Co-Chairs:

Tom Massey, Deputy Executive Director of Policy and Communications - Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Tom Massey is the Policy, Communications, and Operations Office Director at the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. He is responsible for the management of government relations, internal and external communications, human resources, workforce development and facility operations.

Prior to coming to the Department, Massey served as a state legislator representing Colorado House District 60 (Poncha Springs, Salida) for eight years. He was a member of the Health and Environment Committee and chaired the House Education Committee. He sponsored several pieces of health care legislation, some of which included prescription drug monitoring, home health care, health information technology and electronic prescriptions in Medicaid. He also received numerous legislative honors, including awards from the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Leadership for Healthy Communities, Colorado Substance Abuse Peer Services, and the Colorado Home Health Care Network.

Massey has been a member of the Colorado Child Welfare Commission, served on the Health Information Exchange Board, the Health Information Technology Advisory Board and has been a Colorado Health Foundation Fellow. He served on the Board of Directors for the Children’s Health Foundation. He also owned and operated four Coldwell Banker franchises in central and southern Colorado. Massey received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Texas.

Susan Steele, President & CEO - Buell Foundation

Susan received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado and began her career as a middle school math teacher. After several years of teaching, she moved into the business arena serving in management and accounting positions for several family-owned businesses in Denver. She joined the Buell Foundation as controller in 1993. In 1998 she was named Executive Director.

During her tenure, she has helped guide the foundation to prominence as a leader in early childhood development throughout the state of Colorado. Under her leadership, the Foundation was recognized as the Colorado Foundation of the Year in 2012. In 2013, Susan was appointed to the Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission, where she helps to advise the Office of Early Childhood on issues related to early childhood education and development. Susan currently serves on the Management Team for the Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program.
at the University of Colorado at Denver and has played an important role in the creation of the Buell Early Childhood Leadership Network. Both of these groups exist to nurture and build the leadership capacity of experienced and emerging leaders to create equity, opportunity, and educational excellence for all young children and their families in Colorado. She also chairs the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative and is immediate past president of the Colorado Association of Funders. Susan is one of the founding partners that created Colorado EPIC and remains an active member on the governing board today.

Pamela Harris, PhD, President & CEO, Mile High Early Learning

Dr. Pamela Harris, President & CEO of Mile High Early Learning, Denver’s largest and oldest provider of subsidized quality early care and education, brings over 25 years of experience in education programming, workforce development, and innovation focusing on early childhood settings that serve vulnerable populations. She is founding Chief Operating Officer of the Denver Preschool Program, former Director of Denver Great Kids Head Start, and current adjunct higher education faculty for early childhood education including the Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program. Dr. Harris co-chairs Colorado’s Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory and helped to oversee the completion of Colorado’s Early Childhood Workforce Plan 2020, Colorado’s Professional Development Competencies Framework, and Early Learning and Development Guidelines—key features in Colorado’s comprehensive early care and education system. A national and international speaker on early childhood education issues, she has served on numerous advisory and policy boards for both the City of Denver and Colorado including Denver’s Early Childhood Council and as President of the Colorado Head Start Association. She provided testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce on federal funding for early childhood education invited by then Colorado U.S. Representative Jared Polis. Dr. Harris earned her Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and is also the author of several children’s books. Dr. Harris was recently honored with the Inclusive Leader in Early Childhood Education award by GlobalMindED for her commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity in her work.

Commissioners:

Melissa Colsman, Executive Director of the Teaching and Learning Unit - Department of Education

Dr. Melissa Colsman is currently the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). In this capacity, she oversees the offices of Early Learning and School Readiness; Standards and Instructional Support; Literacy; and Learning Supports. Dr. Colsman has been at the CDE since 2008 where she has also served as the mathematics content specialist.
Before coming to the department, Dr. Colsman was the district K-12 mathematics coordinator for a Denver metro area school district, and she taught middle school mathematics for fifteen years. As a classroom teacher, Dr. Colsman received recognition for her teaching expertise, including National Board Certification and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the highest award a mathematics or science teacher can receive.

