



## **IMLS-Campaign for Grade Level Reading Early Learning Task Force Participant Roster**

### **Andrew Ackerman, Executive Director, Children’s Museum of Manhattan (NY)**

Andy Ackerman has served as Executive Director of the Children’s Museum of Manhattan since 1990. He has been responsible for the Museum’s management, artistic direction and growth. Andy began his museum career in 1975 as an instructor at The Exhibit Museum in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he taught history and natural science to school groups and conceived and implemented a program for preschoolers. In 1977, he became Director of Education of The Jewish Museum in New York. He held that position until 1985, when he became Assistant Director of The Jewish Museum, responsible for long-range program planning and the integration of audio-visual technology into exhibition programs. From 1986 to 1990, Andy served as Director of the Arts in Education Program of the New York State Council on the Arts. He set funding guidelines and worked with the New York State Department of Education on long-range planning for arts education and environmental science. Andy served as President of the Association of Children’s Museum from 1998-2000 and is a member of the Executive Committee of the New York City Arts Coalition.

### **Shirley Amore, City Librarian, Denver Public Libraries (CO)**

Shirley Amore assumed the post of Denver’s City Librarian in June of 2006. Previously, Amore was the Executive Director of Community Services for Sarasota County, Florida. In that position she was responsible for the administration of four County Departments: Parks and Recreation, Libraries, History Center and University of Florida Extension Service. Her responsibilities also included oversight of the Sustainability Initiative, Neighborhood University and as a member of the County Executive Team, responsibility for enterprise-wide policy and strategy development. From 1997 to 2000 Amore was the Director of Libraries in Sarasota. Amore received her Master’s Degree in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University.

### **Julia Bland, CEO, Louisiana Children’s Museum (LA)**

Julia Bland, CEO of the Louisiana Children’s Museum, is the immediate Past President of the Association of Children’s Museums, and is currently serving a five year appointment to the National Museum and Library Services Board. Julia is past-chairman of the America’s Promise Alliance’s New Orleans’ Kids Partnership and past chairman of the Advisory Board of the Tulane Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. She has served locally on a city-wide Steering Committee and Coordinating Group for Fit NOLA, New Orleans’ municipal childhood obesity plan, and statewide as a member of the Birth to Five Literacy Task Force for Louisiana. Additionally, she is leading the Early Learning Village initiative, which is a multi-dimensional early childhood campus in New Orleans City Park, with a holistic focus on health and well-being.

Julia was awarded the Colin and Alma Powell Legacy award, and is in the Hall of Fame as a CityBusiness Woman of the Year. Julia earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Tulane University's Newcomb College.

**Clara Bohrer, Director, West Bloomfield Township Public Library (MI)**

Clara Bohrer is Director of the West Bloomfield Township Public Library (MI), a position she has held since 1991. As an early learning proponent, Clara established the library's Grow Up Reading™ early literacy initiative to help parents develop pre-reading and critical thinking skills in their young children. The West Bloomfield Township Public Library was awarded the 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. She is a past-president of the Public Library Association and the Michigan Library Association. Clara served as chair of the Public Library Association's Every Child Ready to Read® Evaluation Task Force, which worked with reading experts to develop a curriculum and materials that help parents learn and apply early literacy best practices. In 2009 she received the Sullivan Award, which is presented annually by the American Library Association to a public library administrator who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to children. Clara holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Michigan and a Master in Library Science from Wayne State University.

**Claudine Brown, Assistant Secretary for Education and Access, Smithsonian Institution (DC)**

As director of education, Brown has defined the Smithsonian's education program and developed an Institution-wide plan for educational initiatives, assessment strategies and funding for students K-12. She oversees two of the Smithsonian's educational organizations—the National Science Resources Center and the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies—and coordinates the efforts of 32 education-based offices in museums and science centers. In 1990, she joined the Smithsonian as director of the National African-American Museum Project. In 1991, she also became the deputy assistant secretary for the arts and humanities and developed policy for many Smithsonian museums. Since 1985, Brown has served as director of the arts and culture program at the Nathan Cummings Foundation. In addition to working in the museum and philanthropy communities, Brown is a faculty advisor and instructor in the Leadership in Museum Education Program at Bank Street Graduate School of Education in New York City. Brown earned her Bachelor's degree from Pratt Institute in New York City and Master's degree in museum education from Bank Street College of Education. She earned her law degree from Brooklyn Law School.

