

IHEOMA U. IRUKA**ADDRESS***Office:*

Director of Research & Evaluation
 Buffett Early Childhood Institute
 University of Nebraska
 6001 Dodge Street, CEC 228
 Omaha, NE 68182-0849
 402-554-3816
iiruka@nebraska.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Applied Developmental Psychology, University of Miami, Florida, 2005.
M.S., Applied Developmental Psychology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, 2003
M.A., Psychology, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, 2000
B.A., Psychology, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1999

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

2014-Present	Director of Research & Evaluation , Buffett Early Childhood Institute, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE
2015-Present	Research Associate Professor , Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of Nebraska – Lincoln (Courtesy Appointment)
2015-Present	Research Associate Professor , Department of Psychology, University of Nebraska – Omaha (Courtesy Appointment)
2014-Present	Research Associate Professor , Education Leadership, College of Education, University of Nebraska – Omaha (Courtesy Appointment)
2013-2014	Associate Director , Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), North Carolina (Promotion)
2014	Research Associate Professor , Department of Psychology, UNC-CH, North Carolina
20012-2014	Scientist , FPG, UNC-CH, North Carolina (Promotion)
2012-2014	Affiliate Faculty , Global Studies, UNC-CH, North Carolina
2008-2012	Investigator , FPG, UNC-CH, North Carolina
2010-2011	Research Assistant Professor , Department of Psychology, UNC-CH, North Carolina
2010-2011	Research Fellow , Institute of African American Research, UNC-CH, North Carolina
2010-2011	Adjunct Faculty , Department of Human Services, Peace College
2006-2008	IES Postdoctoral Fellow , FPG, UNC-CH, North Carolina
2005-2006	Senior Research Associate , Westat, Maryland
2002-2005	Adjunct Faculty , Department of Social and Behavioral Science Miami-Dade College, Florida

- 2001-2005 **Graduate Research Associate**, Department of Psychology, University of Miami, Florida
- 2001-2002 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology, University of Miami, Florida

PRINCIPAL FIELDS OF INTEREST

- Optimal development of low-income, ethnic minority, and international children 0-8 years old
- Early care and education systems and environments, such as quality rating improvement system
- Family engagement, parenting, home-school partnership
- Using data to improve instruction, family support, and systems change

FUNDED PROJECTS

- 2016-2021 **Early Learning Context in Rural and Urban Nebraska** (R305N160016). The goal of this study through the IES-funded Early Learning Network is to understand variations in practices that augment transitions and early learning; determine malleable factors that improve learning environments and promote school readiness and academic achievement for disadvantaged children; and understand the processes necessary for effective transitions from PreK through Grade 3 in rural and urban communities. (*Co-PI*). *Funder*: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences
- 2015-2017 **Thresholds II** (90YE0181-01-00). The overall goal of the proposal project is to identify thresholds of early childhood education quality in predicting social-emotional, cognitive, and language outcomes in multiple secondary data sets that can inform national and state policies that seek to promote optimal child development through early childhood education and child care settings (*Co-Investigator*). *Funder*: Office of Planning Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services
- 2014-2017 **Evaluation of the Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan**. The purpose of this evaluation is to examine impact of a 0-8 initiative in the Omaha Metro area by examining the implementation and effectiveness of the 0-8 school as a hub approach on school, classroom, teacher, families, and children (*Project Director*). *Funder*: Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties
- 2014-2015 **North Carolina Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant Transformation Zone (TZ) Evaluation**. The purpose of this evaluation is to examine the extent to which the TZ communities have been able to enhance their capacity to improve the quality of their early childhood systems, including policy, practice, and infrastructure changes to support successful implementation of evidence-informed practice. (*Co-Principal Investigator*). *Funder*: North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education
- 2013-2015 **North Carolina Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System, Validation Study**. The purpose of this project is to conduct a two-phase study for the validation of North Carolina's tiered quality rating and improvement system (TQRIS). Phase I involves collection of web surveys, focus groups, and interviews, as well as use of existing data to develop alternative models to guide Phase II. Phase II involves the validation of the system through conducting program and classroom observation and child assessments. (*Principal Investigator*). *Funder*: North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education
- 2014 **North Carolina Department of Public Instruction: Parents' Beliefs About the K-3 Formative Assessment**. The purpose of the proposed work is to examine parents' beliefs and attitudes about the K-3 formative assessment currently being developed by the NC