Dr. Colsman recently completed her Ph. D. in Educational Leadership and Innovation at the University of Colorado at Denver. Her master’s degree is in Interdisciplinary Studies in mathematics, science, and technology from the University of Northern Colorado.

Heather Craiglow, Head Start Collaboration Director - Office of Early Childhood, Department of Human Services

Heather Craiglow is the Head Start Collaboration Office Director within the Office of Early Childhood. As the Collaboration Director, Heather’s role is to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies and entities that carry out activities designed to benefit low-income children from birth to school entry, and their families. The Collaboration Office provides a structure and a process for the Office of Head Start to work and partner with State agencies and local entities to leverage their common interests around young children and their families to formulate, implement, and improve state and local policy and practices.

Prior to joining the Office of Early Childhood, Heather provided training and technical assistance (T/TA) to Head Start programs throughout Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming as an Early Childhood Specialist with the Office of Head Start’s T/TA Team. The focus for T/TA was concentrated around School Readiness, Collaboration, and Parent, Family and Community Engagement. She has over fifteen years of experience working in Head Start and Early Care and Learning ranging from preschool teacher to Child Care Director to Education Manager.

Heather has a Bachelor’s of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from Colorado State University and received her Master’s of Science in Early Childhood Education from the University of North Dakota.

Jeff Kuhr, PhD, Executive Director- Mesa County Health Department

Jeff Kuhr is the Executive Director of the Mesa County Health Department in Grand Junction. He’s looking forward to serving on the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, and to getting to know everyone involved. In addition to the ECLC, Jeff serves on the State Board of Human Services and is on the board of directors for the National Association of County and City Health Officials. In Grand Junction, he serves on the boards of directors for St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center, Marillac Clinic, and STRiVE (Mesa Developmental Services). Jeff has a PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Nebraska and is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. His over 20 years of experience in public health and health promotion provides a unique perspective on the connection between behavioral health, physical health and population-based prevention strategies.
Jeanne McQueeney, Commissioner - Eagle County

Jeanne McQueeney began her term as Commissioner of District 3 in January 2015. Jeanne represents Eagle County on the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments; she serves as chair of the Eagle County Regional Transportation Authority, and the Golden Eagle Elderly Housing Corporation. Jeanne is the board chair for 2016.

Jeanne has a master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education and a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Jeanne’s career includes seven years on the Eagle County School Board, 13 years teaching, and seven years providing technical assistance to early childhood programs. She is the founder of Early Childhood Partners, a nonprofit serving the county’s early childhood community.

Jeanne has served on numerous local nonprofit boards, coalitions and service clubs including the Eagle River Youth Coalition, Caring for Kids, Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council, Vail Rotary, The Health Services Advisory Council, Wayfinders, The Healthy Eating Active Living Community Coalition, The Family Leadership Training Institute, and the InteGreat Coalition.

A resident of Eagle County for 26 years, Jeanne was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised on Long Island. Jeanne has been married to her high school sweetheart, Harry McQueeney since 1985 and together they have raised two wonderful children in Colorado.

Angie Paccione, Executive Director of Colorado Department of Higher Education

Dr. Angie Paccione was appointed executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education by Gov. Jared Polis, assuming the role on Jan. 10, 2019, and unanimously confirmed by the Senate Education Committee on Jan. 17, 2019.

Dr. Paccione has more than 20 years of experience in secondary and postsecondary education. She was a high school teacher, coach and administrator at Smoky Hill High School in the Cherry Creek School District before earning a Ph.D. in education and human resource studies from Colorado State University (CSU). There, Dr. Paccione served on the CSU faculty for nine years as a teacher educator in the “Project Promise” program, a nationally recognized program of excellence in teacher preparation for mid-career professionals. She also conducted research in the teacher education field, examining educators’ life events that led them to become committed to issues of diversity and inclusion. Her findings informed a teacher preparation program and were later published in Teacher’s College Press, which has been cited in over 75 academic papers.