**Judy Brown, Vice President of Education, Miami Science Museum**

Dr. Judy Brown, Senior Vice President of Education for the Miami Science Museum, serves as the Executive Director of the Museum's Center for Interactive Learning, a joint venture with the University of Miami to strengthen the connection between informal science education and the research community. Dr. Brown has played a leadership role nationally in bringing the resources of the informal science education community to the educational reform movement, and has won numerous awards for her contributions to the field, including the 2005 Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award from the American Association of University Women and the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, for

leadership in developing and implementing innovative science enrichment programming for underserved youth. Dr. Brown's career includes involvement in the field of early childhood education, including serving as Executive Director of the San Francisco Head Start Program, Education Director of Head Start for the Agency for Child Development in New York City and prime developer of two Follow-Through program models. Currently in addition to her museum duties, she is the PI of an Institute of Education Sciences funded random control trial of a comprehensive preschool science program, Early Childhood Hands-on Science (ECHOS), that includes integrated teaching and learning strategies in the domains of language and literacy, mathematics and creative arts.

**Miriam Calderon, Senior Policy Advisor for Early Learning, Administration for Families and Children, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Whitehouse Domestic Policy Council (DC)**

As Senior Policy Advisor for Early Learning at the Domestic Policy Council, Miriam Calderon is a member of the education team where she focuses primarily on the Administration's early childhood education agenda. She also worked in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Learning at ACF where she was a member of the joint HHS-ED Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge team. Prior to joining ACF, Miriam was the Director of Early Childhood Education at DC Public Schools. She served as the Manager of the Early Childhood Education Policy Project at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) where she focused on enhancing early childhood educational opportunities for Latino children and their families. Prior to joining NCLR, Ms. Calderon served as an Assistant to Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz, the first Latina elected to the Board of County Commissioners in Portland, Oregon. As a social worker, Ms. Calderon worked as a mental health consultant for Latino families in a Head Start center, coordinated a mentoring program for Latino youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and assisted Latino youth that had been unsuccessful in the public school system to pursue their educational goals.

**Jeffrey Capizzano, President, Policy Equity Group (DC)**

Jeffrey Capizzano is President of The Policy Equity Group, LLC, by providing advocacy, research, and communications support. He is currently advising a number of states and large school districts on early childhood systems reform. Prior to founding his consultancy, Mr. Capizzano was a Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood Development and Education at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) where he provided policy guidance to the Office of Head Start and the Office of Child Care. Mr. Capizzano managed the development of the Head Start Roadmap to Excellence and revised Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. He also co-facilitated the HHS/ED Early Learning Interagency Policy Board. Prior to his work at HHS, Mr. Capizzano was Vice President of Research and Public Policy at Teaching Strategies where he managed the company's public policy initiatives and research agenda. He also worked for seven years at the Urban Institute, where he conducted policy-related research in the areas of early childhood and K-12 education, as well as youth policy.

**Allison Circle, Chief Customer Experience Officer for Columbus Metropolitan Library (OH)**

Alison Circle has more than 25 years marketing experience. For 13 years she was National Marketing Director for Garrison Keillor and "A Prairie Home Companion," which included performances, tours, products and international media coverage. Following that she was Account Director at Jack Morton Worldwide, a global branding agency, where her primary client was Target, for whom she managed internal branding, gift card and Target Visa launches. In 2004 she joined CML as Director of Marketing and Strategic Planning. In that capacity she rebranded the organization, introduced professional marketing expertise and won over 20 national and international awards for her work. In 2010 that work was recognized with the *Library Journal's* Library of the Year. She blogged about libraries and marketing for *Library Journal*, titled Bubble Room, and speaks extensively around the nation on the subject. In 2011 *Library Journal* recognized her work with the Mover & Shaker award.

