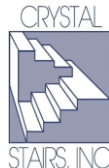
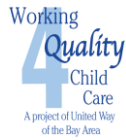




Water Cooler
CONFERENCE

**BIOGRAPHIES OF
PRESENTERS**

March 9 and 10, 2010
Sacramento, California



The Water Cooler is a collaborative effort by the Advancement Project, the California Community Foundation, Children Now, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, First 5 California, and many other organizations including those shown here, to advance early care and learning for California's children ages birth to 5. Water Cooler efforts aim to inform advocacy and bring the needs of California's children into the larger education conversation.

FUNDING FOR WATER COOLER CONFERENCE GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY:

- The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
- The Boeing Company
- Buffett Early Childhood Fund
- California Community Foundation
- Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- The Atlas Family Foundation
- The California Endowment
- Irvine Foundation
- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Lakeshore Learning Materials





Larry Aceves

Larry Aceves is running for Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2010. Mr. Aceves is an educator with more than 30 years experience in California's public schools. As a former teacher, principal, and superintendent, Mr. Aceves has always been honored to work for students and with educators dedicated to improving academic achievement. He has been dedicated to teaching and learning since 1974 when he began his career in education. He served in school districts in San Jose, San Diego, and the Central Coast. Mr. Aceves also served as the President of the Association of California School Administrators, the largest educational leadership association in the nation. In that position, he worked with school superintendents, principals, and other educators around the state to address challenges and seek opportunities to provide students the best classroom experience possible. As a school district superintendent, Mr. Aceves worked with the public and private sectors to establish programs and facilities, including a free medical and dental clinic for low income children, preschool programs, parent and community centers, parent training centers, English Language Development programs, and gang prevention training. He championed and maintained music, art, and physical education classes for all students.



Sonya Anderson

Dr. Sonya Anderson has been in the field of education since she graduated from Yale University in 1992. As part of the Mississippi Teacher Corps, Dr. Anderson spent two years teaching in rural Mississippi where she taught high school French and history. She served as a Program Associate with the Ford Foundation in New York City where she supported grant-making in the fields of service learning, higher education reform, and international studies. Following her tenure at the Ford Foundation, Dr. Anderson worked as a Senior Associate at Creative Associates International in Washington, DC where she co-directed the implementation of education development projects in West Africa and the Caribbean. She also worked with the Oprah Winfrey Foundation as the Education Program Director. Dr. Anderson is currently with the Ounce of Prevention Fund, a non-profit advocacy organization that works to implement programs and policies that support high quality early childhood services for at-risk children. She first joined the Ounce as National Director of its federal advocacy arm, the First Five Years Fund, and now serves as the Vice-President for National Affairs. Dr. Anderson holds an undergraduate degree in economics and political science from Yale University, and a master's and doctorate degree in education from Harvard University.



Nancy O. Andrews

Nancy O. Andrews is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF). LIIF is a \$600 million Community Development Financial Institution that has invested over \$750 million in community projects. LIIF's investments have leveraged \$5 billion in private capital for poor communities in 26 states across the U.S. Ms. Andrews' career spans 30 years in the community development field. Previously, Ms. Andrews served as the Deputy Director of the Ford Foundation's Office of Program Related Investments and was the Chief Financial Officer of the International Water Management Institute. Additionally, Ms. Andrews has been an independent consultant on community development, social investment, financial analysis, and housing policy. In this capacity, she consulted for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Treasury during the Clinton administration. Ms. Andrews received a master's in Urban Planning with a concentration in Real Estate Finance from Columbia University.

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Catherine Atkin

Catherine Atkin is President of Preschool California. She manages the organization's day-to-day work and collaborates closely with senior staff on strategy. She is an attorney with legal and policy expertise in the area of early care and education. Prior to joining Preschool California, she was the principal of a consulting firm specializing in strategic research, a directing attorney at Public Counsel Law Center in Los Angeles, and minority subcommittee counsel for the Banking and Financial Services Committee of the United States House of Representatives. She holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford, a law degree from UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall and a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA.