- Office of Early Learning. Information is being gathered about: a) parents' attitudes towards strategies for obtaining family information relevant to the formative assessment, b) parents' general attitudes and beliefs about formative assessment, and c) parents' beliefs with regard to the type of information they would like to receive from formative assessment reports. *(Co-Principal Investigator)*. *Funder*: North Carolina Office of Early Learning, Department of Public Instruction
- 2012-2015 **Evaluation of the Head Start Designation Renewal System.** The purpose of this project is to evaluate the validity and reliability of the Head Start Designation Renewal System (DRS) using independent sources of data including classroom and program observations. In addition, this study will examine whether the DRS incentivizes quality improvement. *(Co-Principal Investigator)*. *Funder*: Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, & Evaluation
- 2009-2014 **National Evaluation Partner for the Educare Learning Network Implementation Study.** The purpose of this grant is to examine the Bounce Learning Network, a consortium of 8 Educare centers across the country whose focus is to build, develop, and implement high quality early education programs for at-risk children, from birth to age five. *(Investigator)*. *Funder*: Ounce of Prevention
- 2012-2014 **Process Evaluation of NC's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.** The purpose of this project is to track the progress of sites toward the overall goal of integrating home visiting with other early childhood programs at the local level so that referrals, communication, triage, and planning are improved. *(Co-Principal Investigator)*. *Funder*: North Carolina Division of Public Health
- 2006-2013 **Promoting Academic Success for Boys of Color (PAS).** The goal of the project is to build and support the partnership between families, schools, and communities to improve the academic achievement and socio-emotional development of boys of color. A secondary goal is to provide family-, teacher-, and community-based interventions that have shown some evidence of improving the learning and development of boys of color. *(Investigator)*. *Funder*: W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- 2012 **Wake County Home-Based Services Integration.** The purpose of this project is to provide consultation to Wake County Smart Start to develop a plan for a county-wide service integration of home-based services for young children and their families. *(Co-Principal Investigator)*. *Funder*: Wake County Smart Start
- 2008-2012 **Evaluation of the Miami-Dade Quality Counts System.** A three year evaluation funded by The Children's Trust to evaluate Miami-Dade County's Quality Rating System for child care programs. The county has a five-star, voluntary system. This evaluation will study how the quality system is being implemented and examine how it is impacting children, programs, and the wider early education system. *(Co-Principal Investigator)*. *Funder*: Children's Trust
- 2010-2012 **FirstSchool.** FirstSchool is a pre-K–grade 3 initiative to promote public school efforts to become more responsive to the needs of an increasingly younger, more diverse population. FirstSchool creates a seamless transition for children in pre-kindergarten through third grade schools by uniting the best of early childhood, elementary and special education. *(Investigator)*. *Funder*: W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- 2011-2012 **Evaluation of Smart Start's Organizational Capacity Building Initiatives.** The purpose of this evaluation is to inform Smart Start about the effects of three initiatives on local communities and the broader Smart Start network and to make future decisions about activities. The three initiatives are Leaders' Collaborative and Leading for Equity, Organizational Consultation, and Interactive Website. *(Principal Investigator)*. *Funder*: North Carolina Partnership for Children

- 2010-2011 **Wake County Child Care Subsidy System Study.** The purpose of this project is to assist Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) and Wake County Human Services (WCHS) to gather and analyze information to determine the strengths and needs of the current child care subsidy system and to facilitate the development of strategic recommendations. (*Principal Investigator*). *Funder:* Wake County Smart Start
- 2010-2011 **Development of ChildFund Program Offer for Model International Early Childhood Development Programming.** The purpose of this project is to collaborate with ChildFund, a community-based organization, to develop a unique early childhood development program for use in low-wealth and low-resources countries. (*Principal Investigator*). *Funder:* ChildFund
- 2010-2011 **Arkansas' DDS Children's Services Part C Program Evaluation.** The goal of this project is to evaluate the quality of services children receive, timely and comprehensive child evaluation and monitoring, development of quality IFSPs, and timely and quality services and service coordination for children and families in Arkansas' early intervention program. (*Project Director*). *Funder:* Arkansas' DDS Children's Services
- 2009-2010 **Ready Schools Technical Assistance Project.** The purpose of this grant is to provide technical assistance to school and communities in North Carolina to develop a strategic plan to enhance seamless education for young children. (*Co-Principal Investigator*). *Funder:* North Carolina Partnership for Children
- 2007-2009 **Evaluation of the Smart Start Family Support and Health Grant Options.** The purpose of this grant is to evaluate the implementation of three evidence-based program models that address targeted school readiness issues in selected Smart Start partnerships across the state in the area of childhood obesity, pre-reading skills, and parenting skills that address children's challenging behaviors. (*Principal Investigator*). *Funder:* North Carolina Partnership for Children
- 2006-2007 **Lourie Center Early Head Start Teen Parent Support Program.** The purpose of this evaluation was to examine the impact of parenting classes for teen parents in their children's cognitive and social and emotional development. (*Evaluator*). *Funder:* Lourie Center Early Head Start
- 2003-2005 **The Impact of Family Involvement on Head Start Children's School Readiness.** The purpose of this Head Start Graduate Student Research grant was to develop a measure of parent involvement and efficacy aligned with children's school readiness. The eventual goal is to examine the role of self-efficacy in parents' involvement and children's school readiness. (*Principal Investigator*). *Funder:* Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, & Evaluation