**Harriet Coalter, Director, Richmond Public Library (VA)**

Harriet Henderson Coalter has been Director of the Richmond Public Library since September 2005. Richmond Public Library serves the state capital's population of 204,000 people, with a focus on early literacy support and partnerships with community organizations. She has also served as Director of Montgomery County (MD) Public Libraries; Louisville Free Public Library (KY); Newport News (VA) Public Library; and Tyler (TX) Public Library. A past President of the Public Library Association (PLA), Ms. Coalter co-chaired the development of the Every Child Ready to Read project for PLA and the Association for Library Services to Children. This project has provided a research-based approach for early childhood services in public libraries that has been adopted across the country. She is currently leading Richmond's Grade Level Reading Campaign, with 30+ organizational partners from Richmond's education and non-profit community. She has also served as President of the Virginia Library Association. Ms. Coalter is a past member of the Urban Libraries Council Board of Directors, and served as Councilor-at-Large for the American Library Association. She received her MLS from the University of Texas at Austin. She has also participated in the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

**Gerry Cobb, Director of State Services, BUILD Initiative**

Gerry Cobb serves as State Services Director for the BUILD Initiative. In that role, she is the primary liaison to the nine BUILD states in accessing BUILD resources and supporting their efforts to build comprehensive early childhood systems. Ms. Cobb first joined BUILD in 2011 as the Director of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) National Learning Network. Ms. Cobb helped create the QRIS National Learning Network in her previous role as Director of the Smart Start National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC). As NTAC Director, she worked with more than a dozen states in the development of state and community-based early childhood initiatives similar to Smart Start. Prior to working with Smart Start, Ms. Cobb served as Executive Director of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) where she organized political international exchange programs for rising political leaders. She began her career in Washington, DC, working for US Congresswoman Marilyn Lloyd (D-TN) as Press Secretary and Legislative Assistant and later served as a program director at The Asia Foundation in San Francisco, California. Ms. Cobb is a native of North Carolina and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Kathleen Deerr, National Coordinator, Family Place Libraries™**

Kathleen Deerr has been working with children and families in public libraries for the past three decades. For the past ten years she has served as the National Family Place Libraries™ Coordinator. During that time the number of libraries in the Family Place networked has tripled. Recognizing early on that children's most important role models are parents and caregivers, she has developed many innovative, interdisciplinary programs which focus on parent/child interactions and has administered programs such as the Partners for Inclusion Project, Reach Out and Read, the Parent Child Home Program and the National Family Place Libraries initiative. She has served as a guest lecturer at the Palmer School of Library and Information Science and is the co-author of three Neal-Schuman books, *Running a Parent/Child Workshop: a How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians; Including Families of Children with Special Needs* and *The Family Centered Library Handbook*. A life-long advocate for children, Ms. Deerr has presented workshops and lectures at the state and national level on the role of the public library in serving, supporting and designing welcoming, early learning spaces for young children and families, as well as lectures on the administration and management of Children's and Parents' Services in public libraries. She strongly believes libraries are a binding thread in the fabric of their communities and play a crucial role in the development of healthy children and families.

**Eliza Dresang, Beverly Cleary Professor for Children and Youth, University of Washington (WA)**

Eliza T. Dresang, is the Beverly Cleary Professor for Children and Youth at the University of Washington Information School. Recently she served on the Washington State Literacy Team that developed the Birth–18 Comprehensive State Literacy Plan. Previously Dr. Dresang was Director for Libraries and Technology in the Madison (WI) Metropolitan School District, where she established a library to support early learning. Currently she is the principal investigator on a three year IMLS National Leadership Research Grant, VIEWS2 (Valuable Initiatives in Early Learning that Work Successfully). Partners on the grant include the Washington Foundation for Early Learning, the Early Learning Public Library Partnership, and the State Library.

