



Buffett  
Early Childhood  
Institute

*at the University of Nebraska*

# Public-Private Partnerships in Early Education

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Start early. Start well.



# Buffett Early Childhood Institute

## VISION

The vision of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute is that Nebraska will become the best place in the nation to be a baby.

## MISSION

Our mission is to transform the lives of young children by improving their learning and development.

# 4 Activities

- Policy
- Practice
- Research
- Outreach

# 5 Long-Term Outcomes

- Children's learning and development are on track
- Quality care and education are available to all, birth – Grade 3
- Families are supported and supportive
- Workforce is skilled, informed, and diverse
- Public policies are effective

# Units of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute

- Program Development
- Professional Learning
- Research and Evaluation
- Workforce Planning and Development
- Communications

# Program Development and Professional Learning

The Program Development team is working on the **Achievement Gap Challenge**, one of the Institute's two signature programs. The goal is to reduce or eliminate income- and race-based opportunity and achievement gaps with a focus on children growing up in poverty or other conditions of high stress and familial challenge. We are addressing this through our **School as a Hub for Birth – Grade 3** approach, which first took shape in the **Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan** in metro Omaha. Another initiative is in development in the Nebraska Panhandle.

# Research and Evaluation

The Research and Evaluation team works with other units at the Buffett Institute and partners with University of Nebraska colleagues and others to translate and apply research findings to early childhood practice so that programs are more effective and children and families are better served. The Research team has an ongoing role in the evaluation of the Superintendents' Plan and continues to perform research in many other areas of early childhood.

# Workforce Planning and Development

The Early Childhood Workforce Development Program is one of the Institute's two signature programs. The Workforce team is addressing the critical issues that affect the quality and quantity of early childhood professionals in the state, such as professional preparation and qualifications, workforce compensation, funding, and public commitment. Part of the unit's work in this area is with the **Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission**, a group of about 40 public- and private-sector leaders charged with developing a comprehensive plan for expanding and strengthening the state's early childhood workforce.



**Start early. Start well.**

# The Piton Foundation and Gary Williams Energy Company

- ECE
- K-12
- Higher education
- EITC
- Data
- Neighborhood leadership



# Public Will Research System Reform

- Polling
- Data
- Policy
- Publications
- Communications
- Relationships and Partnerships

# Campaigns: Mayoral, Education, and Ballot Initiative



# John Hickenlooper and the Mayor's Early Childhood Leadership Team



# Messages to MLT

- Low public investment in the years when brain development has highest rate of growth
- Family income is the great predictor of school readiness and school success

# Subcommittees

- **Finance**
- **Quality**
- **Program**
  
- **Lessons learned from 2000 and 2001 ballot initiatives**

# Education Campaign

- Foundations educating stakeholders
  - City Council, School Board
- Piton publications
- One month to raise \$500,000
  - Foundations come to the rescue
  - Ads and collateral materials, 211



# Preschool Matters Campaign

## Messages that resonated

- PreK prepares students for school and for life
- Lack of school readiness impacts us all
- Every child deserves access to a high-**quality** PreK experience
- **Cost** is a barrier

# 1A

# Won...51%

12 cents on \$100 purchase



# Components of the Initiative

1. Four-year-old children only
2. Tiered funding based on income and quality
3. Parent choice of any licensed setting
4. Quality improvement
5. Evaluation
6. Very low overhead

# Denver Preschool Program

- Started with 66 children in 2007, now serves 4,417
- \$15.1 million annual budget
  - \$2.95 million in Quality Improvement to 250 providers
- Average tuition credit is \$691 per month
- Denver Public Schools went from 500 full-day PreKindergarten slots to 3,500
- Reauthorized in 2014 at 15 cents on a \$100 purchase; 55% support. Sunset to end before 2026???
- Serve 3-year olds???

# Municipal Early Childhood Initiatives

Philadelphia – sugary drinks

San Antonio – sales tax

Seattle – levy

Transylvania County, NC – county department partnerships

Tulare, CA – mixed funding model

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