The University of Texas at Austin established the national Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at the LBJ School of Public Affairs with initial support from the Pritzker Children’s Initiative, a project of the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund. The Policy Impact Center is led by Dr. Cynthia Osborne, Associate Dean and Director of the Child and Family Research Partnership at the LBJ School.

The Impact Center’s work is guided by a National Advisory Council (NAC), comprised of leading voices from the early childhood field, which informs the development of the annual Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap for states, fostering dialog among scholars, practitioners, state leaders, advocates, and philanthropists across sectors.

Learn more about the members of the NAC below and at pn3policy.org.

DIRECTOR

CYNTHIA OSBORNE, PH.D.
Director, Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center; Associate Dean, The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs

Cynthia Osborne is the Associate Dean for Academic Strategies and Founder and Director of the Child and Family Research Partnership and the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. She is also the Director of the Center for Health and Social Policy and an appointed member of the National Academies of Sciences Committee to Reduce Child Poverty by Half in Ten Years. Her teaching and research interests include poverty and inequality, early childhood, family and child wellbeing, fatherhood, and family demography. Osborne has extensive experience leading long-term evaluations of state and national programs, with the aim of helping organizations understand what works, and how to ensure sustainable implementation of effective policies. Her work includes evaluations for the Texas Home Visiting Program, one of the largest home visiting programs in the country, and for critical state-level child welfare and child support programs. Osborne also directed the Project on Education Effectiveness and Quality, an initiative that measured state educator preparation programs’ influence on student achievement. Osborne holds a Ph.D. in Demography and Public Affairs from Princeton University, a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, and a Master of Arts in Education from Claremont Graduate University. Previously, she taught middle school in a low-income community in California.

“This approach allows for ample opportunity for state policy leaders, advocates and funders to work with researchers to better understand and implement policies that help all children thrive. This is truly a unique opportunity to leverage a diverse array of viewpoints and a wealth of expertise to support state leaders as they strive to develop effective policies leading to impactful solutions that truly serve our youngest.”

-- JANET FROETSCHER, President of the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation
CHRISTINA ALTMAYER  
Vice President of Programs,  
First 5 LA  

Christina Altmayer is the Vice President of Programs at First 5 Los Angeles where she oversees First 5 LA’s annual programmatic investments of approximately $85 million in family supports, community engagement, early care and education, and health systems with a focus on policy and systems change. First 5 LA is committed to ensuring that every child in Los Angeles enters kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life. Through partnership, funding, and systems building, the Program Division is working to improve outcomes for young children and improve access to the services that can support their families and their own healthy development. Altmayer previously served as the Executive Director of First 5 Orange County where she successfully led the organization through a comprehensive strategic planning and implementation process and oversaw a program funding portfolio of $35 million. In this capacity, she has helped lead several high impact efforts, including initiatives related to developmental screening and early intervention, kindergarten readiness, and oral health. Altmayer earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics and a Master of Arts in Public Administration from St. John’s University in New York.

JOIA CREAR-PERRY, M.D.  
Founder & President,  
National Birth Equity Collaborative  

Joia Adele Crear-Perry is the Founder and President of the National Birth Equity Collaborative. A speaker, trainer, advocate, policy expert, and thought leader around racism as a root cause of health inequities, Crear-Perry continues to expand her focus on maternal and child health nationally and internationally. She previously served as the executive director of the Birthing Project, director of Women’s and Children’s Services at Jefferson Community Healthcare Center and as the director of Clinical Services for the City of New Orleans Health Department. While in her position at the City of New Orleans Health Department, she was responsible for four facilities that provided health care for the homeless, pediatric, WIC, and gynecologic services within the New Orleans clinical service area. Crear-Perry is well-known for her work to remove race as a risk factor for illnesses such as premature births. Crear-Perry currently serves on the Advisory Committee of the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Principal at Health Equity Cypher and on the board of trustees for Community Catalyst, National Medical Association and the UCSF PTBi. Crear-Perry received her bachelor’s trainings at Princeton University and Xavier University and completed her medical degree at Louisiana State University.