Dr. Paccione left higher education to pursue public service and was elected to two terms in the Colorado House of Representatives, rising to become house majority caucus chair. She served on the Education Committee during all four years in the legislature, helping guide the education environment for the state of Colorado. In 2006, she ran for U.S. Congress and came within 2.5 percent of unseating the incumbent.

From 2007 to her appointment as executive director, Dr. Paccione worked for Verus Global where she specialized in the areas of leadership development, diversity and inclusion, talent development and change management. She has worked with leaders from the shop floor to the
C-suite in 40 countries and all 50 states. Dr. Paccione has also co-authored two books on leadership: One Team: 10-minute Discussions that Activate Inspired Teamwork and Do Big Things: The Simple Steps Teams Can Take to Mobilize Hearts and Minds, and Make an Epic Impact.

Growing up biracial in New York City, attending college in California and residing in Colorado, Dr. Paccione bridges many divides. She was raised to believe you can accomplish anything to which you set your mind, a philosophy that runs through her life’s accomplishments. Playing basketball at Stanford University and professionally in the 1980s, Dr. Paccione’s credo is that she’s as committed to your success as she is her own.

When she’s not working, Dr. Paccione can be found reading, traveling, enjoying theater and films or gardening. She counts her family and friends among her greatest blessings.

Ida Rhodes, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Pueblo, Director of Operations

A Pueblo native, Ms. Rhodes has over 30 years of experience in the early childhood and social work fields, with accreditation in Mission Based Leadership and Organization Development from the University of Notre Dame and as a Cornell University Family Development Credential Program Supervisor. Her career began in prenatal and child nutrition with the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program where she specialized in lactation education. She moved into early childhood development education and program management as the Bright Beginnings Program Coordinator for south east Colorado, where she managed the program in 16 counties. Her service in the Bright Beginnings Program instilled in her the vital importance of comprehensive family support and strengthening services and education. Ms. Rhodes directed the implementation of the Parents As Teachers Program at Catholic Charities in 2002. This was the beginning of her quest to provide a strong menu of evidence-based early childhood development, child maltreatment prevention and family strengthening programming and develop Catholic Charities into a Family Resource Center.

Ms. Rhodes has extensive experience in successfully developing and managing agency programs, government contracts, and grants from public and private sources. She is passionate about social justice, the wellness of children, and the utilization of prevention focused, two-generation programming for community improvement. Ms. Rhodes has been recognized for her service as an American Red Cross Hometown Hero, a Rotarian Paul Harris Fellow and as an Erin Binford Social Justice Award recipient. She proudly serves on the Board of Directors for the Family Resource Center Association, the Pueblo Child Advocacy Center and Executives Partnering to Invest in Children-Pueblo. She and Ken, her spouse of 39 years, are the glowing grandparents of young grandsons, Ezra and Ellis.

Jai Scott- Parent Representative

Jai Scott is a Colorado native who is a dedicated wife and mother of three. She began studying education at the University of Northern Colorado’s Center for Urban Education. There she received a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies (Elementary Education) and is currently in her 12th year of teaching in the city of Denver. In her spare time, Jai is devoted to her passion which is helping students struggling both emotionally and academically reach their goals, by not only providing
academic support but also connecting families to advocates, resources and the personal support necessary to help their children succeed. In her words, “There’s no greater reward than witnessing a child’s life change because I dared to care.” She is an active mentor and student advocate who is pursuing more roles in educational leadership.

Currently, Jai is serving on her 1st term as a commissioner on the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, as our Parent Representative through the executive order of Governor Hickenlooper.

George Welsh, Superintendent- Cañon City School District

George Welch is an educator with 29 year of experience, George Welsh served as Superintendent of Schools in the Center Consolidated School District in Colorado’s San Luis Valley from 1997 to 2015. In July 2015 he took the reins of the Cañon City School District in Fremont County. Cañon City has 10 schools and serves approximately 3,700 kids, 60 percent who are deemed at-risk based free or reduced lunch requirements.

In December 2010 Welsh was recognized as Colorado’s rural administrator of the year. He has since served as the president of the Colorado Association of School Executives, was recognized as Colorado’s superintendent of the year in 2013, and was named one of eSchoolNews’ tech savvy superintendents of the year in 2014. Welsh has also served on and chaired the advisory board of the Colorado Safe Schools Resource Center since its inception in 2010.

