community and Regional Planning with an emphasis in Community Development from the University of New Mexico. In 2013, she earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Colorado State University.

Donald J. Hernandez, PhD, is a Professor of Sociology, at the Hunter College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY). He is the author of America's Children: Resources from Family, Government, and the Economy (Russell Sage Foundation, 1993), the first national research using children as the unit of analysis to document the timing, magnitude, and reasons for revolutionary changes experienced by children since the Great Depression in family composition, parent's education, father's and mother's work, and family income and poverty. Dr. Hernandez is also currently conducting research on disparities in child well-being by race-ethnic, immigrant, and socioeconomic status with funding from the Foundation for Child Development. He is also assessing features of family environments of at-risk children that foster resilience leading to success in reading by 3rd grade and, ultimately, high school graduation with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Sam Howarth, PhD, is a Senior Fellow and member of the leadership team at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at UNM, and a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, where he conducts health and education policy analyses and research. Prior to this, Dr. Howarth served as the Director of the Division of Policy and Performance with the New Mexico Department of Health. The Division of Policy and Performance is designated by the Secretary to direct the development of Department policy and strategic planning, coordinate legislative strategy, and to lead efforts to address health disparities among New Mexico’s diverse populations. Dr. Howarth has over 20 years’ experience developing and forwarding policy, primarily related to health and education. He is a native New Mexican, with Bachelors Degrees in History and Spanish, and a Masters and a Ph.D. in Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies from the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Frank Kessel, PhD, is a Professor of Early Childhood and Multicultural Education in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico (UNM), where he is also a Senior Fellow and member of the leadership team at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy. Prior to joining UNM, Kessel completed a 12-year spell as Program Director for the Culture, Health, and Human Development Program at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) in New York. With a primary interest in human development and ancillary issues in the philosophy and history of psychology and the social sciences, as well as matters at the intersection of psychology with education and the humanities, Kessel has held academic positions at the University of Houston, the University of Alberta, and the University of Cape Town. His involvement in international early education efforts began after he had
received his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, when he returned to Cape Town to help establish the path-breaking Early Learning Centre for disadvantaged children and families (which continues to flourish in post-apartheid South Africa as the Early Learning Resource Unit).

**Nancy López, PhD,** is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico (B.A. Columbia College, Columbia University, 1991; Ph.D. Graduate School & University Center, City University of New York, GSUC-CUNY, 1999). Dr. López co-founded and directs the Institute for the Study of “Race” and Social Justice. RWJF Center for Health Policy at UNM. Dr. López founded and coordinates the New Mexico Statewide Race, Gender, Class Data Policy Consortium and co-chairs the UNM Diversity Council. Dr. López is a member of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee at UNM and chairs the Race, Gender, and Class section of the American Sociological Association (ASA). The daughter of Dominican immigrants, Dr. López was born in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, and she was raised in Baruch Public Houses. Spanish is her first language. In 1987 Dr. López graduated from Washington Irving H.S., a de facto segregated large public vocational high school for girls.

**Jamal Martín, PhD,** teaches public health, undergraduate medicine, and Africana Studies. He has advanced and terminal degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the University of New Mexico (UNM). His undergraduate research experiences in Psychoneuropharmacology and legal research increased his understanding of brain behavior relationships, justice, and population health. His post-graduate and postdoctoral studies include public health practice and epidemiology and global health law governance. Some of his core experiences with the Hawaii Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention include assessment, policy development, and assurance of essential public health services. Dr. Martín is currently a Senior Fellow at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at UNM. His praxis lies at the integration of cognitive behavioral and social neurosciences within the intersections of education, forensic epidemiology, and public health law research. More recently, he has accepted directorship of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at UNM. Here he continues his work on producing and using transformative knowledge to dismantle structural violence, support institutional change and development, and promote social justice and healing within the matrix of strategic peace building education.