**Kelly Fisher, Executive Branch Fellow, Office of Policy Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Families and Children (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DC)**

Kelly Fisher is an Executive Branch Fellow in the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) and the co-founder of Global Abilities Foundation. She is a developmental research scientist with expertise in early childhood learning, program development, and evaluation. Kelly completed her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology at Temple University and a M.S. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Missouri State University. Her research examines how educational contexts, cognitive factors, and biological factors influence learning in children and adults. At OPRE, Kelly works on a number of research projects related to early childhood education and academic readiness. Kelly also serves as Research Director for Global Abilities, a nonprofit organization that helps individuals with disabilities reintegrate into their communities. Dr. Fisher has published articles and book chapters on the impact of informal and formal learning activities on children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. She has

also given numerous presentations and seminars on topics related to learning, education, and healthy development to a variety of audiences (teachers, parents, patients).

**Lisa Guernsey, Director, Early Education Initiative, New America Foundation (DC)**

As director of the Early Education Initiative, Ms. Guernsey focuses on how to scale up high-quality learning environments for young children, birth through age 8. In her research and writing – including editing the [Early Ed Watch](#) blog – she works to elevate dialogue about early childhood education and spotlight new approaches for narrowing the achievement gap. A journalist by training, Ms. Guernsey has been a technology and education writer at *The New York Times* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and has contributed articles about technology, education and social science to several national publications. She also blogs occasionally at The Huffington Post and is on Twitter [@LisaGuernsey](#). Ms. Guernsey’s most recent book is [Screen Time: How Electronic Media – From Baby Videos to Educational Software – Affects Your Young Child](#) (Basic Books, 2012). She was a 2005 journalism fellow in the child and family policy program at the University of Maryland, has served on several national advisory committees on early education, was a recent advisory board member of the [Sandbox Summit](#), and holds a master’s degree in English/American Studies and a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Virginia.

**Ann Joslin, State Librarian, Idaho Commission for Libraries**

Ann was appointed State Librarian in January 2005. She came to the agency in 1979 as a part-time reference librarian. Her roles since then include implementing the agency’s first microcomputer network, first automation consultant for the public library community, and in 1985, first director of library development services. She has actively participated in the evolution of the agency from one that was collection-based and served primarily as a back-up to the state’s public libraries to one that is service-based with a mission to build the capacity of all Idaho libraries to better serve their clientele.

Ann worked in public libraries in Montana and Utah before moving to Idaho. She is the president of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), a member of the Idaho Education Network Technical Advisory Committee and serves on the boards of the Idaho Library Association and the Idaho Center for the Book.

**Kimberly Kiehl, Executive Director, Smithsonian Enrichment Center, (DC)**

Kim Kiehl took over as Executive Director of the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center in July 2012. In this position she oversees the operations of three schools for young children serving 135 students in three sites located within the walls of the Smithsonian museums. She was formerly (1990-2012) the Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy and Operations Officer at COSI (Center of Science and Industry) in Columbus, Ohio. In this role she managed the overall strategic direction of the institution, partnerships, research, and the daily operations of the building and COSI programs. Prior to joining COSI she was Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science and State Extension Specialist at The Ohio State University, Columbus and Curriculum Coordinator/Director for the A. Sophie Rogers Laboratory for Child and Family Studies. She also served as Associate Dean for Academic Programs, College of

Human Ecology. Dr. Kiehl originally went to COSI on "special appointment" as Associate Vice President for Early Childhood Education for COSI Columbus on loan from Ohio State. Dr. Kiehl received a Bachelor of Science from SUNY Geneseo, her Master's degree at The College of St. Rose, Department of Special Education and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Penn State University.

**Cheryl McCallum, Director of Education, Houston Children's Museum (TX)**

Cheryl McCallum is director of education at the Children's Museum of Houston, where she has developed and led educational exhibits and programs for the past 18 years. In 1999, she managed the development and launch of the Museum's Parent Resource Library, a branch of the Houston Public Library system initiated through an IMLS National Leadership Grant. As part of the decade-long process of building this Museum and Library collaboration, McCallum recently directed the development of the Family Literacy Involvement Program (FLIPkits.org) through which over 2,000 activity kits are made available for loan through 34 Library branches. McCallum is currently project director on an IMLS-funded project, 21-Tech.org, through which five informal science institutions are investigating and sharing ways to deepen, lengthen and extend visitor engagement through personal mobile technologies. Prior to her role at the Museum, she founded and directed the Discovery Program at Camp Allen in Navasota, a residential outdoor education program for students in the central Texas area. Her doctoral work was in Instructional Technology with a focus on use of video media as learning scaffolds in hands-on exhibits.