“I am excited to see this group take this important step in improving birth outcomes by creating the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center and am eager to embark on this exciting journey in that includes maternal and child health policy. We know that the health of moms, babies, and families is greatly dependent upon policies at the state level that will now have the support of researchers, advocates, and policymakers at this center.”

-- JOIA CREAR-PERRY, M.D., National Birth Equity Collaborative
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

LIBBY DOGGETT, PH.D.
Early Learning Expert and Consultant

Libby Doggett is a consultant working to build public will to improve children’s readiness for kindergarten. From 2013 to 2017, Doggett served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education, where she oversaw the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge and the Preschool Development Grant programs. In that role, Doggett provided expertise and policy guidance to the Secretary of Education and served as the department’s early learning liaison to the White House and other federal and state agencies. Before working with the Department of Education, Doggett worked at the Pew Charitable Trusts, directing its home visiting campaign and working with advocates in target states to build political and public understanding and support for data-driven investments that align with federal guidance. Doggett also previously directed Pre-K Now, a 10-year campaign to advance high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds. Doggett also worked for the National Head Start Association. She began her career as a bilingual first-grade teacher at Ortega Elementary School in Austin, Texas, and holds a doctorate from the University of Texas in early childhood special education.

GREG DUNCAN, PH.D.
Distinguished Professor of Education, University of California at Irvine, and Chair, National Academies of Sciences Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years

Greg Duncan is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Education at the University of California, Irvine and an adjunct faculty member at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. His current research projects include an examination of how children’s early skills and behaviors relate to later-life outcomes, and a meta-analysis of the impacts of early childhood intervention programs. He recently was the Chair of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years. In addition, Duncan is a member of the interdisciplinary MacArthur Network on the Family and the Economy. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2001 and the National Academy of Education in 2009. He has served as president of the Population Association of American and the Society for Research in Child Development. Duncan has published extensively on issues of income distribution, child poverty and welfare dependence. He has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

“The Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at The University of Texas is going to have a major, positive impact on prenatal-to-age-3 policy development over the next five years. This new research and policy center will help state leaders know where their state stands on serving infants, toddlers and their families, guiding the development of new, innovative and transformative solutions based on research.”

-- LIBBY DOGGETT, PH.D., Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education
JANET FROETSCHER
President, J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation

The J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation is a private foundation committed to innovative strategies for solving society’s most challenging problems. As President, Janet Froetscher develops strategy and drives its implementation to create results supporting the Foundation’s priorities in early childhood development, healthcare and civil rights which are the three cornerstones of the Foundation. Froetscher is the former CEO of Special Olympics, where she led a global team with operations and affiliates in more than 170 countries. From 2008 to 2013, Froetscher was the President and CEO of the National Safety Council (NSC), an organization whose mission is to save lives and prevent injuries. Under her leadership, NSC created a new strategy and implemented initiatives which saved over 10,000 lives and prevented over 1 million injuries by focusing on issues such as workplace safety, distracted and teen driving. From 2003 to 2008, Froetscher was CEO of the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago where she led the merger of 54 United Ways into a single entity, the largest merger of a non-profit in the country. She also served as COO of the Aspen Institute where she also led the leadership development business and the strategic planning effort. Froetscher holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management of Northwestern University both with high distinction.

JANIS GONZALES, M.D.
Bureau Chief and Medical Director for the Family Health Bureau in the Department of Health, State of New Mexico

Janis Gonzales is the Bureau Chief and Medical Director for the Family Health Bureau in the Department of Health. She is also the Title V Director for New Mexico, the Vice President of the NM Perinatal Collaborative, and the President of the NM Pediatric Society. Before coming to work for the Department of Health, Gonzales worked for the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability, Early Childhood Evaluation Program (ECEP), providing developmental evaluations for children birth to three; and prior to that she spent nine years in private practice at Santa Fe Pediatrics in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is the mother of three children including a daughter with special needs. Gonzales is board certified in Pediatrics. She studied medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago and received her master’s degree in Public Health from the University of New Mexico.