PENDING FEDERAL GRANTS

- 2016-2021 National Institute of Health (1R01HD088460-01)
Effects of Race and Class on Parenting a Child with Autism
 The overall objective of this project is to examine the impact of socioeconomic disadvantage and race/ethnicity on the practices that parents of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) use to rear their child. (*Consortium/Site PI*)
- 2016-2018 National Institute of Health (1R21HD088693-01)
Children's Cognitive and Physical Development: Interactive Relationships between Parenting and Community in the Rural South and Midwest
 Through data collected from African American families with young children in low-wealth rural counties in Nebraska and North Carolina, the proposed study examines the

link between parenting, community resources, and children's health and school readiness. (*Principal Investigator*)

- 2015-2017 National Institute of Health (1 R21 HD083277-01)
Measuring IEP Meeting Quality for Families of Children with ASD
 Through data collected from North Carolina families with young children, 3 to 8 years old diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, the proposed study seeks to examine the utility and feasibility of a tool to examine the quality of Individualized Education Plan meetings (IEP). (*Principal Investigator*)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2015 Outstanding Author Contribution in the 2015 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence
- 2009 Service and Leadership Award, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2009-2011 Senior Mentor, Frances Degen Horowitz Millennium Scholars Program, Society for Research in Child Development
- 2007-2009 Junior Mentor, Frances Degen Horowitz Millennium Scholars Program, Society for Research in Child Development

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- 2012 What Works Clearinghouse Reviewer Training, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2008 National Institute of Mental Health Public Reviewer Training, Washington, D.C.
- 2008 Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Training, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- 2008 Biomedical Research Ethics Training Seminar, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- 2008 Multilevel Modeling of Hierarchical and Longitudinal Data Using SAS, SAS Institute, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2007 National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort Database Training Seminar, Washington, DC

PEER-REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

- Iruka, I. U.,** Curenton, S. M., & Gardner, S. (2015). How changes in home and neighborhood environment factors are related to change in black children's academic and social development from kindergarten to third grade. *The Journal of Negro Education, 84*(3), 282-297.
- Gardner-Neblett, N., & **Iruka, I. U.** (2015). Oral narrative skills: Explaining the language-emergent literacy link by race/ethnicity and SES. *Developmental Psychology, 51* (7), 889-904. doi: 10.1037/a0039274
- Yazejian, N., & **Iruka, I. U.** (2015). Associations among tiered quality rating and improvement system supports and quality improvement. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 30*, 255-265. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2014.05.005>
- Iruka, I. U.,** & Morgan, J. (2014). Patterns of quality experienced by African American children in early education programs: Predictors and links to children's preschool and kindergarten academic outcomes. *The Journal of Negro Education, 83*(3), 235-255. doi: 10.7709/jnegroeducation.83.3.0235
- Iruka, I. U.,** Dotterer, A. M., & Pungello, E. P. (2014). Ethnic variations of pathways linking socioeconomic status, parenting, and preacademic skills in a nationally representative sample. *Early Education and Development, 1-22*. doi: 10.1080/10409289.2014.892806

- Iruka, I. U.**, Gardner-Neblett, N., Matthews, J. S., & Winn, D.-M. C. (2014). Preschool to kindergarten transition patterns for African American boys. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 29(2), 106-117. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2013.11.004>
- Forry, N., **Iruka, I. U.**, Tout, K., Torquati, J., Susman-Stillman, A., Bryant, D., & Daneri, M. P. (2013). Predictors of quality and child outcomes in family child care settings. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 28(4), 893-904. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2013.05.006>
- Barbarin, O., **Iruka, I. U.**, Harradine, C., Winn, D.-M. C., McKinney, M. K., & Taylor, L. C. (2013). Development of social-emotional competence in boys of color: A cross-sectional cohort analysis from pre-k to second grade. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 83(2,3), 145-155. doi: 10.1111/ajop.12023
- Baker, C. E., & **Iruka, I. U.** (2013). Maternal psychological functioning and children's school readiness: The mediating role of home environments for African American children. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 28(3), 509-519. doi: 10.1016/j.ecresq.2013.02.004
- Dotterer, A. M., **Iruka, I. U.** and Pungello, E. (2012), Parenting, race, and socioeconomic status: Links to school readiness. *Family Relations*, 61, 657-670. doi: 10.1111/j.1741-3729.2012.00716.x
- Iruka, I. U.**, LaForett, D. R., & Odom, E. C. (2012). Examining the validity of the family investment and stress models and relationship to children's school readiness across five cultural groups. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 26(3), 359-370. doi: 10.1037/a0028290
- Gardner-Neblett, N., Pungello, E. P., & **Iruka, I. U.** (2011). Oral narrative skills: Implications for the reading development of African American children. *Child Development Perspectives*, 6(3), 218-224. doi: 10.1111/j.1750-8606.2011.00225.x
- Iruka, I. U.**, Winn, D. C., Kingsley, S. J.¹, & Orthodoxou, Y. J.² (2011). Links between parent-teacher relationship and kindergartners' social skills: Do child ethnicity and family income matter? *The Elementary School Journal*, 111(3), 387-408. doi: 10.1086/657652
- Early, D. M., **Iruka, I. U.**, Ritchie, S., Barbarin, O. A., Winn, D.-M. C., Crawford, G. M., . . . Pianta, R. C. (2010). How do pre-kindergartners spend their time? Gender, ethnicity, and income as predictors of experiences in pre-kindergarten classrooms. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 25(2), 177-193. doi: 10.1016/j.ecresq.2009.10.003
- Iruka, I. U.**, Burchinal, M., & Cai, K. (2010). Long-term effect of early relationships for African American children's academic and social development: An examination from kindergarten to fifth grade. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 36(2), 144-171. doi: 10.1177/0095798409353760
- Pungello, E. P., **Iruka, I. U.**, Dotterer, A. M., Mills-Koonce, R., & Reznick, J. S. (2009). The effects of socioeconomic status, race, and parenting on language development in early childhood. *Developmental Psychology*, 45(2), 544-557. doi: 10.1037/a0013917
- Iruka, I. U.** (2009). Ethnic variation in the association between family structure and practices on child outcomes at 36 months: Results from Early Head Start. *Early Education & Development*, 20(1), 148-173. doi: 10.1080/10409280802206916
- Iruka, I. U.** (2009). Parental Self-efficacy: Does it explain Head Start parent involvement? *NHSA Dialog: A Research-to-Practice Journal for the Early Intervention Field*, 11(3), 1-16. doi: 10.1080/15240750802196079
- Greenfield, D. B., **Iruka, I. U.**, & Munis, P. (2004). Assessment of social competence in high-risk preschoolers: Evaluation of the Adaptive Social Behavior Inventory (ASBI) across home and school settings. *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*, 22(3), 220-232. doi: 10.1177/073428290402200303

