

Elevating Nebraska's Early Childhood Workforce

Report and Recommendations
of the Nebraska Early Childhood
Workforce Commission

FOUR-YEAR UPDATE

January 2024



FOUR-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission Report and Recommendations

The Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission released its report and recommendations, [Elevating Nebraska's Early Childhood Workforce](#), on Jan. 30, 2020. Shortly thereafter, the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the closure of child care businesses and schools, exposing and exacerbating the financial instability of the early childhood workforce, and highlighting the crucial role early childhood professionals play in providing quality services for children and families across the state. Commission members and affiliated organizations worked swiftly to address the most pressing needs of Nebraska's early childhood workforce, leveraging the collaborative relationships and shared understandings that were established through the commission.

VISION. Nebraska will elevate the early childhood workforce to a priority profession benefiting all children from birth through Grade 3.

Goal 1. Nebraska's early childhood workforce will be highly qualified and will reflect the diversity of the children and families they serve.

Goal 2. Early care and education in Nebraska will be fully funded by 2030.

Goal 3. Nebraska will champion high-quality early care and education and the critical role of the workforce in young children's learning and development.

Goal 4. Nebraskans will implement the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission's recommendations to achieve a highly qualified and diverse workforce on behalf of all young children and their families.

Since then, commission members and their organizations have continued to work together to respond to new opportunities and challenges, contributing to several initiatives that support the vision and goals identified in the commission report.

These collaborative endeavors also align with the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan, which was informed by the commission's work and funded through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth through Five initiative from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The PDG renewal grant, awarded in April 2020, allocated \$8.9 million annually for three years, with contributing partners, including commission-affiliated organizations, pledging an additional \$2.7 million annually from 2020 to 2023 to implement the Strategic Plan.

This document provides updates on selected collaborative early childhood initiatives from January through December 2023, a look ahead at 2024, and an invitation to continue spreading the word about efforts to elevate Nebraska's early childhood workforce. Table 1 lists selected initiatives from 2023, grouped according to their relevance to each of the four commission goals; primary relevance to a given goal is indicated by the darkly shaded cells. Since the commission's goals are highly interrelated and complement the goals of the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan, each initiative also addresses additional goals across both statewide efforts, as shown in the table.

This publication was originally developed for a digital format. There are several resources listed that are linked only in the digital version, which can be viewed at earlyyearsmatter.org/workforce.

Table 1. Selected Collaborative Initiatives (January 2023–December 2023) That Support the Goals of the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission and the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE	GOALS IN WORKFORCE COMMISSION REPORT				GOALS IN NEBRASKA EARLY CHILDHOOD STRATEGIC PLAN			
	Highly qualified workforce	Full funding by 2030	Informed, engaged, committed public	Implementation infrastructure	Access	Quality	Collaboration	Alignment
Responsive Equitable Systems for Preparing Early Childhood Teachers (RESPECT) across Nebraska	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
LR 251 interim study on registered apprenticeship program for early childhood care and education	✓					✓		✓
Increasing access to and completion of the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential	✓				✓	✓		
Licensing Toolkit program	✓				✓	✓		
Lincoln Littles Childcare Teacher Foundations Class	✓				✓	✓		
Free professional development training for early childhood educators	✓	✓				✓		
Infant Mental Health Endorsements	✓					✓		
Rooted in Relationships	✓					✓		
Research Brief: Gap Widens for Achieving Fully Funded Early Childhood System in Nebraska		✓			✓		✓	✓
Updated funding landscape technical reports and interactive Nebraska Early Childhood Funding Map	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Early Childhood Education Business Collaboratory		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Adopt the Child Care Tax Credit Act (LB 754)		✓			✓			
We Care for Kids/ <i>Por todos los niños</i> campaign			✓				✓	
2023 Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nebraska Early Childhood Champion Awards			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Leadership Cadre	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Increasing engagement of Spanish-speaking early educators	✓			✓		✓		
Communities for Kids				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Early Childhood Policy Leadership Academy				✓		✓		
Implementation of the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)				✓			✓	✓

Updates on Selected Collaborative Initiatives by Goal

Goal 1: Nebraska's early childhood workforce will be highly qualified and will reflect the diversity of the children and families they serve.

Responsive Equitable System for Preparing Early Childhood Teachers (RESPECT) Across Nebraska. In support of Goal 1, the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska (the Institute) has worked with colleagues across the university and the state to establish collaborative partnerships among institutions of higher education engaged in early childhood teacher preparation. Five of these institutions and three core partner organizations are leading [RESPECT Across Nebraska](#), an initiative funded by a grant from the Early Educator Investment Collaborative and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund.