“"We know that addressing the critical period from prenatal to three lays the foundation for improving maternal child health outcomes throughout the life course. States around the country are developing innovative policies to move this work forward, and state leaders are looking for evidence-based solutions to guide us in our work of improving health and fostering equity for our families.”

-- JANIS GONZALES, M.D.
Bureau Chief of New Mexico Department of Health
A.J. Griffin was first elected to the state Senate District 20 seat in 2012. Griffin served as a member of Senate leadership as the chair of the Rural Caucus and chair of the Appropriations Committee on Human Services. At the time of her service in the state Senate, her professional experience included working as a teacher and as a hospitality careers instructor. Griffin also served as a co-chair on the National Policy Committee of the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL). She represented Oklahoma on the boards of directors for both the Energy Council and the Southern States Energy Board and was recognized as an emerging leader by the Grand Old Party Political Action Committee or GOPAC, a Republican organization recruiting candidates for higher office. Griffin earned her B.A. in hotel and restaurant administration from Oklahoma State University and her M.A. in human environmental science from the University of Central Oklahoma. She currently runs the local and national government and community relations efforts of Paycom, an online payroll services corporation based in Oklahoma City.

Thomas Hedrick is a recent Fellow of Harvard’s Advanced Leadership Initiative (ALI) where he concentrated in early childhood education. While at Harvard he began developing a smartphone app to assist parents of newborns. Post ALI, he spent 18 months at AVANCE, Inc, a Latinx-focused parent engagement platform, repositioning it for the long term. Hedrick also founded and currently leads private equity firm Dillon Joyce Ltd, and is an Operating Partner with The Stephens Group, Private Equity Group. Prior to his private investing career, he was a Senior Partner at and Managing Partner of McKinsey and Company’s Dallas office, specializing in serving technology clients. During George W. Bush’s Presidency, Hedrick was appointed to assist the Department of Defense in crafting its semiconductor strategy. He also served as President of the school board for one of the largest private K-8 schools in Texas. Hedrick holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.
BRENDA JONES HARDEN, PH.D.
Alison Richman Professor of Children and Families at the University of Maryland

Brenda Jones Harden is the Alison Richman Professor of Children and Families at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She has worked over 35 years in the early childhood policy, practice and research arenas. Her research examines the developmental and mental health needs of young children at environmental risk, particularly those who have been maltreated or exposed to other forms of trauma. Her key focus is preventing maladaptive outcomes in these populations through early childhood and parenting programs, such as early care and education, home visiting services and infant mental health interventions. Jones Harden is the author of numerous publications regarding vulnerable children and families, particularly risk and protective factors that are linked with their developmental and mental health outcomes. She also has conducted numerous implementation and impact evaluations of early childhood and prevention programs. Jones Harden is the author of the book “Infants in the Child Welfare System: A Developmental Perspective on Policy and Practice” and is currently working on a major evaluation of an Early Head Start-child care partnership initiative and the implementation and evaluation of a group-based intervention to promote language development in infants and toddlers from low-income backgrounds. She received her Ph.D. in developmental and clinical psychology from Yale University and her M.S.W. from New York University.

IHEOMA IRUKA, PH.D.
Chief Research Innovation Officer and Director of the Center for Early Education Evaluation, HighScope Educational Research Foundation

Iheoma Iruka leads research strategy to drive innovation in the field of early childhood education. As director of the CEERE, Iruka focuses on research that advances the knowledge base on key factors that address opportunity gaps and examines HighScope’s curriculum, assessments and implementations to improve outcomes for children, families and communities. Before joining HighScope, Iruka was the Director of Research and Evaluation at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska. She also previously held the role of Associate Director at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Iruka’s research is centered on determining how early experiences impact poor and ethnic minority children’s learning and development and the role of the family and education environments and systems. Iruka earned a Ph.D. in applied developmental psychology from the University of Miami. She holds an MA in psychology from Boston University and a BA in psychology from Temple University. She is a current member of several national boards and committees, including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committees on Supporting Parents of Young Children, and Applying Neurobiological and Socio-behavioral Sciences from Prenatal through Early Childhood Development: A Health Equity Approach, NC Child Care Commission, and the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI).