¹ Doctoral student

² Doctoral student

CHAPTERS

- Durden, T., & **Iruka, I. U.** (in press). Stop gap gazing: Promoting the holistic health, education and success of black children and families. In K. Gocchi Carrasco (Ed.), *Reducing Health Disparities*.
- Iruka, I. U.**, Durden, T., & Kennel, P. (2015). Changing faces: Parenting, culture, and child learning and development. *Zero to Three*, 35(4), 10-18.
- Iruka, I. U.**, Winn, D.-M., & Harradine, C. (2014). High achieving African American boys: Factors that contribute to their excellence in the early years. In J. L. Moore & C. W. Lewis (Eds.), *African American Male Students in PreK-12 Schools* (pp. 27-59). Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- Iruka, I. U.**, Mount-Cors, M F., Odom, S. L., Naom, S. F., & Van Dyke, M. (2012). Development and sustainability of high quality early childhood education programs in Zambia. In J. Sutterby (Ed.), *Early Childhood in a Global Context* (pp. 127-158). Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- Gillanders, C., **Iruka, I. U.**, Ritchie, S., & Cobb, C. (2012). Restructuring and aligning early education opportunities for cultural, language and ethnic minority children. In R. C. Pianta, W. S. Barnett, L. M. Justice, & S. M. Sheridan (Eds.), *Handbook of Early Education* (pp. 111-136). New York, NY: Guilford Publications, Inc.
- Iruka, I. U.**, & Barbarin, O. (2009). African American children's learning and development: Examining parenting, schools, and neighborhoods. In H. A. Neville, B. M. Tynes, & S. O. Utsey (Eds.), *Handbook of African American Psychology* (pp. 175-186). Thousand Oaks, CA: SGE Publications, Inc.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMITTED OR IN PROGRESS

- Gardner-Neblett, J., Holochwost, S. J., Gallagher, K. C., Pungello, E. P., **Iruka, I. U.**, & Odom, S. L. (under review). Which classroom learning activities are associated with sustained attention among infants and toddlers? *Manuscript submitted for publication*.
- Iruka, I. U.**, Bingham, G. E., Green, S., Jones Harden, B., & Esterach, J. (under review). Profiles of parenting for low-income families and links to children's school readiness. *Manuscript submitted for publication*.
- Iruka, I. U.**, Brown, D., & Jerald, J. (under review). Early Steps to School Success (ESSS): Role of home visiting for children and families facing multiple risks. *Manuscript submitted for publication*.
- Iruka, I. U.**, De Marco, A., & Garrett-Peters, P. (under review). Profiles of academic/socio-emotional competence in early childhood: Parenting, child care, and community predictors. *Manuscript submitted for publication*.
- Iruka, I. U.**, & Forry, N. D (under review). Patterns of quality in center and home-based programs: Predictors and links to children's preschool and kindergarten academic outcomes. *Manuscript submitted for publication*.

TEXTBOOKS

- Curenton, S. M., & **Iruka, I. U.** (2013). *Cultural Competence in Early Childhood Education*. San Diego, CA: Bridgepoint Education, Inc.

BOOKS

- Iruka, I. U.**, Curenton, S. M., Durden, T. (forthcoming). *African American Children in Early Childhood Education: Making the Case for Policy Investments in Families, Schools, and Communities*. Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- Iruka, I. U.**, Curenton, S. M., & Eke, W. A. (2014). *The CRAF-E⁴ Family Engagement Model: Building Practitioners' Competence to Work with Diverse Families*. San Diego, CA: Elsevier.