Joan Blades

Joan Blades is a co-founder of MoveOn.org, which has an online membership of over 5 million. Mother's Day 2006 she co-founded MomsRising.org with Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner to tap the power of online grassroots organizing for mothers and families in the U.S.A. MomsRising has an online membership of over 1 million. She is also the co-author of The Motherhood Manifesto which won the Ernesta Drinker Ballard Book Prize in 2007 and has been a member of the Reuniting America advisory board. Last century she co-founded Berkeley Systems best known for the flying toaster screen saver "After Dark," taught mediation at Golden Gate Law School, practiced mediation and wrote Mediate Your Divorce. Ms. Blades is an artist, with collages published on both greeting cards and software packaging.



Barbara T. Bowman

Barbara Bowman is the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development at Erikson Institute and Chief Officer of Early Childhood Education for the Chicago Public Schools. Ms. Bowman is one of three faculty members who founded Erikson Institute in 1966 and is the immediate past president. She has taught at preschool and primary levels as well as in colleges and universities and now teaches courses at Erikson Institute. She administers preschool and kindergarten programs in the Chicago Public Schools. Her specialty areas are early education, cultural diversity, and education of at-risk children. In addition to administration, teaching, writing, and speaking, Bowman has directed a wide range of projects, including ones for Head Start, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and on Native American reservations. Her most recent work includes a survey of diversity in teacher education programs. She is co-director and investigator on projects in the Erikson Center for the Study of Young Children: Race, Class, and Culture. Ms. Bowman has served on numerous professional boards, including the Family Resource Coalition and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, of which she was President (1980-82). She is on the boards of the Great Books Foundation, Erikson Institute, and Roosevelt University. She has served on a variety of professional committees, including the National Research Council committees on Day Care Policy, the Prevention of Reading Difficulties, and Early Childhood Pedagogy (which she chaired), the Leadership Initiative for the National Black Children Development Institute, and the Illinois Early Learning Council. She holds honorary degrees from Bank Street College, Roosevelt University, Dominican University, Governors State University, Lewis University, and Wheelock College.

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Charlotte Brantley

Charlotte Brantley is president and CEO of Clayton Early Learning in Denver, Colorado. Her distinguished career spans decades of leadership in early childhood education, with emphasis on teacher training, high quality early learning environments, child and family policy, and state and federal program administration. Clayton Early Learning is a member of the national network of Educare Centers and provides quality early childhood education, teacher professional development and program evaluations. From 2001-2006 Brantley was senior director of the Public Broadcasting Service's innovative *Ready To Learn*® television service. She led this nationwide initiative to integrate children's programming, such as Sesame Street and Between The Lions, with community outreach to prepare young children for success in school. Prior to joining PBS, Brantley led the Child Care Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Clinton Administration. She administered more than \$4 billion in federal child care service and quality improvement funds from 1999-2001. From 1989 through 1999, Brantley was director of child care and development for the state of Texas. She helped guide its child care system through dramatic improvements in response to a ten-fold increase in the budget to \$350 million annually. The Texas program was awarded in 1993 the prestigious *Innovations in State and Local Government Award* from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the Ford Foundation. Brantley was also a member of the child development teaching faculty at San Antonio College, Austin Community College, and the University of Texas at Austin, where she taught undergraduate students, supervised student teachers, engaged in research studies, and worked directly with young children in laboratory preschools. She holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and a master's degree in Child Development from the University of Texas at Austin.



The Honorable
Julia Brownley

Assemblywoman Julia Brownley was elected to the California State Assembly in November of 2006 and has been appointed to be the next Chair of the Assembly Committee on Education. She is also Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance, which reviews all K-12 and higher education budget matters, and Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Higher Education in the 21st Century, which focuses on the UC and CSU systems, their budgets, and other long-range issues. Prior to being elected to the Assembly, she served for 12 years on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board – three times as Board President. She has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from George Washington University and an M.B.A. from American University.