“The Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center is needed to ignite policymakers at multiple levels to take action to ensure that the science about the critical importance of the first three years of children’s lives is central in policy decisions.”

-- IHEOMA IRUKA, PH.D.,
Chief Research Innovation Officer at HighScope
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

RUTH KAGI
Former State Representative, Washington State

Ruth Kagi served in the Washington State House of Representatives for 20 years, retiring January 2019. As Chair of the Early Learning and Human Services Committee, Kagi brought scientists and researchers to Olympia over two decades to educate legislators about early brain development, the importance of early nurturing relationships to school readiness, and the impact of toxic stress. Under her leadership, the legislature passed and funded an evidence-based home visiting bill, and the Early Start Act- setting standards for high-quality childcare and pre-school with robust support for providers to improve the quality of care. She also led legislative efforts to create a new Department of Children, Families and Youth and to reform foster care, juvenile sentencing and the state’s drug sentencing laws. She is past chair of the National Conference of State Legislature’s Human Services Committee. Kagi is now advising Ballmer Group on their efforts to improve kindergarten readiness for all children by significantly expanding high-quality learning opportunities for young children and their families. Kagi received her M.P.A. from Syracuse University and her B.A. from the University of Washington.

"I applaud the pioneering work of the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center and am eager to embark on this exciting journey in early childhood policy. In order to spur and sustain transformational change, state legislative leaders need trusted research partners, reliable evidence, and opportunities for collaboration to identify effective solutions that support infants, toddlers, and their families."

-- RUTH KAGI, Former Washington State Representative

JOHN KING, J.D., PH.D.
President and CEO, The Education Trust

John B. King, Jr. is the President and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to identify and close educational opportunity and achievement gaps. King served as U.S. Secretary of Education in the Obama administration. Prior to that role, King carried out the duties of Deputy Secretary, overseeing policies and programs related to P-12 education, English learners, special education, innovation, and agency operations. King joined the department following his post as New York State Education Commissioner. King began his career as a high school social studies teacher and middle school principal. King holds a Bachelor of Arts in government from Harvard University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, as well as a Master of Arts in the teaching of social studies and a doctorate in education from Teachers College at Columbia University. King serves as Professor of Practice at the University of Maryland’s College of Education and is a member of several boards, including those for The Century Foundation, The Robin Hood Foundation, Teach Plus, and the American Museum of Natural History.

"To ensure the prosperity of our communities and our country, we must invest in our babies and toddlers and the supports that they need to thrive. The efforts of the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center will be a vital addition to the national conversation on early childhood policy."

-- JOHN KING, J.D., PH.D., Former U.S. Secretary of Education
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

DAVID LAKEY, M.D.
Vice Chancellor for Population Health and Chief Medical Officer, The University of Texas System

David Lakey, an expert in disease prevention, community health services and infectious disease outbreaks, serves in a dual role as Vice Chancellor for Population Health and Chief Medical Officer at The University of Texas System and Senior Advisor to the President and Isadore Roosth Distinguished Professor at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. Previously, he was the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, one of the largest state agencies. As Commissioner, he led one of the state’s largest agencies with a staff of 12,000 and an annual budget of $3.3 billion, and oversaw programs such as disease prevention and disaster preparedness, family and community health services, environmental and consumer safety, regulatory programs and mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs. He earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry, graduating with high honors from Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, and received his medical degree with honors from Indiana University School of Medicine.