**Dale McCreedy, Director, Gender and Family Learning Programs, Franklin Institute (PA)**

Dale McCreedy, Director of Gender and Family Learning at The Franklin Institute, has forged national and regional collaborations to cultivate girl's and women's science exploration, build bridges between home and school, and develop programs and resources to promote family and parent engagement in children's science learning. Current efforts include advancing science and literacy through library, museum and afterschool partnerships, and building community engagement in science through home/afterschool/community collaborations. Research interests focus on the impact of informal science learning on identities and life trajectories of women and girls, and the nature of effective community partnerships in science and literacy learning. Dale serves on numerous advisory boards, has published activity guides as well as research findings in *Curator* and *Visitor Studies*, and co-edited an issue of *Museums and Social Issues* about parent engagement. In press is a chapter *Engaging Families in Science and Literacy Through Museums & Libraries* for the Family School Community Partnership Series on Promising Practices for Engaging Families in Literacy. Dale is the recipient of a lifetime membership from Girl Scouts (1996) and the Maria Mitchell Women in Science Award (2002). She served on the NRC's Committee on *Learning Science in Informal Environments* (2006-8), is the President of the Visitor Studies Association (2011-2013), and a Noyce Leadership Fellow.

**Elizabeth Orsburn, Interim Director of Public Service, Free Library of Philadelphia**

Elizabeth “Betsy” Orsburn is currently serving as Interim Director of Public Service for The Free Library of Philadelphia. Prior to this position, she worked in the Library’s Office of Public Service Support supervising the Library’s Books Aloud! Initiative for parents of preschoolers, the LEAP after school program, the citywide summer reading program for children and teens, and other grant funded projects. Ms. Orsburn has represented the Free Library to outside organizations in the city, state and nation. She is an active member of ALA and the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and served as an ALSC Board member from 2007-2011. Betsy has been appointed to serve as the 2014 Newbery Award Committee Chair. Ms. Orsburn holds a Bachelor’s degree from Ursinus College, a Master’s of Science from Drexel University, and a Master’s of Education from Temple University.

**Joseph Prevatil, President and CEO, the Archstone Foundation and President-elect, Long Beach Public Library Foundation (CA)**

Joseph F. Prevratil, President and CEO of the Archstone Foundation, has been a board member since 1987 and chief executive since 1995. He was instrumental in moving Archstone Foundation from grants in general health to focusing on aging. He served on the board of directors during 1998 – 2004 and held the position of president from 2002 to 2004. Mr. Prevratil has served as the chief executive officer of the Port of Long Beach Pacific Rim and as project manager for the expansion of the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center. He was as president and CEO until his retirement in 2006. Mr. Prevratil holds a BA from Loyola University of Los Angeles and a JD from Southwestern University School of Law. He has served as chairman of the board of the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, the Long Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Downtown Long Beach Associates. Currently President-Elect of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation, he will take the lead effective January 1, 2013.

**Debbie Reese, Founder, American Indians in Children’s Literature (website)**

Tribally enrolled and raised at Nambe Pueblo, Debbie Reese has a research doctorate in early childhood education from the University of Illinois and taught in its American Indian Studies program for several years. She serves on advisory boards for Reading is Fundamental and American Indian/Alaska Native Reach Out and Read, has published several book chapters on articles on representations of American Indians in children's literature, and is founder of the website, American Indians in Children's Literature.