Susan A. Buffett

Susan A. Buffett is Chairman of The Sherwood Foundation, the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund. The Sherwood Foundation focuses on public education and poverty alleviation – mainly in Omaha, Nebraska. The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation (formerly The Buffett Foundation) works globally on women's health issues and nuclear disarmament. The Buffett Early Childhood Fund focuses on early childhood education from birth to five for low income families on a national scale. Ms. Buffett also serves on several national nonprofit boards including ONE (formerly D.A.T.A. – Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa), the Ounce of Prevention Fund, Girls Incorporated, and The Fulfillment Fund. Locally, she serves on the board of Girls Incorporated, The Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center Foundation, Building Bright Futures, and The Omaha Airport Authority.

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Lucia Diaz

Mar Vista Family Center CEO Lucia Diaz came to the United States from her hometown of Merida Yucatan, Mexico in 1976. She is from a family of 11 brothers and sisters. At age 17, she began work as a live-in maid and by age 20, she had married and given birth to her first child. Ms. Diaz's first step toward her career in teaching and administration began in 1981 when she came to the Mar Vista Family Center as a parent participant with her own children in the childcare program. In 1985, Ms. Diaz began serving as Mar Vista Family Center's head teacher and the following year she was promoted to the position of program director. In 1995, she became executive director; in 2005 she became the CEO for the Mar Vista Family Center. Ms. Diaz has served as committee member of Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council Youth Task Force, Los Angeles Universal Preschool Parent Engagement Task Force, and Del Rey Neighborhood Council as area director. Her administrative and teaching career, include serving as an instructor training students, professors, administrators, and parents in the following institutions: The Methodist Church of Pacific Palisades training nannies, Workshop Leader for the Center to Advance Pre-college Science Education, UCLA Student Media Department, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, UCLA Extension, the Los Angeles Unified School District, Yo San University, and Coro Southern California.



Lori Easterling

Lori Easterling is currently the Manager of Legislative Relations for the California Teachers Association. A staunch advocate of public education, Ms. Easterling has worked on behalf of public schools, teachers, and school support professionals since 1990 and has a strong passion for politics and legislation. As Manager of CTA Legislative Relations, she coordinates CTA's legislative programs and oversees its lobbying staff. Active in both policy and budget areas, Ms. Easterling accomplishes CTA's goals by working in coalitions with educator, labor, parent and community groups. Prior to becoming manager, she was a CTA Legislative Advocate in Sacramento and lobbied on behalf of CTA members in the areas of Retirement and Early Childhood Education. She has also worked for the Florida Education Association/United, Alabama Education Association, and Sacramento City Teachers Association as well as other local associations. She has extensive experience in teacher organizing, negotiating collective bargaining agreements, and planning large-scale teacher rallies. In 1990, Ms. Easterling earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Florida State University.



Danielle Ewen

Danielle Ewen is the Director of the Child Care and Early Education team at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). She works on federal and state issues around child care and early education, particularly the reauthorizations of the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Head Start. She has written extensively about financing high quality early care and education systems, as well as the federal child care subsidy program and how it impacts low-income families, and state and local policies to create and implement early childhood programs. She is the author and co-author of numerous publications on state and federal policy, including *All Together Now*, a research report that examines the implementation of state pre-kindergarten programs in community-based child care settings, several reports on the use of Title I funds for early childhood programs, and analyses of federal and state child care subsidy policies. Prior to joining CLASP, Danielle Ewen worked at the Children's Defense Fund as a Senior Program Associate in the Child Care and Development Division. Ms. Ewen was also the Assistant Director for the National Child Care Information Center and worked as a Policy Analyst at the US Department of Education in the Office of Migrant Education, where she worked on issues related to implementation of Chapter 1 programs, family literacy, bilingual education, and evaluation. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a master's in Public Administration from Columbia University.

