

Session # Closing Plenary

Title: Early Childhood Education: An Equal Opportunity Investment

Moderator: Christine Calpin, M.S., Associate Director, Child Care Bureau
Betty Medinger, M.S.W., State Child Care Administrator, Nebraska
Jessie Rasmussen, MC.D., Vice President, Buffet Early Childhood Fund
Stacie Goffin, Founder and Writer, Goffin Strategy Group; Trainer, Leadership Options in early Care and Education; Former Director, Ohio School Readiness Solutions Group

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

Betty Medinger:

Facilitators of change:

- Change best occurs in the context of good relationships
- Change occurs within a political environment
- Change occurs when teams are on the same page
 - This is a challenge among the ECE community

Jane Rasmussen:

- How to engage philanthropists.
 - Persuasive, comprehensive, truthful research
 - Ongoing evaluation of efforts
 - Currently there is a pro-education atmosphere in the philanthropy world
 - Be passionate but not a zealot
- Buffet Early Childhood Fund
 - Private funding of a building that is state-of-the-art and a visual symbol of the investment being put into ECE
 - Private/public partnership with multiple public partners
 - Newly established endowment to support continued funding
 - Endowments allow for asking for single financial commitments
- How to build a successful team
 - Have state partners
 - Unified goals/agendas
 - Be politically savvy
 - The BECF made sure to present a bi-partisan face
 - Got buy-in from the state Speaker of the House
 - Be flexible and adaptable
 - Engage the business community

Stacie Goffin:

- Forming Partnerships

- Include families in the partnership
- Fragmentation is counter productive
- Adaptive challenges vs. Technical challenges
 - Technical challenges: the answers exist and the challenge is implementation
 - Adaptive challenge: the challenge is finding the right answers
- Leadership
 - An activity, not just a personality or characteristic
 - Partnerships require **both** leadership and management (e.g., organizational structure)
- Focus on goals/purpose
- Mobilization of resources
- Generate outcomes: benchmarks of progress
- Carefully listen to all points-of-view
- Context matters
- Be results oriented
- Communicate often

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Governance concerns can become an issue as can finding the right balance between public and private funds.

Prioritize your investment of resources (money, staff, etc.). Partnerships are not always appropriate.

Be cognizant of the audience and tailor both the message and the messenger to that audience.

KEY POINTS

- Be results oriented
- Keep in mind long term and short term goals
- Package your message appropriately enlisting outside consultants when necessary
- Engage key stakeholders and nurture those relationships