**Jeri Robinson, Vice President of Education and Family Learning, Boston Children’s Museum (MA)**

Jeri Robinson brings more than 35 years of experience in teaching and consulting in the fields of early childhood and museum education. She is the developer of the PlaySpace exhibit, (one of the earliest prototypes for early learning family spaces in children’s and other museums), founder of the Boston Cultural Collaborative for Early Learning and co-founder of both Families First Parenting programs and “CountDown to Kindergarten”. For many years, she has provided training and consultation to schools, early child programs, museums and other organizations. Ms. Robinson received her B.S., M.S. Ed. and an honorary Doctorate in Education from Wheelock College, and serves on numerous boards dealing with family, community,

multicultural, and early childhood education issues. In recognition of her work, Ms. Robinson has received awards such as the Wheelock Centennial Award, the Boston Parents Paper Family Advocate Award, the Women Who Care Award, and the Lucy Wheelock Award, was a 2004 participant in the Schott Fellowship in Early Care and Education (Public Policy), a program of the Schott Center for Public and Early Education, Cambridge MA, In 2005, she was named to the American Association of Museums, Centennial Honor Roll, in recognition of her contributions to the museum field in the past century and in 2010, was the recipient of the Abigail Elliot Award, given by BAEYC.

**Gloria Rubio-Cortes, President, National Civic League (CO)**

National Civic League President Gloria Rubio-Cortés is also the Executive Editor of NCL's award-winning journal *National Civic Review*. National Civic League's flagship program, the All-America City Awards 2012, featured the All-America City Award for Grade-Level Reading Mobilization, a collaboration with the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and partnership with United Way Worldwide, the National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. In 2016, the All-America City Award for Grade-Level Reading will recognize impact of community-wide efforts to increase by 100% third grade reading capacity of at-risk children. Rubio-Cortes has held leadership positions in business, philanthropy, and nonprofits in California and Colorado over the past 35 years and specialized in civic engagement, philanthropy, and civil rights. She was a senior manager at Levi Strauss Foundation and ZeroDivide. She serves on the Denver Public Library Commission (Secretary), Urban Libraries Council Board, Latino Community Foundation of Colorado Advisory Board, Common Cause National Governing Board, and Mile High United Way Board of Trustees. A member of the National Academy for Public Administration, she is a co-principal investigator on NCL's Fiscal Sustainability Case Investigations Project. Awards include the Disability Funders Network Bill Diaz Award for grantmaking. She earned an M.S. in journalism from Columbia University and a B.S. from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

**Tonja Rucker, Principal Associate for Early Childhood Development, Institute for Youth, Education and Families, National League of Cities (DC)**

Tonja Rucker currently serves as the Principal Associate for Early Childhood Development in the Institute for Youth Education and Families at the National League of Cities. She is responsible for providing primary program support for the Institute's work in areas related to early education. Tonja assist mayors, city councilmembers, and other municipal officials in creating local systems of support for parents, children, and youth in their communities. By helping cities develop the necessary local infrastructure and providing concrete ideas and tools for policy and programmatic action, a significant number of cities and towns have positioned themselves as models for investing in children's healthy growth and development. Prior to joining the NLC team, Tonja served as Transition Coordinator for Baltimore City Head Start and as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland College Park. She has a doctorate in Human Development from the University of Maryland College Park and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Spelman College.

**Shannon Rudisill, Director, Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DC)**

Shannon Rudisill is the Director for the Office of Child Care in the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Child Care administers the Child Care and Development Fund, which provides over \$5 billion each year in formula grants to States, Territories, and Tribes. The CCDF subsidizes child care for approximately 1.6 million children each month. In addition, CCDF invests over \$1 billion per year in a wide variety of initiatives to improve the quality of child care for all children. Ms. Rudisill is part of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge leadership team, which works jointly across HHS and ED. The Office of Child Care has implemented several key administrative reforms, including an overhaul of the State CCDF applications to emphasize support for child development, family-friendly subsidy policies, and the implementation of early childhood and school age care systems that support staff and programs to achieve excellence. Ms. Rudisill previously served as Director of Technical Assistance in the Office of Child Care (known at that time as the Child Care Bureau). She was Special Assistant to ACF Assistant Secretary Olivia Golden and worked extensively on the Clinton Administration's child care initiative. She is a graduate of Duke University and has a Master of Social Work degree from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Raymond Santiago, Director, Miami-Dade Public Library System (FL)**