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Sandy Escobedo

Sandy Escobedo is the California Community Foundation's Deputy Field Director - Preschool Advocacy Initiative and works to increase support for quality preschool among elected officials and key community leaders in Los Angeles by building constituencies, mobilizing communities and advocating for related public policies. Before joining CCF as a Palevsky Fellow in July 2007, Ms. Escobedo was a data analyst with the SchoolStat project in Philadelphia. She tracked performance in the areas of student achievement, attendance, and school climate. Ms. Escobedo also taught pre-kindergarten in New York City's South Bronx as a Teach for America corps member. Ms. Escobedo received her bachelor's from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has a master's degree in Government Administration from the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in teaching from Fordham University.



The Honorable
Isadore Hall, III

Assemblymember Isadore Hall, III is a California State Assemblyman representing Compton, North Long Beach, Paramount, Rancho Dominguez, South Los Angeles, Watts, and Willowbrook, and serves as Assistant Speaker pro Tempore, the third highest ranking member of the California State Assembly. Mr. Hall began his career of public service in 2001 when he was elected to the Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees. Mr. Hall served two terms as President of the Board and oversaw important reforms to attract highly qualified teachers and increase funding to classrooms throughout the district. In 2003, Hall was elected to the Compton City Council where he served in various leadership positions including Mayor Pro Tem. During this time Hall also served on the Metropolitan Water District Board, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, and the Southern California Association of Governments. Mr. Hall received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and his master's degree in Public Administration from National University.



John Hein

John Hein is the president and CEO of Hein, Cherry, and Attore, LLC. He brings to the position 40 years of executive management experience in politics and public policy at both the national and state levels. Mr. Hein has provided strategic guidance and research development to Speaker Karen Bass, Working Californians, the California Endowment, and the California Student Success Project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation among other clients. Mr. Hein also serves as the executive director of Communities for Quality Education, a national education advocacy organization working with parents, teachers, and communities to advance a national quality public school agenda. He has recently served as the president of the California Alliance for Progress, a California-based issue advocacy organization. Mr. Hein was an aide to a Member of Congress and a U.S. Vice President as well as an executive manager with the National Education Association and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. Mr. Hein earned his bachelor's degree from Kearney State College and his J.D. from Creighton University.



Portia Kennel

Portia Kennel has worked for the Ounce of Prevention Fund for more than 25 years and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Bounce Network. During her tenure, Portia led the creation of the Ounce's innovative Educare school on Chicago's South Side as well as the expansion of a statewide network of specially trained home visitors called Doulas. Portia directs the Bounce Learning Network, an innovative partnership between the Buffet Early Childhood Fund and the Ounce of Prevention Fund that is helping communities across the country create state-of-the-art early childhood centers for infants, toddlers, and children. Educare schools implement evidence-based practices designed to better prepare at-risk children for success in school. She has more than two decades of progressive experience in social work and program development and

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administration with a concentration in the design and management of programs for infants, children, and their families. She is a Zero to Three Fellow. Ms. Kennel holds a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois



Sherry Lansing

Sherry Lansing is the CEO of The Sherry Lansing Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to cancer research, health, and public education. Among the foundation's initiatives is PrimeTime LAUSD, a partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District designed to engage retirees in improving the state of public education through targeted volunteerism. Lansing sits on numerous boards, including The Carter Center, The American Association for Cancer Research, Civic Ventures, the EnCorps Teachers Program, the Lasker Foundation, and STOP CANCER. She is also a founder of the Stand Up To Cancer initiative, which funds multi-institutional cancer research "dream teams." In addition, Lansing is Vice Chair of the University of California Board of Regents and serves on Governor Schwarzenegger's Committee on Education Excellence, as well as the California State Superintendent of Education's P-16 Advisory Council. During nearly 30 years in the motion picture business, Lansing was involved in the production, marketing, and distribution of more than 200 films, including Academy Award winners *Forrest Gump* (1994), *Braveheart* (1995), and the highest grossing movie of all time, *Titanic* (1997). In 1992, she was named Chairman and CEO of Paramount Pictures and began an unprecedented tenure that lasted more than 12 years, during which the studio enjoyed enormous creative and financial success. In 1984, she became the first woman to head a major film studio when she was appointed President of 20th Century Fox.