Jehan Benton-Clark, Portfolio Director- Colorado Health Foundation

Jehan knows that philanthropy has the potential to have a profound impact beyond traditional grantmaking by supporting communities to recognize and act on their own ideas and power.

At the Colorado Health Foundation, Jehan serves as a portfolio director and is responsible for developing philanthropic strategy and managing investments and a team of staff across the Advocacy, Community Solutions and Capacity Building priority areas. Jehan also leads the Foundation’s locally-focused work, a place-based philanthropic strategy aimed at bringing health in reach for all Coloradans.

In her time with the Foundation, Jehan has guided the evolution of the role of program officer from traditional, transactional grantmaking to one that is centered on listening, the importance of relationship-building and being informed by individuals and families with lived experience. Jehan’s responsibilities encompass a focus on strengthening the Foundation’s approach to working in rural communities, as well as ensuring health equity is threaded throughout all aspects of the Foundation’s work.

Before joining the Foundation in 2016, Jehan worked at the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, overseeing a long-term, rural place-based philanthropic approach to improve the health of residents living on low income, as well as oversaw the development and implementation of a comprehensive, statewide mental health and substance abuse strategy. Jehan has previous served as Executive Director of Partners Ending Homelessness, an intermediary responsible for overseeing a public/ private partnership to address housing, homelessness and behavioral health, as well as led health and early childhood education investments at the United Way of Greater Greensboro.
She holds a master’s of social service administration from the University of Chicago and an undergraduate degree in economics and political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Sue Renner, Vice President of Philanthropy- Merage Foundations**

Sue Renner directs Merage Foundations, a consortium of eight foundations and nonprofits representing three generations of the David and Laura Merage family in Denver, Colorado. With a focus on venture philanthropy, Sue provides strategic oversight for Equitas, a non-partisan organization whose mission is to disentangle mental health from the criminal justice system; Black Cube, an experimental art museum that advances artists’ self-sufficiency; and Early Learning Ventures (ELV), a nonprofit whose mission is to provide tools and resources that allow child care providers to streamline their business operations, resulting in more time and money to care for and educate our youngest learners.

Sue plays an integral role in Merage Foundations’ advocacy surrounding early childhood policy, including the advancement of access to affordable, high-quality child care. Sue is a member of Colorado Governor Jared Polis’ Education Policy Council and the Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission. Additionally, Sue is a founding Board Member of Executives Partnering to Invest in Children, a business leader’s membership organization dedicated to early childhood education advocacy, and she is a director of Bright by Three, the developers of the national parent education platform Bright by Text. She is a member of the American Enterprise Institute Leadership Network, and an advisor to the Bi-Partisan Policy Center’s Early Childhood Initiative.

In 2008, Sue was critical in the successful launch of RedLine. Founded by Laura Merage, a non-profit contemporary art center that fosters education and engagement between artists and communities to create positive social change.

Prior to joining the Merage Foundation in 2006, Sue was the Executive Director of Early Childhood Connections and previously worked as a Senior Program Manager with the Colorado Office of Resource and Referral Agencies. Sue's experience includes volunteer leadership roles with multiple organizations, including community development, family support and early care, and education. Sue received her BS in Human Development from California Polytechnic University and her MS in Child and Family Development from Colorado State University.
Kate Reinemund, Executive Director- Constellation Philanthropy

Kate Kennedy Reinemund is the Executive Director of Constellation Philanthropy, a collaboration of families investing in early childhood development. She is also an investing member of Constellation, and has served as Chair of the Investment Committee and Board Member. Prior to her current role with Constellation, Kate was the Executive Director of Impact Charitable, a Denver-based donor advised fund fully committed to impact investing. Kate’s professional experience ranges from capital markets and investment management for families and institutions, to building and growing a social venture focused on helping nonprofits connect with their next generation of givers. Her impact work includes both international and local involvement.