**Ann S. Masten, PhD, LP,** is a Regents Professor and Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development at the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on understanding processes that promote competence and prevent problems in human development, with a focus on adaptive processes and resilience in the context of high cumulative risk, adversity, and trauma. She directs the Project Competence research on risk and resilience, including studies with normative populations and high-risk children and youth exposed to homelessness, war, natural disasters, migration, and other adversities. She is Past-President of the Society for Research in Child Development and currently serves on the Board of Children, Youth and Families for the U. S. National Academies, where she also co-chairs the international Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally. In 2014 she received the Bronfenbrenner Award for Lifetime Contributions to Developmental Psychology in the Service of Science and Society from the American Psychological Association. She teaches a free MOOC (massive open online course) on “Resilience in Children Exposed to Trauma, Disaster and War: Global Perspectives” periodically available on Coursera. Her book, Ordinary Magic: Resilience in Development, was published in 2014 by Guilford Press.
Trisha Moquino, MA, is from the Pueblos of Cochiti, Ohkay Owingeh, and Santo Domingo. She graduated with a B.A. in American Studies from Stanford University; she holds a M.A. in Elementary/Bilingual Education from the University of New Mexico; and she is trained in the Montessori Method, Primary level (ages 3-6, United Montessori Association) and Elementary I (ages 6-9, Montessori Education Center of the Rockies). She has worked with children for the last 16 years in the public, private, and in the Bureau of Indian Educational settings. Currently, Trisha works as a Director/Teacher/Co-Founder of Keres Children’s Learning Center (KCLC). She has partnered with the KCLC Board of Directors, Cochiti Tribal Leadership, and many native and non-native allies since 2006 to open KCLC, which is now in its 3rd year of operation. It has been a part of her life’s work to create a learning environment that honors the children from her tribal communities by incorporating the natural usage of the Keres language and culture into an educational model that nurtures the whole child.

Kelly O’Donnell, PhD, is an economist and public finance expert specializing in the critical intersection between economic development and social policy. Her work is predicated on the belief that a healthy, equitable society is the foundation of economic growth and enduring prosperity and that the interests of businesses, families, and communities can be simultaneously furthered through the right combination of thoughtfully executed public policies and incentives. Much of her recent work has focused on increasing the economic stability of low income families and improving access to high quality, early education through policies that simultaneously foster strong businesses, robust markets, and the ability of low income and rural families to access services. Prior to consulting, Kelly held a series of leadership roles in the administration of New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, including Director of State Tax Policy, Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Economic Development, and Superintendent of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department.

Lisa Sun-Hee Park, PhD, is Professor of Sociology and the Director of Asian American Studies at the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on the politics of migration, race, and social policy. Her latest publications include two books: Entitled to Nothing: The Struggle for Immigrant Health Care in the Age of Welfare Reform (NYU, 2011), which investigates the impact of federal welfare and immigration policies on Latina and Asian immigrant women’s prenatal care access, and The Slums of Aspen: Immigrants vs. the Environment in America’s Eden (co-authored with David N. Pellow, NYU, 2011), a case study of how environmental initiatives utilize anti-immigrant, population control rhetoric to produce exclusive spaces of privilege within the global economy. She is currently working on a new project on medical deportations of low-income disabled immigrants in need of long-term care as a contemporary application of public charge policy.

Adrián A. Pedroza, MBA, is the Executive Director of the Partnership for Community Action, a community-based organization that works to build strong, healthy communities throughout New Mexico by investing in people and families – supporting them to become strong leaders in the community. Previously, Adrián worked with the University of New Mexico High School Equivalency and College Assistance Migrant Programs, which provide educational opportunities to migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families. In addition, Adrián worked for former U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman in New Mexico. Under Governor Bill Richardson, Adrián was appointed to the inaugural Hispanic Education Advisory Council. He is currently a Commissioner on President Obama’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics serving on the Early Learning Sub-Committee. Adrián serves on the National Advisory Board for the early childhood school readiness and parent engagement curriculum Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors and is on the Advisory Board of the NM Center for
School Leadership. He holds a B.A. in political science and an M.B.A. from the University of New Mexico. Adrián is most proud of his family- his wife Valerie, six year old daughter Mariana and four year old son Marco.

Deborah Phillips, PhD, is a Professor of Psychology and Associated Faculty in the Public Policy Institute at Georgetown University. She was the first Executive Director of the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine and served as Study Director for the Board’s report: From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Child Development. She has also served as President of the Foundation for Child Development, Director of Child Care Information Services at the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and Congressional Science Fellow (Society for Research in Child Development) on the staff of Congressman George Miller. Her research focuses on the developmental effects of early childhood programs for both typically developing children and those with special needs, including research on child care, Head Start, and pre-Kindergarten programs. Her most recent work has involved evaluating the Tulsa, OK school-based preschool program, including impacts on children with special needs and on 8th grade follow-up, and designing a preschool intervention that integrates a focus on self-regulation and early math development. An additional line of research examines the adult work environment of early childhood care and education settings as it affects the stability and quality of care for children. She also devotes substantial time to activities that translate scientific evidence on early childhood education for policymakers and other applied audiences. Dr. Phillips currently serves on the National Board for Education Sciences for the U.S. Department of Education. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Eastern Psychological Association, and the American Psychological Society. In 2011, she received the Distinguished Contributions to Education in Child Development Award from the Society for Research in Child Development.