Ted Lempert

Ted Lempert is the President of Children Now, a national research and advocacy organization based in Oakland, California. He also serves on the San Mateo County Board of Education. Previously, Mr. Lempert was the founding CEO and co-founder of EdVoice, a California grassroots organization advocating for education reform and support for public education. Mr. Lempert was a California State Assemblymember representing San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties from 1996 to 2000 and 1988 to 1992. He served as chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee and the Select Committees on Education Technology and Coastal Protection, and co-chair of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education. Mr. Lempert also served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, where he was President of the Board in 1995. Prior to holding public office, Mr. Lempert was special counsel and an associate for the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter, and Hampton in San Francisco. A lifelong resident of the San Francisco Peninsula, Mr. Lempert attended local public schools. He graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and earned his law degree from Stanford University.



Deidre Lind

Deidre S. Lind is currently the Executive Director, Mattel Children's Foundation, and Philanthropy Programs for Mattel, Inc. In this position, she is responsible for leading Mattel's philanthropic presence nationally and internationally and building Mattel's reputation as a responsible corporate citizen. Under Ms. Lind's direction, Mattel and the Mattel Children's Foundation are building partnerships with globally recognized nonprofits as well as local programs directly impacting children in almost 100 countries around the world. Ms. Lind directs employee charitable programs, volunteer activities, and grant-making for this Fortune-500 company. Ms. Lind previously served as Kaiser Permanente's California Division Associate Director for Government and Community Relations. She also worked on social policy for the Chief of Staff to Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan. Ms. Lind received her bachelor's from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and both a master's degree of Social Work and a master's degree of Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

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The Honorable
Carol Liu

Carol Liu is the California State Senator from the 21st District, representing Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, San Gabriel, Temple City, several City of Los Angeles communities, and portions of other surrounding cities and communities. She was a teacher in the Richmond, California, public schools from 1964 through 1978 – teaching history at the junior and senior high school level. She also worked as a school administrator from 1978-1984. After relocating to Southern California, Ms. Liu emerged as a key community volunteer and civic leader. Initially she focused on education and other issues affecting children, including serving as a PTA President and as President of the Pasadena City College Foundation Board. In 1992 Ms. Liu was elected to the La Cañada Flintridge City Council. She served on the Council for eight years, including two very successful terms as Mayor. In 2000, she was elected to the State Assembly to represent the 44th District and served three terms. She was elected to the state senate in November 2008 where she continues pursuing her agenda to improve public education, increase access to higher education and to career and technical education, and assure essential services for the elderly, low-income and disabled. She attended public schools and graduated from San Jose State College in 1963. She continued her education at the UC Berkeley School of Education where she earned both a lifetime teaching credential and a credential in education administration.



Ken McNeely

Ken McNeely, as president of AT&T California, is responsible for all external affairs, public policy, and philanthropic activities for AT&T in California. He leads AT&T's workforce in the state of more than 45,000 employees and was appointed to his current position in November 2005, following the close of the historic merger between SBC Communications Inc. and AT&T Corp. Previously he served as vice president, law, and government affairs – pacific region, and president of AT&T Communications of California, where he was responsible for all legal, legislative, regulatory matters and public policy advocacy within the states of California, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Hawaii, and Alaska. Mr. McNeely began his career with AT&T in 1991, as a commercial litigation attorney in Atlanta. Prior to joining AT&T, he was employed by Moore & Van Allen in Charlotte, North Carolina, as a corporate litigation attorney. He also served as a judicial law clerk for the North Carolina Supreme Court. He earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his juris doctor from Howard University School of Law. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar.