REPORTS/BRIEFS

- Iruka, I. U.** (in press). Parenting effects on child development. In D. Couchenour & K. Chrisman (Eds.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Contemporary Early Childhood Education*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Iruka, I. U.** (in press). Early childhood education and African American boys. In D. Couchenour & K. Chrisman (Eds.), *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Contemporary Early Childhood Education*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Weber, R. & **Iruka, I.** (2014). *Best practices in data governance and management for Early Care and Education: Supporting effective Quality Rating and Improvement Systems*. OPRE Research Brief #2014-35. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.
- Iruka, I. U.** (2013). The Black family: Re-imagining family support and engagement for children. *Being Black is Not a Risk Factor: A Strengths-Based Look at the State of the Black Child*. Washington, DC: National Black Child Development Institute.
- Iruka, I. U.** & Garcia, S. G. (2012) Quality rating and improvement systems: Considerations for children from immigrant families. *Making the Link: A Publication of Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families*, 5.
- Winn, D-M., **Iruka, I. U.**, Harradine, C., Buansi, A., McKinney, M., & Stevenson, H. (2012). *Providing opportunities to spite the obstacles. Countering the adverse conditions that undermine the success of African American boys*. A Publication of Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families.
- Forry, N. D., **Iruka, I.**, Kainz, K., Tout, K., Torquati, J., Susman-Stillman, A., Bryant, D., Starr, R., & Smith, S. (2012). *Identifying profiles of quality in home-based child care*, Issue Brief OPRE 2012-20. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Iruka, I. U.**, & De Marco, A. (2011). Quality rating and improvement systems: A social equity strategy? *Making the Link: A Publication of Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families*, 7.
- Bryant, D. B., Wesley, P., Burchinal, M. R., Sideris, J., Taylor, K., Fenson, C., & **Iruka, I. U.**, et al. (2009). *The QUINCE-PFI study: An evaluation of a promising model for child care provider training*. FPG Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Carver, P. R., & **Iruka, I. U.** (2006). *After-School Programs and Activities: 2005* (NCES 2006-076). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.
- Iruka, I. U.**, & Carver, P. (2006). *Early Childhood Program Participation in 2005* (NCES 2006-075). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.

INVITED TALKS

- Iruka, I. U.** (November 2015). *Pathways to Excellence for Black Children: Addressing Opportunity Gaps through Families*. Presentation at University of Maryland Human Development Fall Series. University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Iruka, I. U.** (November 2015). *Infant and Toddler Black Boys: Seizing Opportunities and Minimizing Risks*. Paper presented at The Psychology of Boys at Risk: Indicators from 0-5 Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Iruka, I. U.** (May 2015). *Consideration of relationships, connections, and transition for early career researchers*. Keynote for Inaugural Curriculum, Teaching, Learning, and Leadership in Education Symposium. University of Nebraska at Omaha, College of Education. Omaha, NE.
- Iruka, I. U.** (October 2014). *Pathway to Excellence for Black Children?: Critical Examination of Family Engagement*. Speaker at the Institute of African American Research, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (July 2014). *Exploring the evidence on family engagement as a bridge to student learning & success*. Speaker at the White House Symposium on Transformative Family Engagement, Washington, DC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (July 2014). *Association between TQRIS supports & improved quality: Lessons learned from Miami*. Presentation at the QRIS Conference, Denver, CO.
- Iruka, I. U.** (February 2014). *Quality early care and education system: Implications for children's school readiness*. Presentation at the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, Morrisville, NC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (February 2013). *Promising pathways for ensuring African American children's success*. Presentation at the Annual Conference on African-American Children and Families, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA.
- Iruka, I. U.** (July 2012). *Focusing on the needs of Black male infants and toddler: Building the foundation for school success*. Presentation at Children's Defense Fund National Conference, Cincinnati, OH.
- Iruka, I. U.** (April 2012). *Re-visioning early care and education for Black boys: Potential strategy for excellence and success*. Public talk at Educational Testing Services, Princeton, NJ.
- Iruka, I. U.** (February 2012). *A journey: Our children, hope for the future. Hearing the voices of children: What are they saying?* Presentation at the Inaugural Conference on African-American Children and Families, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA.
- Iruka, I. U.** (October 2011). *Solving the persistent challenge: How to promote and support diverse leadership*. Presentation at the Evelyn K. Moore Early Childhood Leadership Institute, National Black Child Development Institute Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Iruka, I. U.** (September, 2011). *SES and language development*. Seminar presentation at Speech & Pathology course, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Iruka, I. U.** (June 2011). *African American males: Early disparities*. ETS' Addressing Achievement Gap Symposium: A Strong Start: Positioning Young Black Boys for Educational Success at the National Press Club, Washington, DC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (December 2010). *Head Start Impact Study: Implication for Ready Schools*. Webinar presented to North Carolina Smart Start Directors, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (November 2010). *Early education issue forum: A framework that works - Implementing successful pre-K through third grade strategies*. NBCDI Issues Forum at the National Association for the Education of Young Children 2010 Annual Conference & Expo in collaboration with the National Black Child Development Institute, Anaheim, CA.
- Iruka, I. U.** (November 2010). *Ready Schools and preK-3: Strengthening the foundation for success*. Keynote presenter for Yadkin County Inaugural Ready Schools Conference, Yadkinville, NC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (June 2010). *Use and selection of standardized tools for child and family outcomes*. Wake County Smart Start, Raleigh, NC.