Gabriel Sanchez, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Political Science and the Executive Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico. He is also Director of Research for Latino Decisions and the Director of the American Economic Association Summer Training Program. Sanchez received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Arizona. His research explores the relationship between racial/ethnic identity and political engagement, Latino health policy, and minority legislative behavior. His work has been published in a wide range of academic journals, he is a co-author of Hispanics and the U.S. Political System, one of the most popular Latino Politics textbooks in colleges today, and he has a forthcoming book titled Latinos and the 2012 Election: The New Face of the American Voter. Sanchez has been the principal or co-principal investigator on several large-scale surveys, including the Latino Decisions National Poll on Health Care Reform (2009) and the Collaborative Multi-racial Post-election Study (2008). Professor Sanchez has provided political commentary to several state, national, and international media outlets.

Shannon Sanchez-Youngman, PhD Candidate, RWJF Center for Health Policy Fellow at the University of New Mexico, Her dissertation focuses on the intersection of maternal and child health policies and social welfare policies across the American states from 1992-2010. Her work analyzes the determinants of state policy choices to either adopt redistributive reforms or to adopt policies aimed at punitive behavioral modification among low-income mothers. In particular, Sanchez-Youngman examines how health and social justice movements potentially moderate the impact of racialized social structures on punitive social policy choices. She has more than a decade of experience working as a practitioner in maternal and child health programs throughout New Mexico.
Kira Villa, PhD, is an applied microeconomist at the University of New Mexico with research interests in areas of food, nutrition, health, and human development in the context of poverty and economic development. Currently her research focuses on early childhood development and the mechanisms linking early childhood well-being to later life outcomes. She is also currently researching the effects of personality, cognition, and shocks on educational and labor market outcomes in Africa.

Jane Waldfogel, PhD, is the Compton Foundation Centennial Professor at Columbia University School of Social Work and a visiting professor at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics. Waldfogel received her Ph.D. in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is currently completing a book on inequality in child outcomes in the US, UK, Australia, and Canada. Her other current research includes studies of child care, family leave, and other work-family policies, fragile families and child well-being, and improving the measurement of poverty.

Vickie Ybarra, PhD, received her doctorate from the Department of Political Science at the University of New Mexico where she studies social/structural determinants of health and well-being, immigration policy, and Latino politics. She holds previous degrees in Nursing and Public Health from the University of Washington. Prior to returning to school, Vickie worked for 21 years as a nurse then as an administrator at the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic. She served as Governor Gregoire's first Chair of the Governor's Council on Health Disparities from 2006 to 2010. Vickie looks forward to returning home to Washington later in 2015.

Hirokazu Yoshikawa, PhD, is the Courtney Sale Ross Professor of Globalization and Education at New York University Steinhardt and a University Professor at New York University. He is a community and developmental psychologist who studies the effects of public policies and programs related to immigration, early childhood, and poverty reduction on children's development. He has also conducted research on culture, sexuality, and youth and young adult development in the contexts of HIV/AIDS risk and prevention and gay/straight alliances. He conducts research in the United States and in low- and middle-income countries. Previously he served as the Walter H. Gale Professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and as its Academic Dean. He currently serves on the Leadership Council and as the Co-Chair of the early childhood development and education workgroup of the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the research and technical group advising the Secretary-General on the post-2015 global development goals. In 2012 he was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate as a member of the National Board for Education Sciences.
The Raising of America
Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation

The RWJF Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico is hosting a "sneak preview" screening of the forthcoming documentary: The Raising of America (60 mins.).

The Raising of America moves back and forth between the science of human development and the stories of families and communities struggling to provide the rich and responsive environments all children need to thrive—while too often hindered by social conditions and inequities that impede their every effort. It doesn’t have to be this way. What initiatives and national priorities might enable all our children the opportunity for a strong start while building a more prosperous and equitable future for our nation?

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