Lenny Mendonca

Lenny Mendonca is a director in the San Francisco Office of McKinsey & Company, where he leads the Firm's knowledge development. Mr. Mendonca is on the Shareholders' Council of McKinsey and oversees the McKinsey Global Institute and the Firm's communications. He has helped dozens of corporate, government, and nonprofit clients solve their most difficult management challenges. He is the Chairman Emeritus of the Bay Area Council and is Chairman of the Economic Institute of the Bay Area. He also serves on the board of The New America Foundation, Common Cause, the Bay Area Science and Innovation Consortium, is a Trustee for the Committee for Economic Development, is on the QB3 advisory board, and is a member of The Advisory Council for the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He serves on the board of Children Now and The California Business for Educational Excellence Foundation, and is on the Public Policy Institute of California Leadership Council. Mr. Mendonca lives on the Half Moon Bay coast, south of San Francisco, where he is the founder and owner of the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company. He received his MBA and certificate in public management from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He holds an AB, *magna cum laude*, in economics from Harvard College.

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Gladys Rocafort Montes

Gladys Rocafort Montes is director of the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education, a collaborative project aimed at changing the way people define school readiness in Miami-Dade and across the nation. Previously, Ms. Montes has worked as a preschool teacher, a childcare center director, as the associate director for Catholic Charities' early childhood division, as a federal reviewer for Head Start Programs. She has also served as a validator with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Ms. Montes was instrumental in the development of the Birth to Three Learning and Development Standards, a project sponsored by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and the Florida Institute of Education. After graduating from the University of Puerto Rico with a bachelor's degree in Home Economics and Child Development, Ms. Montes earned a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Nova Southeastern University.



Molly Munger

Molly Munger is a co-founder and co-director of the Advancement Project, a national organization founded in 1998 to create and promote new strategies for achieving inclusion and equity. A 25 year litigation veteran, she is also a co-founder and partner in the Los Angeles civil rights law firm English, Munger & Rice. Between 1994 and 1998, Munger served with her current law partner, Connie Rice, as Western Regional Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Between 1974 and 1994, she served as an assistant United States Attorney, a partner in the all-women litigation firm Baird, Munger & Meyers, and a partner in the Los Angeles office of New York-based Fried, Frank, Harris, and Shriver & Jacobson. Munger is a graduate of Radcliffe College and Harvard Law School. She serves on the boards of the James Irvine Foundation, Children Now, and Alliance for College-Ready Public Schools.



The Honorable
Barbara O'Brien

Barbara O'Brien is a long-time advocate for young children and teens and has a history of innovative policy initiatives. Prior to becoming Lt. Governor of Colorado, O'Brien spent 16 years as president of the Colorado Children's Campaign, a statewide public policy and advocacy nonprofit organization. Her leadership has produced major statewide policy initiatives that increased funding for schools, created charter schools, expanded early childhood education, increased access to health care for uninsured children, reduced teen smoking, and expanded after-school programs. Colorado has one of the most educated populations in the nation but faces some education challenges. Gov. Ritter appointed Lt. Governor O'Brien to serve as the co-chair of the P-20 Education Council, which oversees education reform and innovation from pre-school to post-secondary education. In its first year, the P-20 Council successfully advocated for expansion of full-day kindergarten and pre-school statewide. Ms. O'Brien earned her BA degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and her Ph.D. from Columbia University in New York.



The Honorable
Jack O'Connell

As chief of California's public school system and leader of the California Department of Education, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell has focused on closing the achievement gap and preparing students for a rapidly changing global economy by holding high standards for all students. He is a strong supporter and facilitator of partnerships between schools, businesses, communities, and philanthropies in order to engage students with challenging, real-world education experiences. As a former high school teacher and author of the legislation creating the California High School Exit Exam, he has led a comprehensive effort to increase rigor and improve student achievement in California high schools. He has worked to fortify California's world-class academic standards, strengthen California's school accountability and assessment systems, and bolster state funding for public school classrooms. He is a long-time advocate for smaller class sizes, improved teacher recruitment and retention, comprehensive testing, and up-to-date school facilities. He returned to his high school

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alma mater to teach for several years and later served on the Santa Barbara County School Board. Mr. O'Connell has served in the California State Assembly and Senate. Mr. O'Connell received a bachelor's degree in History from California State University, Fullerton and earned his secondary teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach.