- Ritchie, S., & **Iruka, I. U.** (October 2009). *FirstSchool: A response for school change*. Evelyn K. Moore Early Childhood Leadership Institute at the National Black Child Development Institute Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Iruka, I. U.**, (May 2009). *Parenting: What is its role in children's development?* Seminar presentation at the Association of Small Foundation, Strategic Philanthropy in Early Childhood Development, Duke University, Durham, NC.
- Iruka, I. U.**, & Howard, L. (April 2009). *The achievement gap: What have we done lately?* Seminar presentation at Shaw University Department of Education & Meredith College Department of Human Environmental Science, Meredith College, NC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (March 2009). *Transition, connection, and relationship: Research in early childhood*. Seminar presentation at Institute of Education Sciences Seminar, Department of Psychology, University of Miami, FL.
- Iruka, I. U.** (February 2009). *The PAS Initiative: Promoting Academic Success for Boys of Color*. Presentation at the Early Childhood Collaboration Council.
- Iruka, I. U.** (February 2009). *Academic growth during pre-kindergarten: Do associations vary with ethnicity, gender, and income?* Seminar presentation at FPG Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Iruka, I. U.** (September 2008). *Rating of children's social skills: Examining parent-caregiver partnership and children's ethnicity*. Seminar presentation at the Carolina Seminar on Behavioral Research with Minority Populations, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Iruka, I. U.** (August 2008). *Partnering with families*. In-service staff training for Chesterfield-Marlboro EOC, Inc. Head Start. Cheraw, South Carolina.
- Winn, D., & **Iruka, I. U.** (June 2008). *Boys into men: Raising our African American teenage sons*. Invited talk at the African American Healthy Marriage Initiative: Building strong and healthy families connecting marriage research-to-practice conference, Friday Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Iruka, I. U.** (January 2007). *Home and school environment: Impact on children's achievement and behavior as mediated by learning behaviors and moderated by cumulative risks*. Seminar presentation at FPG Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Iruka, I. U.** (January 2007). *Parents and approaches to learning: What have you taught your child lately?* Seminar presentation at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Psychology.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Ray, A., Maxwell, C., **Iruka, I. U.** (October 2015). *Black Parents at the Forefront: Engagement and Empowerment in Early Education*. Presentation at the National Black Child Development Institute Annual Conference, Arlington, VA.
- Iruka, I. U.** (December 2014). *Addressing the diversity in Black boys as a potential strategy for excellence and success*. Presentation at the Race Matters: Putting Race on the Table Conference, Omaha, NE.
- Iruka, I. U.** (March 2015). *Profiles of parenting for low-income families: Findings from the Educare Implementation Study*. Paper presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Iruka, I. U.**, De Marco, A., & Garrett-Peters, P. (March 2015). *Profiles of child competence in early childhood and potential child care, parenting, and community predictors*. Paper presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

- Iruka, I. U., & Forry, N. D.** (April 2013). *Patterns of quality in center and home-based programs: Predictors and links to children's preschool and kindergarten academic outcomes*. Paper presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Seattle, WA.
- Iruka, I. U., Winn, D. C., Gardner-Neblett, N., & Matthews, J. S.** (April 2013). *Preschool to kindergarten transition patterns for African American boys*. Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Seattle, WA.
- Gardner-Neblett, N., & Iruka, I. U.** (April 2013). *Explaining the language-reading link: The role of preschool oral narrative skills*. Paper presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Seattle, WA.
- Iruka, I. U., & Stringfellow, C.** (February 2013). *Parent engagement of low-income & minority families: Guiding principles from Educare schools*. Region IV Head Start Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Iruka, I. U. & Winn, D.** (October 2012). *Promoting academic success for young boys of color: Preliminary findings*. Presentation at the National Black Child Development Institute Annual Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
- Iruka, I. U., & Stringfellow, C.** (October 2012). *Profiles of parent engagement and links to school readiness: Findings from Educare schools*. Presentation at the National Black Child Development Institute Annual Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
- Iruka, I. U., LaForett, D., & Odom, E. C.** (June 2012). *Validity of the family investment and stress models across five cultural groups: Relationship to children's school readiness*. Paper presented at the Head Start National Research Conference, Washington, DC.
- Iruka, I. U. & Dick, K.** (May 2012). *Workforce Development & T.E.A.C.H.* Presentation at the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood and Child Care WAGES 2012 National Professional Development Symposium, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Baker, C., & Iruka, I. U.** (July 2012). *Parent psychological health and the transition to kindergarten: Understanding the mediating role of home environments*. Paper presented at National Research Conference on Child & Family Programs & Policy, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA.
- Iruka, I. U.** (October 2011). *FirstSchool across the world -- preK-3rd grade in Zambia, Africa*. Presentation at the National Black Child Development Institute Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Forry, N., Iruka, I. U., Blasburg, A.** (June 2011). *Profiles of quality among early childhood practitioners: Implications for targeting professional development*. Paper presented at NAEYC Professional Development Institute, Providence, RI.
- Iruka, I. U.** (April 2011). *Predictors of early excelling African American and Latino boys' pre-academic skills: Which factors matter?* Paper presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- Iruka, I. U.** (March 2011). *Link between parent involvement and school readiness of low-income children in high quality education programs: Does parent self-efficacy matter?* Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Montreal, Canada.
- Iruka, I. U., & Sotolong, J.** (May 2009). *Raising a Reader Part II: The North Carolina Experience and Smart Start Pilot Grant Program Evaluation Approach and Initial Findings*. Presentation at the 2009 National Smart Start Conference, Greensboro, NC.
- Sotolong, J., & Iruka, I. U.** (May 2009). *The Incredible Years – BASIC Parent Program Implementation: Smart Start Pilot Grant Program Evaluation Approach and Initial Findings*. Presentation at the 2009 National Smart Start Conference, Greensboro, NC.