Currently, Kate serves on the boards of Teach for America, Colorado, as well as Mile High Early Learning. She has also served on and managed boards for the regional alumni community for Stanford University, Project CURE in Colorado, as well as a family foundation focused on education, early childhood and human services. Kate has also participated as an active member of Investors’ Circle, the largest and early stage impact investing network. Kate has a BA in Psychology from Boston College and a MBA from Stanford University. She lives in Denver with her husband and two young children.

Ryan Beiser, Regional President- PNC Bank, Denver

Ryan Beiser is the regional president for PNC Bank, Denver.

In this role, Ryan is responsible for leading overall growth across Colorado with a special focus on the Denver Metro area, as well as overseeing all aspects of Corporate Banking in the region. His office implements all local sponsorship and philanthropic efforts to execute PNC’s community-based goals and initiatives.

Ryan previously served as the chief operating officer of PNC’s Corporate and Commercial Banking groups. Prior to his COO role, Ryan led Corporate Banking for PNC’s Florida East region. During his tenure, he has participated in numerous internal and external initiatives while at PNC, including Men Advocating Real Change (MARC), Women Connect, and United Way West Palm Beach.

In Denver, Ryan is a member of YPO Colorado and serves on the board of Mile High United Way, the Board of Advisors for the University of Colorado Denver Business School, and on the Major Gifts Council for Early Childhood Education of the Mile High United Way.

Ryan earned a bachelor’s degree in finance from St. Vincent College and a MBA from the University of Maryland. He and his wife Heather live in Denver with their three children.
Anne Marie Braga, Deputy Executive Director of Community Partnerships- Colorado Department of Human Services

Anne Marie Braga came to CDHS in 2019 with 25 years of experience in the health and human services field. She is responsible for operational oversight of the external entities and agencies with whom the department contracts and partners. Braga provides supervision for the Office of Children, Youth and Families; Office of Economic Security; Office of Early Childhood; Aging and Adult Services; Office of Behavioral Health Community Programs; County Services; and Client Services/Controlled Correspondence.

Tracy Miller, Nutrition Services Branch Chief- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Tracy is the Nutrition Services Branch Chief at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). She provides leadership for the Branch, which houses the Colorado WIC Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Unit. In this role, Tracy drives important partnerships and collaboration with other programs within CDPHE, state agencies, and non-government organizations serving the maternal, child, and older adult populations. This collaborative work involves aligning supports across government entities and other sectors in a way that effectively meets needs of families, children, and older adults. Prior to this role, she directed the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Unit. She served as a nutrition consultant and nutrition manager for the CACFP. Tracy began her career as a Registered Dietitian at Wheatridge Regional Center, operated by the Colorado Department of Human Services. She has worked for the State of Colorado for over 20 years.

Tracy is a Registered Dietitian with focused expertise in the area of early childhood nutrition, federal nutrition program administration, and leadership in public health. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Dietetics from the University of Idaho and holds a Master of Science in Public Health Degree from the University of Colorado.

Allegra “Happy” Haynes, Deputy Mayor-City & County of Denver/Executive Director-Denver Parks and Recreation

Allegra “Happy” Haynes has served since 2015 as the Executive Director of Denver Parks and Recreation and was also appointed in 2017 and 2019 to serve as the Deputy Mayor. Happy was twice elected and served from 2011 - 2019 as an at-large member of the Denver Public Schools Board of Education following six years as the District’s Chief Community Engagement Officer. Happy is a Denver native, attended Denver East High School and received a BA in Political Science from Barnard College at Columbia University and an MPA from the University of Colorado at Denver.