The RESPECT Across Nebraska initiative is designed to strengthen Nebraska's early childhood workforce by creating more inclusive, accessible, and culturally sustaining pathways to teacher preparation. The project aims to dramatically affect the structure of early childhood teacher preparation by (1) building a competency-based framework that defines common expectations for educator preparation, credentialing, and licensing across all early childhood settings; (2) collaborating with local communities to ensure the competency-based curriculum and accessible pathways are implemented in ways that are contextually grounded and culturally relevant; and (3) developing accessible pathways and support mechanisms to ensure all members of Nebraska's early childhood workforce have equitable opportunities to earn a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and teaching certification.

In 2023, the RESPECT partners held monthly meetings with a wide array of early childhood professionals and stakeholders from across the state, including professionals from family child care homes, centers, schools, Head Start programs, and institutions of higher education. Two RESPECT workgroups made significant progress this year:

- The **Competency Workgroup** reviewed the current Nebraska Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals and aligned these standards to state and national early childhood regulations and standards. The team examined common themes across the standards and ensured that the competencies cover all relevant areas, infusing equity throughout the competencies. They are being reviewed by statewide early childhood educators and other stakeholders.
- The **Apprenticeship Workgroup** began meeting in February 2023. Eight members of the workgroup attended the Early Childhood Education Pathways to Success Apprenticeship Conference in Ontario, California, in May 2023. In October 2023, the TEACH National Center began technical assistance with the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (Nebraska AEYC) and the apprenticeship workgroup to develop a statewide Registered Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship through the U.S. Department of Labor.

Legislative Resolution 251: Interim Study on Registered Apprenticeship Program for Early Childhood Education. [LR 251](#) was introduced by Senator Robert Dover in the Nebraska Legislature to further study early childhood apprenticeships. On Dec. 1, 2023, LR 251 was presented to the Legislature's Education Committee with five members of the apprenticeship workgroup testifying.

Increasing access to and completion of the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. The Buffett Institute, in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Office of Early Childhood and Nebraska Extension, received a one-year grant from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to increase access to and completion of the Child Development Associate credential via [Nebraska's CDA Pathways](#). The team works collaboratively with the Nebraska CDA Roundtable, which consists of members from DHHS, NDE, Nebraska AEYC, Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative (NECC), University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) Extension, and community colleges.

The Buffett Institute is partnering with the Nebraska Extension Early Childhood team to recruit and mentor individuals to become certified professional development (PD) specialists. These specialists are responsible for completing verification visits with CDA candidates, including reviewing documentation, observing, and having a reflective dialogue with the candidate. Funds will be used to help individuals obtain their PD specialist certification (release time, mileage, costs of materials, etc.), and participants will receive a stipend for observing and submitting paperwork for the new CDA candidates.

An integral part of the grant is a new CDA Navigator position; hired in August 2023, this individual works with the CDA Roundtable to recruit and support individuals across Nebraska who are seeking a CDA credential. The navigator serves as a central source of information about the CDA process for both individuals and organizations and helps facilitate communication with the Council for Professional Recognition.

Licensing Toolkit program. In 2023, NECC expanded its Licensing Toolkit program by creating a Train-the-Trainer program, adding partner mentors to the suite of supports available for program participants. Twelve individuals completed the 19-hour training program and now can support new, not-yet licensed programs in their local communities using the Licensing Toolkit program curriculum. These mentors all represent different sponsoring organizations and are located throughout Nebraska; three are English/Spanish bilingual. NECC staff shared the impact, innovation, and lessons learned through several state and national speaking opportunities.

Lincoln Littles Childcare Teacher Foundations Class. Lincoln Littles worked with 11 early educators in fall 2023 to complete a six-week [Childcare Teacher Foundations Class](#). This class was held in the evenings, and child care was offered to the participants. The class was created to attract more people to the workforce and help provide a smooth transition into the child care field. The free course teaches participants the basics of child care and allows them to become CPR-certified. A second cohort began in November 2023. The class was made possible by funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through the Nebraska Department of Labor.

Free early childhood training. Using child care pandemic relief funds (ARPA), the Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services are providing [free training for Nebraska's early childhood educators](#). Eight different trainings are available from June 2023 to May 31, 2024 (while funding is available).