Raymond Santiago was appointed Director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System in 1998 and in 2011 the Library System completed a capital expansion program which resulted in the opening of 17 new facilities with an additional 2 facilities currently in development. In recognition of his accomplishments, the Library Journal named Mr. Santiago the 2003 Librarian of the Year. In 2005 he received the Public Library Association's Charlie Robinson Award, honoring and in 2008 the Miami-Dade Public Library System was awarded the National Medal for Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Mr. Santiago is a member of the Public Library Standing Committee, International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and of the Task Force on the Future of Academic Libraries in Florida. He is a past Chair of the Executive Board of the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) and has served on the board of several library associations. In 2008 he was Chair of the Public Library Association's National Conference. Mr. Santiago has served as an adjunct faculty member of the School of Library and Information Science, University of South Florida. Mr. Santiago received his Master of Library Science degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

**Nina Sazer-O'Donnell, Vice President, Education, United Way Worldwide (VA)**

Nina Sazer-O'Donnell is Vice President of Education at United Way Worldwide. Nina joined United Way of America in 2006 as Director of National Strategies, Success By 6. She also helped to create and provided technical assistance to *Born Learning* partners and is helping United Way deepen collaboration with national partner organizations and initiatives. Before coming to United Way, Nina spent 11 years as Vice President of Child, Family and Community Programs at Families and Work Institute, where she led outreach for the *I Am Your Child Campaign*, wrote a

handbook on community mobilization, co-authored the *Mind in the Making Learning Modules for Early Childhood Teachers* and created *Sparkling Connections*, one of the first national demonstration projects addressing family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care. Before joining FWI, Ms. Sazer O'Donnell worked for the state of North Carolina to implement Health Check, a statewide health outreach program for low-income children and youth. Prior to this work, she led NSO Associates, consulting to government, private and business clients in Hawaii, and served as president of the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children.

**Albert Wat, Senior Policy Analyst, National Governors Association, Center for Best Practices (DC)**

Albert Wat is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Education Division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, where he works on early childhood education issues, from birth through third grade. Most recently, his work has focused on policies regarding data systems, learning standards, assessments, and alignment between early learning policies and practices and education reform initiatives, especially those in the early elementary years. Before joining the NGA, he was the Research Manager at Pre-K Now, an advocacy campaign at the Pew Center on the States, where he authored a number of policy reports, managed research activities for the initiative, and provided analysis and information about the latest pre-k and early education research and policy developments to Pre-K Now staff and its network of state partners. Albert began his career in education in schools and community-based organizations. He taught and worked in school reform nonprofits in the San Francisco Bay Area for four years before moving to Michigan and eventually, Washington DC, where he directed campus-based literacy organizations at the University of Michigan and Georgetown University, training college students to serve as literacy tutors to low-income children and families. Albert holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in education from Stanford University and a master's in education policy from George Washington University.

Libraries, Museums and Early Learning Project Staff:

**Susan Hildreth, Director, IMLS**

On January 19, 2011, President Obama appointed Susan Hildreth to be director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Hildreth has been the city librarian in Seattle for the past two years. Her nomination to her new post was confirmed by the US Senate by unanimous consent on December 22, 2010. Before moving to Seattle, Hildreth served for five years as California's state librarian, a position to which she was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Previously, Hildreth was at the San Francisco Public Library, where she served as deputy director and then city librarian. Her background also includes five years as deputy library director at the Sacramento Public Library, several years as Placer County's head librarian, and four years as library director for the Benicia Public Library, all in California. She began her career as a branch librarian at the Edison Township Library in New Jersey. Hildreth was active in the American Library Association, serving as president of the Public Library Association in 2006. She has a master's degree in library science from State University of New York at Albany, a master's degree in business administration from Rutgers University, and

a bachelor of arts, cum laude, from Syracuse University. Hildreth will serve a four-year term as the Director of the Institute. The directorship of the Institute alternates between individuals from the museum and library communities.