- Iruka, I. U.** (April 2009). *Academic growth during pre-kindergarten: Do associations vary by ethnicity, gender, and income?* Paper presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Denver, CO.
- Forry, N., & **Iruka, I. U.** (April 2009). *Extending predictors of observed quality in home-based care.* Paper presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Denver, CO.
- Dotterer, A. M., **Iruka, I. U.**, & Pungello, E. P. (April 2009). *Racial disparities in pre-academic knowledge: Examining models of family influence.* Poster presented at Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Denver, CO.
- Iruka, I. U.**, Rhodes, P., & Comer, B. (January, 2009). *Smart Start and NAP SACC – A statewide collaboration to address childhood obesity.* Presentation at the Day for Day Care Conference, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Iruka, I. U.** & Ritchie, S (October 2008). *Ready Schools promote academic success for ethnic minority boys.* Presentation at National Black Child Development Institute 2008 Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Iruka, I. U.**, Bryant, D., & Wesley, P. (August 2008). *A randomized study of the effects of on-site consultation for quality enhancement.* Paper presented at the American Psychological Association Conference, Boston, MA.
- Iruka, I. U.** (June, 2008). *Maternal self-efficacy: Does it explain school involvement?* Poster presented at Head Start's Ninth National Research Conference, Washington, DC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (June, 2008). *Ethnic variation in the association between family structures and practices on child outcomes at 36 months: Results from Early Head Start.* Poster presented at Head Start's Ninth National Research Conference, Washington, DC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (June, 2008). *Parent-provider relationship: Rating of children's socio-emotional development.* Poster presented at Head Start's Ninth National Research Conference, Washington, DC.
- Iruka, I. U.** (March, 2008). *Predicting optimal child development from parenting, school, and neighborhood process: Using a fixed effects approach.* Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting for the Emerging scholars and scholarships in education research, New York, NY.
- Iruka, I. U.** (June, 2007). *Preliminary results from a randomized study of the Partnerships for Inclusion model of on-site quality enhancement.* Poster presented at the Institute for Education Sciences Research Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Iruka, I. U.** (March, 2007). *The role of family life in the development of academic and social competence of poor children.* Discussant for poster symposium presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Boston, MA.
- Iruka, I. U.** & Burchinal, M. R. (March, 2007). *Advantage of multiple nurturing relationships for preschoolers.* Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference, Boston, MA.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2003-Present	Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
2008-Present	Society for Research in Child Development Black Caucus (SRCD-Black Caucus)
2008-Present	American Psychological Association (APA)
2008-Present	National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)
2009-2014	Black Faculty and Staff Caucus – UNC-CH
2010-Present	National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
2014-Present	American Educational Research Association (AERA)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES***Co-Editor***

2012-Present *Social Policy Report*

Consulting Editor

2015-Present *Journal of Family Psychology*

2012-Present *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*

2010-Present *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*

Ad Hoc Journal Peer Reviewer

2013-Present *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*

2012-Present *Journal of Early Intervention*

2012-Present *Education Researcher*

2011-Present *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*

2011-Present *Journal of Marriage and Family*

2011-Present *American Educational Research Journal: Teaching, Learning, and Human Development*

2011-Present *Journal of African American Studies*

2010-Present *Educational Assessment*

2010-Present *Journal of Family Issues*

2009-Present *Child Development Perspectives*

2009-Present *International Journal for Education Research*

2009-Present *Social Science Research*

2008-Present *Child Development*

2008-Present *NHSA Dialog: A Research-to-Practice Journal for Early Intervention Field*