JOAN LOMBARDI, PH.D.
Director, Early Opportunities LLC

Joan Lombardi is an international expert in child and family policy. Over the past 45 years, she has made significant contributions in the area of early childhood development as an innovative leader and policy advisor to national and international organizations and foundations and as a public servant. She currently directs Early Opportunities LLC, a strategic advisement service focused on the development of young children, families and the communities that support them. In this role she provides overall advisement to a number of foundations working both in the United States and around the world. She also serves as a Visiting Scholar at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University. Lombardi served in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development (2009-2011) and as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and External Affairs in Administration for Children and Families and the first Commissioner of the Child Care Bureau among other positions (1993-1998). She is the author of numerous publications including Time to Care: Redesigning Child Care to Promote Education, Support Families and Build Communities and Co-Author of Beacon of Hope: The Promise of Early Head Start for America’s Youngest Children.

“"The first few years of a child’s life are so critical developmentally. What happens in that time affects the whole trajectory of one’s life. For state level policymakers however, it can be hard to know which early childhood programs and practices are grounded on a solid evidence base. By working together at the national level to identify and advance the best practices and policies, we will be able to make an immense difference in the lives of children and their families.”

-- DAVID LAKEY, M.D., The University of Texas System
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

MICHAEL LU, M.D.
Dean, School of Public Health,
University of California, Berkeley

Michael Lu possesses decades of expertise in maternal and child health policy. He is currently Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, and previously a Senior Associate Dean at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University. Lu served as Director of the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau under the Obama Administration. During his tenure, he transformed key federal programs in maternal and child health, and launched major initiatives to reduce maternal, infant, and child mortality across the nation. He oversaw the launch and expansion of the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. Prior to his public service, Lu was a professor of obstetrics-gynecology and public health at UCLA, where his research focused on racial-ethnic disparities in birth outcomes from a life-course perspective. He co-directed the residency program in obstetrics and gynecology and attained grants in maternal and child health, and received several prestigious awards for his teaching. Lu has served on three National Academy of Medicine Committees, and co-authored the recently released report “Vibrant and Healthy Kids: Aligning Science, Practice, and Policy to Advance Health Equity.” Lu received his bachelor’s degrees in political science and human biology from Stanford University, master’s degrees in health and medical sciences and public health from UC Berkeley, medical degree from UC San Francisco, and residency training in obstetrics and gynecology from UC Irvine.

“"The Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center will serve a critical need to ensure that state and national policy making in prenatal to three are informed by the best science and evidence. It will be an important resource to all state and national policymakers who want to do right by our nation’s children and families.”
-- MICHAEL LU, M.D.
Dean of UC Berkeley
School of Public Health

TAMMY MANN, PH.D.
President and CEO,
The Campagna Center

Tammy Mann has worked at the intersection of research, practice and policy at local, state and national levels for over 25 years. She has devoted her career to improving life outcomes for children, youth and families. Since 2011 she has served as President and Chief Executive Office of The Campagna Center, a nonprofit that provides cradle to career programs to over 2,000 children, teens and adults across the city of Alexandria, Virginia. Before her work at The Campagna Center, she served as executive director of the Frederick Patterson Research Institute and deputy executive director at ZERO TO THREE. Mann currently serves on several boards, including Foundation for Child Development, the Buffet Early Childhood Institute, and ZERO TO THREE. She served on the governing board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children as an at-large member, and as Board President from 2016 to 2018. Mann is a former Public Policy Fellow with the American Psychological Association. She has held adjunct and affiliate appointments at Howard University and George Mason University, respectively.