Kris Perry

Since July 2005, Kris Perry has been the executive director of First 5 California and has helped strengthen First 5 California's position as a leader in the early childhood development arena with its emphasis on the whole child. Under her guidance, First 5 California has emerged as one of the primary advocates for California's youngest children and their families. Kris brings a wealth of experience to First 5 California, including having previously served as executive director of First 5 San Mateo County. Ms. Perry worked closely with other counties and was the chair of the 2003 Statewide Preschool for All Summit, chair of the Association's Preschool for All task force, and the 2005 vice president of the First 5 Association of California. Ms. Perry's dedication to children and their families began at the Alameda County Social Services Agency where she worked for more than 12 years in various capacities, including Dependency Investigator, Family Preservation Case Manager, Unit Supervisor, Supervising Program Specialist, and Program Manager with an emphasis on Service Integration and Agency Planning. Ms. Perry is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Board Certified Diplomat who also holds a post-graduate certificate as a Service Integration Specialist. In 2003 she completed the Stanford Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz and master's in Social Work from San Francisco State University.



Elliot Regenstein

Elliot Regenstein is a Chicago-based partner of EducationCounsel LLC who focuses on providing legal, policy, strategic planning, and advocacy services to governments, foundations, and not-for-profit organizations. Mr. Regenstein is currently working on behalf of foundations, nonprofits, and states on a variety of education reforms. Mr. Regenstein served as co-chair of the Illinois Early Learning Council from 2004 through April 2009; he currently is a member of the Council's Executive Committee and chair of its data work group. From 2004 to 2006 he served in the Illinois Governor's Office as director of education reform. He was named Policy Maker of the Year for 2006 by the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education, honored with the 2006 Action for Children Award, and in 2005 was presented the Perry Schneider Special Award for Contributions Improving and Expanding Illinois Agricultural Education. Mr. Regenstein earned his juris doctor, cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School, where he was executive note editor of the *Michigan Law Review*. He graduated cum laude from Columbia University with a bachelor's degree in History.



Patty Seigel

Since 1970, Patty Seigel has been actively involved in the development and delivery of child care services, combining perspectives as a teacher, a parent-organizer, and the founding director of one of the nation's first child care resource and referral agencies, The Children's Council/Childcare Switchboard in San Francisco. Ms. Siegel developed California's legislation that provides state funding for child care resource and referral services (R&Rs) in every county of the state. Since 1980, Patty has served as the executive director of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, a private non-profit agency, which represents and assists fifty-six local child care resource and referral agencies. In her role as executive director, Ms. Siegel is an active participant in shaping state and federal policy for children and families. Her current work includes the Child Care Initiative Project, a statewide public-private partnership to expand the supply of licensed quality child care by recruiting and training new family child care providers. She has inspired and guided the development of Parent Voices, a grassroots parent-led effort, to engage and empower parents to actively

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and successfully participate in the policy process.



Fred Silva

Fred Silva is *California Forward's* senior fiscal policy advisor. Having spent 40 years in the development of public policy in state and local government, Mr. Silva is an expert in state and local finance, government operations, and the history of the state and local fiscal relationship in California. Prior to working with *California Forward*, he was a fiscal policy advisor to New California Network and previously senior advisor on governmental relations for the Public Policy Institute of California. From 1994 to 1996, he was executive secretary to the California Constitution Revision Commission, where he directed the staff work and wrote the final report of the Commission. He was chief fiscal advisor to the President pro Tempore of the California State Senate from 1981 to 1994. He also was chief consultant to the Senate Local Government Committee from 1975 to 1981. He has authored nearly two dozen publications and commentaries regarding government fiscal issues in California. Mr. Silva holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from San Jose State University.



Jessica Smith

Jessica Smith is currently deputy director of the American Federation of Teachers Department of Organization and Field Services. She works with early childhood educators and allies to develop models of effective organizations for the workforce in this field. Ms. Smith was formerly with the Seafarers International Union and is a mother of two children – ages 14 and 11.