During a 40-year career in state and local government, Happy served thirteen years on the Denver City Council from 1990 - 2003 and was president from 1998 - 2000. She serves on several non-profit boards including the Colorado Trust for Public Land, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Botanic Gardens and is a member of the Denver Chapter of Links INC. She was a founding board member of Mile High Youth Corps, Colorado Black Women for Political Action and the Foundation for Education Excellence. Happy is single, an avid jazz fan and loves gardening, sports and outdoor activities.
Adeeb Khan, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility & Executive Director- Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation

Adeeb Khan serves as Delta Dental of Colorado’s vice president of corporate social responsibility and executive director of the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation. In this dual role, Adeeb’s focus is developing the company’s corporate social responsibility strategy while driving the foundation’s focus on advancing oral health equity. Prior to joining DDCO, Adeeb was senior director of corporate social responsibility at TIAA, senior director of volunteer engagement at Mile High United Way, and regional director of health & safety and community services at American Red Cross. Adeeb brings years of nonprofit and private sector experience and has developed several evidence-based programs addressing issue areas including public safety, education, and community engagement. He launched and expanded the Colorado Reading Corps, a research-based literacy program, in partnership with Serve Colorado and the Minnesota Reading Corps. He also launched the Save a Life Denver program that placed over 1,500 AEDs across the metro area and trained thousands in CPR and first aid.

Adeeb holds an MBA from the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver and a BA in communications from the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. He currently serves on the board of College Track, Lyra, the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, and B:CIVIC. He is a CiviCO Governors Fellow, a graduate of Leadership Denver and has been recognized as a Downtown Champion by the Downtown Denver Partnership, a Chamber Champion by the Denver Metro Chamber, and as one of Denver’s Top 40 Under 40 by the Denver Business Journal.

Rebecca Kantor, Dean of the School of Education & Human Development-University of Colorado Denver

Rebecca Kantor, dean of the School of Education & Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver, has developed a robust career as an early childhood teacher, researcher, professor of teacher education, education policy reformer and public university administrator. Since arriving at CU Denver in 2012, Dean Kantor has led the continuing transformation of the School of Education & Human Development into an innovative School that offers contemporary, responsive and flexible educator, counselor and researcher initial preparation and advanced programs that are highly engaged with professional and cultural communities. Dr. Kantor earned her bachelor’s from the University of Rochester in developmental psychology and linguistics, and her master’s with teaching certifications in early childhood and deaf education, as well as her doctorate in language and cognitive development from Boston University. Dr. Kantor spent 27 years at The Ohio State University, first as an assistant professor and the Director of the teacher preparation Laboratory School and, ultimately, as Director of the School of Teaching and Learning, achieving rank and tenure as a full professor. Her scholarship is focused on the study of classrooms as social contexts for teaching and learning, and reform of teacher preparation in partnership with schools. Dr. Kantor has published numerous articles, book chapters and books in her areas of expertise and is deeply engaged with Denver’s schools and communities.
Ex-Officio Member:

Mary Anne Snyder, Director - Office of Early Childhood, Department of Human Services

In November of 2012, Mary Anne Snyder was appointed Director of the new Office of Early Childhood within the Colorado Department of Human Services. In this role, she brought together the Division of Early Care and Learning (DECL) with the new Division of Community and Family Support (DCFS). DECL provides child care licensing, subsidy and quality initiatives. DCFS houses Early Intervention, Early Childhood Councils, Children’s Trust Fund, home visitation programs, infant and toddler mental health programs, and child maltreatment prevention. The Head Start State Collaboration Liaison and the Early Childhood Leadership Commission Manager also operate within the Office of Early Childhood. The Office is also implementing a $45 million Federal Early Learning Challenge grant.

The consolidation of early childhood programs, along with new Federal resources, is resulting in a more effective, efficient and elegant system of service delivery and support for families with young children. The Office of Early Childhood strives to improve kindergarten readiness, increase the number of third grade students reading at proficiency or better, prevent child abuse and neglect, and treat early-identified developmental delays.

Prior to serving as the Director of the Office of Early Childhood, Mary Anne was the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Children’s Trust Fund (2001-2012). She was the founding President of the Celebrate Children Foundation, which focuses on helping communities in Wisconsin create the most effective early learning systems for children from birth to age five. Mary Anne was a member of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Early Care and Education and was the co-chair of the state steering committee. She also served on the Board of Directors for the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds, of which she was President for four years. Mary Anne has dedicated her career to ensuring all children experience optimal childhood development in a safe and nurturing environment in order to reach their full potential. In 1998, she received the Commissioner’s Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families for her leadership and service in the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Wisconsin.