“We know more, we must do more. The Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center, and its aspirations for improved policies that benefit expectant families and those with infants and toddlers, represents an incredible opportunity to help make it so.”
-- TAMMY MANN, PH.D.,
President and CEO of The Campagna Center
Ronald B. Mincy is the Maurice V. Russell Professor of Social Policy and Social Work Practice at Columbia University. He is a co-principal investigator of the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, and a faculty member of the Columbia Population Research Center. Mincy came to Columbia in 2001 from the Ford Foundation, where he served as a senior program officer and worked on issues including improving U.S. social welfare policies for low-income fathers, especially child support and workforce development. He also served on the Clinton Administration’s Welfare Reform Task Force. Mincy is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters and is the editor of “Black Males Left Behind” (The Urban Institute Press, 2006). In 2009, he received the Raymond Vernon Memorial Prize for Best Research Article in the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Mincy is an advisory board member for the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan, the Technical Work Group for the Office of Policy Research and Evaluation, the Transition to Fatherhood project at Cornell University, the National Fatherhood Leaders Group, the Longitudinal Evaluation of the Harlem Children’s Zone, and The Economic Mobility Project of the Pew Charitable Trusts. Mincy holds an AB from Harvard College and a PhD from MIT.

Geoffrey A. Nagle is President and CEO of the Erikson Institute, a leading force in improving the lives of young children and their families through knowledge, research, service and advocacy and the nation’s premier graduate school in child development. Nagle joined Erikson in January 2014 after serving as the founding director of the Tulane University Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Tulane University School of Medicine. While at Tulane University, he worked closely with Louisiana government leaders to strengthen the state’s early childhood system and expand high-quality early care and education. Nagle earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from Duke University and a master’s degrees in both social work and public health from Tulane University. His doctorate, also from Tulane, is in mental health policy research, an interdisciplinary degree that combined his interests in social work and public health.

“It is wonderful to be working with the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center to support their important work. It is critical that they are successful so that we can build a smart and effective early childhood system across the country that addresses the needs of infants and toddlers. The Impact Center’s success will help ensure the United States is thriving for decades to come.”

-- GEOFF NAGLE, PH.D.,
President and CEO of The Erikson Institute
JESSIE RASMUSSEN
President, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Jessie Rasmussen is the President of the Buffett Early Childhood Fund in Omaha, Nebraska, where she manages early childhood investments and collaborates with other private investors at the national level to advance effective, research-driven early childhood policies and practices. Rasmussen’s professional career has focused on improving outcomes for children and families. She began her career as an early childhood education teacher, administrator and infant-toddler specialist. She spent the next 20 years of her career in state government, first serving as a Nebraska state senator and as the state human services director in both Nebraska and Iowa. Before joining the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, she acted as an advocate for children and families and played an instrumental role in the development and successful passage of legislation in 2006 that established a $60 million early childhood endowment funded through a public and private partnership.

“"I’m excited about the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center for a variety of reasons. First, children are born learning. What happens in every child’s earliest hours, days and weeks sets the stage for all that follows. Second, state policy plays an essential role in shaping whether babies and their new parents start off life well. Third, the Impact Center will be a reliable source regarding what the science says works, especially in terms of policies, as well as identifying gaps in our knowledge that need to be addressed to determine the most effective strategies for supporting infants and toddlers.”

-- JESSIE RASMUSSEN, President of the Buffett Early Childhood Fund

JACK SHONKOFF, M.D.
Founding Director, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

Jack P. Shonkoff is the Julius B. Richmond FAMRI Professor of Child Health and Development at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Harvard Graduate School of Education; Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children’s Hospital, and Research Staff at Massachusetts General Hospital; and Director of the university-wide Center on the Developing Child at Harvard. He currently chairs the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, whose mission is to bring credible science to bear on public policy affecting children and families, and The JPB Research Network on Toxic Stress, which is developing new measures of stress effects and resilience in young children. Under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, Shonkoff served as Chair of the Board on Children, Youth, and Families and led a blue-ribbon committee that produced the landmark report, “From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development.” He currently leads Frontiers of Innovation, a multi-sectoral, science-based, R&D platform committed to achieving breakthrough outcomes at scale for young children and families facing adversity. He has authored more than 150 publications and has been a visiting professor or delivered named lectureships at more than 35 universities in the United States and around the world.