**Ralph Smith, Managing Director, the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and Senior Vice President, Annie E. Casey Foundation**

Mr. Smith is senior vice president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. He also serves as managing director for the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, a national effort to increase rates of third-grade reading proficiency, especially for children from low-income families. Ralph has served on the Senior Leadership Team of the Foundation since 1994. He led the design, development and management of the Foundation's *Making Connections* initiative, a comprehensive effort to help communities improve outcomes for children by strengthening families and neighborhoods. A member of the Law Faculty at the University of Pennsylvania for two decades, Ralph is a nationally recognized legal scholar and attorney. He served on the boards of Leap Frog Enterprises, Inc., Nobel Learning Communities, Inc., the Venture Philanthropy Partners and the Center for Responsible Lending. Smith also has held a number of senior leadership positions for the School District of Philadelphia, including chief of staff, senior consultant and special counsel. He received his undergraduate degree from Loyola University of Los Angeles, a J.D. from the University of California and served as a teaching fellow and LLM/SJD candidate at Harvard University.

**Marsha Semmel, Director, Strategic Partnerships, IMLS**

As Director for Strategic Partnerships, Ms. Semmel maintains oversight of federal-state partnership activities, initiates and implements collaborations with other federal agencies and organizations, and manages special projects and initiatives. From 1998 to 2002, Ms. Semmel was President and CEO of the Women of the West Museum, in Denver, Colorado. Prior to that, she was President and CEO of Conner Prairie, a living history museum in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ms. Semmel worked at the National Endowment for the Humanities, in Washington, DC, serving as program officer; Assistant Director for Humanities Projects in Museums and Historical Organizations; and Director, Division of Public Programs. She began her museum career as curator and educator at the Taft Museum in Cincinnati, was deputy director of the B'nai B'rith National Jewish Museum in Washington, DC, and Program Coordinator for the Resident Associates Program at the Smithsonian Institution. In 1979, Semmel was a Fellow in the Museums Program of the National Endowment for the Arts. Ms. Semmel has a BA in English Literature and History of Art from the University of Michigan and an MA in Art History from the University of Cincinnati. A past board member of the American Association of Museums and the Colorado Digitization Project, she is currently on the board of Art Table, a national organization for professional women in leadership positions in the visual arts.

**Ron Fairchild, President and CEO, The Smarter Learning Group and Senior Consultant, The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**

Ron Fairchild is the founder of the Smarter Learning Group. Prior to starting the firm, Ron served as CEO of the National Summer Learning Association. The Association's work built on over 15 years of experience and success as the National Center for Summer Learning at Johns

Hopkins University, where Fairchild was executive director from 2002 through 2009. Under his leadership, the organization grew from a local program to a national intermediary organization that works with a 50-state network of more than 5,000 summer learning program providers that collectively serve more than 2 million young people annually. Ron holds a BA in Political Science and history and a Master of Education from Vanderbilt University.

**Mimi Howard, Senior Advisor**

Mimi Howard is Senior Advisor to the Libraries, Museums and Early Learning Project, a partnership of IMLS and the Campaign for Grade Level Reading. From 2010-2012 she served as a National Head Start Fellow at the Administration for Families and Children, US Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to becoming a Head Start Fellow, she was director of the Early Learning Program at the Education Commission of the States, a program focusing on informing and analyzing policy and practices concerning young children. Mimi has trained international educators for the Open Society Institute. She has provided site coaching and developed materials for state standards implementation for the Center for Education and Policy Analysis. Mimi also worked as project coordinator in early childhood policy and program development in the Office of the Governor of Colorado. She identified sheer persistence as the key factor that helped her secure her first job as a Head Start teacher after graduating college with a degree in French, and to her completion of graduate studies while working every day in a Head Start classroom. Mimi holds a master's degree in Child Development from Colorado State University.

**Andrea Camp, Facilitator**

Andrea Camp is an independent consultant who has over 25 years legislative experience, serving for over 20 years as the Senior Legislative Assistant and Press Secretary to Rep. Pat Schroeder, and most recently as Executive Director of the U.S. Joint Economic Committee. Currently she serves as a Senior Advisor to First Book, a non-profit that provides new books to children in need, and as a consultant to the Civil Society Institute on their environmental work. Andrea also consults with the Communications Consortium Media Center, and in that capacity has advised foundations and non-profits on using communications strategies for policy changes. Her expertise is on policies that impact women, children, and families, including issues on family economic security, early learning, and women's health.