2008-2009 *Early Childhood Research Quality*

Conference Peer Reviewer

2011 2012 Head Start National Research Conference Biennial Meeting

2010 2011 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting

2009 2010 Head Start National Research Conference Biennial Meeting

2008 2009 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting

2007 2008 Head Start National Research Conference Biennial Meeting

Grant Reviewer

2013 *Panel Chair*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation in the Administrations for Children and Families, Head Start Graduate Student Research Grant

2012-2015 *Principal Member*, U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Science, Early Intervention and Early Childhood Education Review Panel

2011-2012 *Reviewer*, U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Science, Early Intervention and Early Childhood Education Review Panel

2010 *Reviewer*, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Full-Service Community Schools

2010	<i>Reviewer</i> , U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation in the Administrations for Children and Families, Head Start Graduate Student Research Grant
2009	<i>Reviewer</i> , National Science Foundation, Developmental and Learning Sciences
2009	<i>Reviewer</i> , U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau, Child Care Scholars Grant
2009	<i>Reviewer</i> , North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., Ready Schools Technical Assistance Grant
2006	<i>Reviewer</i> , U.S. Department of Education, Parent Information Resource Center Competition

NATIONAL SERVICE

2015-Present	<i>Executive Committee Member</i> , Head Start's 13th National Research Conference, Washington, DC
2014-Present	<i>Committee Member</i> , Institute of Medicine/National Research Council Committee on Supporting Parents of Young Children
2014-Present	<i>Workgroup Member</i> , White House African American Educational Excellence Workgroup, Washington, DC
2014-Present	<i>Steering Committee Member</i> , University-Based Child and Family Policy Consortium
2014-Present	<i>Board Member</i> , Brady Education Foundation, Chapel Hill, NC
2014-Present	<i>Expert Workgroup Member</i> , Study of Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, Washington, DC
2014-Present	<i>Steering Committee Member</i> , Quality Initiatives Research and Evaluation Consortium (INQUIRE), Washington, DC
2010-Present	<i>Committee Member</i> , Quality Initiatives Research and Evaluation Consortium (INQUIRE), Washington, DC
2012-2014	<i>Co-Chair</i> , University-based Child and Family Policy Consortium, Early Childhood Initiative
2008-2013	<i>Steering Committee Member</i> , Child Care Policy Research Conference, Washington, DC

STATE AND LOCAL SERVICE

2014-Present	<i>Core Group Member</i> , NE Early Childhood Integrated Data System, Department of Education, NE
2013-2014	<i>Board Member</i> , Child Care Services Association, North Carolina
2013-2014	<i>Committee Member</i> , MDC Made in Durham Policy Working Group, Durham, NC
2013	<i>National Reviewer</i> , K-3 Assessment Think Tank, NC Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, NC
2012-2014	<i>Mayor-appointed Board Member and Youth Council Chair</i> , Durham County Workforce Development Board, Durham, North Carolina
2008-2012	<i>Board Member</i> , Durham County Workforce Development Board, Durham, North Carolina
2012-2014	<i>Board Member and Public Policy Committee Co-Chair</i> , NC Covenant

2010-2014	Scholar Panel , Global Scholar's Academy (GSA), Durham, North Carolina
2011-2012	Task Force Member , Durham's Alliance for Child Care Access (DACCA)
2011-2012	Youth Council Member , Durham County Workforce Development Board, Durham, North Carolina
2009-2014	Board Member , Institutional Review Board, 3-C Institute for Social Development
2008-2010	Committee Member , Ready School Task Force, Raleigh, North Carolina
2008-2009	Steering Committee Member , Women of Color in the Academy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2008-2010	Board Member , Durham County Women's Commission, Durham, North Carolina
2008-2009	Committee Member , North Carolina Smart Start Family Support Task Force, Raleigh, North Carolina
2005-2006	Board Member , Victims' Advisory Board, Montgomery County, Maryland

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2015	Search Committee Member , Early Childhood Education Specialist/Assistant Professor position, Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of Nebraska – Lincoln
2015-Present	Committee Member , Collaboration Initiative Steering Committee, University of Nebraska
2014-Present	Dissertation Committee Member , Chetna Seti (UNC-CH)
2014-Present	Dissertation Committee Chair , Sandra García (UNC-CH)
2012-2015	Graduate and Dissertation Committee Member , Katrina Cummings (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
2013-2015	Dissertation Committee Member , Melissa Van Dyke (University of South Florida)
2013-2014	Graduate Thesis Committee Member , Jan Eстераich (University of Nebraska - Lincoln)
2013-2014	Independent Study Advisor , Meredith Jones (UNC-CH)
2010-2014	Dissertation Committee Member , Yannic Orthodoxou (UNC-CH)
2011-2013	Dissertation Committee Member , Dari Jigjidsuren (UNC-CH)
2011-2012	Honor Thesis Committee Member , Hannah Kibort-Crocker (UNC-CH)
2010-2012	Dissertation Committee Member , Amanda Clincy (UNC-CH)
2009- 2011	Dissertation Committee Member , Cindy Bagwell (UNC-CH)
2007-2009	Board Member , Post Doctoral Association Board, North Carolina