“"Science is telling us that better outcomes for very young children facing adversity can be achieved by strengthening caregiver-child relationships, building core skills in parents, and reducing stresses on families. This new center will provide a powerful platform for making those scientific insights actionable, informing new, state-level investments that produce greater impact at scale.”

-- JACK SHONKOFF, M.D., Founding Director of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University
MARGARET SPELLINGS
President and CEO, Texas 2036

Margaret Spellings serves as President and CEO of Texas 2036, bringing with her knowledge and experience developed over an exceptional career in public service at both the state and national level. Most recently, Spellings served as the president of the 17-institution University of North Carolina System, leading the state’s public university into a new period of performance, affordability, and growth with a focus on improving economic mobility, ensuring accountability, and advancing the public good. Prior to that, Spellings served as president of the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas, where she oversaw programs on economic opportunity, education reform, global health, and special initiatives on women’s leadership and military service. From 2005 to 2009, Spellings served as U.S. Secretary of Education, leading the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act, a bipartisan initiative to provide greater accountability for the education of 50 million U.S. public school students. As secretary, she also launched the Commission on the Future of Higher Education, a plan to address challenges of access, affordability, quality, and accountability in our nation’s colleges and universities. Prior to serving as Secretary, Spellings served as White House domestic policy advisor from 2001 to 2005, overseeing the administration’s agenda on education, transportation, health, justice, housing, and labor. Spellings experience also includes serving as senior advisor to then-Governor George W. Bush of Texas, president and CEO of Margaret Spellings and Company, a Washington, DC, consulting firm that provided strategic guidance on a variety of domestic policy matters, and as a president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, advocating for more effective education and workforce training.

JIM SPURLINO
President and Owner, Spurlino Materials

Jim Spurlino is an entrepreneur and businessman with extensive experience owning and operating construction materials, automotive, and land development companies. As owner and President Spurlino Materials, he operated concrete plants in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, as well as a national division operating mobile plants throughout the U.S. While the company’s primary service markets included Cincinnati, Dayton, and Indianapolis, its national division operated in 16 states across the country, from Arizona to Pennsylvania. Projects included supplying concrete for the Indianapolis Colts’ new stadium, Bristol Motor Speedway, and the Meldahl Hydroelectric Plant on the Ohio River. The company was founded in 2000 and grew to 10 plants and 150 employees in the time since. Previously, Jim held various executive positions with a prominent construction materials company. He is active in and supportive of various construction industry associations and charitable organizations. This includes serving or having served on the Boards of Directors/Trustees/Advisors of National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, Ohio Concrete, RMC Research and Education Foundation, Every Child Succeeds, HIPPY USA, University of Dayton Graduate School, Council for a Strong America, and Ready Nation. Jim ran for the Republican nomination for the 8th district congressional seat in Ohio in 2016. Jim graduated from the University of Dayton with a B.S. in Business Administration and an M.B.A.
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

DAVID WILLIS, M.D.
Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Policy

David Willis leads a national initiative at the Center for the Study of Social Policy, to advance early relational health for infants, toddlers and their communities. A developmental-behavioral pediatrician, Willis was a clinician in Oregon for more than 30 years with a practice focused on early childhood development and family therapy. Most recently, he was named the first executive director of the Perigee Fund, a Seattle-based philanthropy focused on strengthening the social and emotional development of babies and toddlers. From 2012 to 2018, he served as director of the Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Services at the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal Child Health Bureau, in Washington D.C. Willis also served as a Harris Mid-Career Fellow with childhood development nonprofit ZERO TO THREE, the past president of the Oregon Pediatric Society, an executive member of the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Section on Early Education and Child Care, and chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Early Brain & Child Development Strategic Initiative. Professor or delivered named lectureships at more than 35 universities in the United States and around the world.

“I’m hopeful that by making visible the policy, research and innovations at state and local levels for the needed supports for infants, young children and their families, we can finally see greater positive impacts for the lives of the next generation of children—our future citizens.”

-- DAVID WILLIS, M.D.,
Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Policy