Nancy Strohl

Nancy Strohl was executive director of the Child Care Law Center in San Francisco until its close in 2009, and was actively involved in the Center's state policy work and in a number of advocacy coalitions. Prior to joining Law Center, Ms. Strohl served as executive director of Contra Costa Legal Services Foundation, a California legal services program; the Public Interest Clearinghouse, a coordination and advocacy agency for California public interest law organizations; and program coordinator of the Alameda County Bar Association Pro Bono Program. Ms. Strohl has been a passionate advocate for low-income people and families and has devoted her entire career to help them. She attended Pitzer College in Claremont, California majoring in Sociology.



The Honorable
Tom Torlakson

Assemblymember Tom Torlakson is a teacher who has applied his experience as a science teacher and high school coach to reform the way public education works in California. In 1998 Tom authored legislation that has led to the development of the largest system of after school programs in the nation. In 2006, he authored the bill that led to a 300 percent expansion in these programs, so they now reach 4,000 schools around the state. Mr. Torlakson authored the Quality Education Improvement Act in 2006, which dedicates nearly \$3 billion to our lowest performing schools. He also played a key role negotiating and authoring the \$9 billion Proposition 1A bond measure in 1998, which has led to public votes supporting over \$35 billion to build new schools and improve existing school buildings. Mr. Torlakson championed legislation to increase funding for textbooks, computers, and other instructional materials; bills to enhance campus safety, close the digital divide, eliminate the achievement gap, improve student health, and reduce the horrible drop-out rate. Mr. Torlakson served as a fireman in the United States Merchant

Water Cooler Conference Presenters

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Marine, earning the Vietnam Service Medal. He earned a bachelor's degree in History, a Life Secondary Teaching Credential, and a master's in Education from the University of California, Berkeley.



Joyce Walters

As director of Education and Workforce Initiatives for Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship, Corporate Offices, The Boeing Company, Joyce Walters serves as the subject matter industry expert and has overall responsibility for building the company's community investment programs in education. She provides program subject matter expertise, philosophy, and strategic direction and interfaces with a network of U.S. and international community investors who act on behalf of The Boeing Company. She has served as a member of the company's Northwest Technical Excellence Leadership Team, focusing on future workforce development and retention. Currently, Walters represents Boeing on The Conference Board's Business and Education Council and serves on the company's Higher Education Integration Board and the External Technical Affiliates Integration Board. Prior to joining the Global Corporate Citizenship team, Ms. Walters served as community investment manager in Washington State. In this position, she managed company investments in early learning and K-12 education, and served as the team leader for the Northwest region community investment team. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Antioch University and is completing her master's degree in Organizational Leadership at Gonzaga University.



The Honorable
Lynn Woolsey

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, the first former welfare mother to serve in Congress, is in her ninth term as the representative from California's 6th District, just north of San Francisco. Her district includes all of Marin, and most of Sonoma County. As the Chairwoman of the Committee on Education and Labor's Workforce Protections Subcommittee, Congresswoman Woolsey helps to oversee policies that affect millions of American workers. Congresswoman Woolsey also sits on the Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education. Before coming to the House of Representatives Congresswoman Woolsey was a human resources manager for a large high-tech manufacturer in Marin County. In 1980, she opened her own human resources consulting and employment agency, Woolsey Personnel Service, while finishing her bachelor's degree at the University of San Francisco. She began her public service career in 1984 with a seat on the Petaluma City Council, where she served until she was sworn in to the United States House of Representatives in January 1993.



Claudia Zamorano

Claudia Zamorano is a single mother of two children and parent leader with Marin Parent Voices. She was born in Mexico City and came to the United States in 1992. Seeking to achieve a good life for her kids she enrolled herself at the College of Marin where she took courses on early childhood education and has worked as a nanny for the past 15 years. After getting divorced two years ago, Claudia realized she needed a career change that could better support her family. In 2008 she graduated from the San Rafael Beauty Academy and now her goal is to be able to get her cosmetology license and give her children a life they deserve. Claudia has been a leader with Parent Voices for the past year and has testified before the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey's field hearing on the Maria Shriver report, and the Legislative Women's Caucus hearing on the same report.



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