



<http://scfirststeps.com/2015-chairmens-summit-on-early-childhood/>

## **KEYNOTE SESSIONS:**

### **Opening Keynote Address (8:45a.m.)**

Join Dr. Alison Gopnik, (Professor, University of California, Berkeley) one of the world's leading experts on early childhood development, as she shares important new research that suggests babies have learning abilities more powerful than our smartest scientists and most advanced computers. Come learn how children's remarkable learning abilities from birth hold important implications for the future of South Carolina.

### **Lunch Keynote and Panel (Noon)**

Join Catherine Heigel (Director, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control) and other state agency directors for our lunch panel featuring how South Carolina's government leaders work together to support early learning policies and practices.

### **Closing Keynote Address (3:30 p.m.)**

Join Rhian Evans Allvin, (Executive Director, National Association for the Education of Young Children) as she brings us an early childhood update from the national level. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a professional membership organization comprised of 70,000 members and 300 affiliates who work together to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy, and research.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

### *Morning Track: 10-11:30am*

#### **The Power of Faith Partners to Support Early Learning**

Join leaders from Thornwell Home for Children, Brookland Baptist Church, and the LARCUM Bishops' Education Initiative to hear how you can create strong partnerships with your faith-based community to enhance school readiness results and support for families. In this session, you will hear about effective, purposeful program implementation, and the power of community partners and congregational volunteers to support early learning student outcomes.

#### **Talk to Me: How One Community is Taking Action to Improve School Readiness Outcomes**

Come to this session to hear how leaders from Cherokee County used recent child assessment data to convene a community conversation. The result? A powerful new collaboration to transform early learning through a campaign to increase language acquisition and development across the county.

#### **Private Partner Highlight: EdVenture Children's Museum Impacts School Readiness**

Come hear how this thriving Midlands museum is reaching out into the community and beyond to make a difference for young children, through its partnership with Countdown to Kindergarten and its innovative programs to increase educational access for young children and their families.

### *Afternoon Track 1:45-3:15pm*

#### **Early Reading Programs: Transforming Children's Literacy Experiences from Birth**

Join nonprofit leaders from First Book, Reach Out and Read, Cocky's Reading Express, and Greenville County First Steps to learn how effective reading programs are making a difference in South Carolina communities statewide. Learn how you can partner with state and national organizations to bring these transformational experiences to your community.

#### **All In: Lexington County Links Public and Private Assets Together for Young Learners**

Join this session to learn how school, home, faith, and private assets are leveraged into an effective strategy reaching children with supports and evidence-based programs that meet the needs of Lexington County families. Also learn how to effectively develop client focus groups to pinpoint the specific needs of your community.

#### **Head Start Celebrates 50 years of Service to America's Children and Families**

Come to this session to hear how South Carolina grantees have been making a difference for our youngest learners. Join leaders from the SC Head Start Collaboration Office, GLEAMNS, East Coast Migrant Head Start Project and Vital Connections of the Midlands to hear about their impact on communities and learn how you can partner with Head Start and Early Head Start in your area!