Increase in Infant Mental Health Endorsements. The Nebraska Association for Infant Mental Health (NAIMH) joined the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health in 2022. This alliance supports

a tiered system for an Infant Mental Health Endorsement. To be eligible, individuals must demonstrate competencies, work experience, and training/education. As of November 2023, 40 individuals in Nebraska had earned the Infant Mental Health Endorsement, including eight who are early childhood educators.

Rooted in Relationships. Rooted in Relationships is an initiative of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCF) that partners with communities to implement evidence-based practices to enhance the social-emotional development of children from birth through age 8. In 2023, Rooted in Relationships supported 50 early childhood coaches and 321 center and home-based providers in 147 programs impacting over 2,971 children. Seven Rooted in Relationships community sites expanded to serve an additional cohort of child care providers for the three-year Pyramid Model implementation cycle, including expansion to three new counties.

Goal 2. Early care and education in Nebraska will be fully funded by 2030.

Research Brief: Gap Widens for Achieving Fully Funded Early Childhood System in Nebraska. In August 2023, the Buffett Institute released a new study analyzing fiscal year 2021 funding levels and estimating the gap between that funding level and the cost of providing quality early childhood care and education. The study builds on the work of the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission, which called for fully funding the state’s early childhood system by 2030. With support from Cathey Huddleston-Casas, the Buffett Institute’s associate director of workforce planning and development and the author of the new research brief, the Workforce Commission first identified the size of Nebraska’s funding gap. The gulf between what was needed to fully fund quality early care and education and what Nebraska actually funded was 51% in FY 2017. That gap grew to 57% by FY 2021.

In [Gap Widens for Achieving Fully Funded Early Childhood System in Nebraska](#), full funding is defined as the combined public- and private-sector funds needed to ensure that high-quality child care is available and accessible to all young children in the state, stabilizing enrollment for families and revenues for child care business owners. The gap between actual funding and full funding was estimated based on the National Academies’ *Consensus Study Report: Transforming the Financing of Early Care and Education*, which reported an estimate of 0.75 of 1 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was needed annually to cover the total cost of quality early care and education. When the economy grows, what is needed to support the total cost of quality early care and education grows as well. Nebraska’s GDP grew from \$114.1 billion in FY 2017 to \$122.1 billion in FY 2021—an increase of \$8 billion. The annual total needed to fully fund early care and education in tandem with GDP growth increased by \$65.9 million between FY 2017 and FY 2021.

Nebraska Early Childhood Funding Map and updated funding landscape technical reports. In addition to the research brief, a newly launched interactive web tool maps out how Nebraska’s early care and education system is funded. The [Nebraska Early Childhood Funding Map](#) allows Nebraskans to trace the sources of state and federal early childhood funding, while providing a model for researchers and policymakers in other states who want to track and visualize early childhood spending. The map is intended to help users understand Nebraska’s public investment in early childhood care and education and to inform decision-making about funding quality care for children. The map was created by Huddleston-Casas and policy consultant Jen Goettemoeller Wendl. It accompanies two new reports they

authored, *Nebraska's Public Investment in Early Childhood Care and Education, Fiscal Year [2019](#) Technical Report* and *Fiscal Year [2021](#) Technical Report*, and includes data from FY [2017](#) as well.

Early Childhood Education Business Collaboratory. In June 2023, representatives from NECC, NCFE, DHHS, and the Buffett Institute presented the Nebraska Action Plan to the ECE Business Collaboratory. Nebraska was one of 15 states and the District of Columbia to be a part of the Collaboratory, which is an innovative national collaboration to support state, territory, and Tribal community efforts to coordinate their local child care systems. The Collaboratory, launched in 2020, offers connections, ideas, innovations, and investment and implementation strategies for communities working to strengthen their local child care systems. It is a program of [First Children's Finance](#).

Adopt the Child Care Tax Credit Act (LB 754). The Nebraska Legislature passed the Adopt the Child Care Tax Credit Act (LB 754), reinstating the School Readiness Tax Credit beginning in January 2024. Qualifications for receiving the tax credit were reduced, and credit amounts were increased. Tax credits for families with children under 5 were also awarded to help with the increasing child care costs. More information about the tax credit will be shared by NDE in 2024.

Goal 3. Nebraska will champion high-quality early care and education and the critical role of the workforce in young children's learning and development.

We Care for Kids/*Por todos los niños* campaign. In alignment with Goal 3 of the commission's report, the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan calls for a statewide effort to create awareness and shared commitment to the fact that everyone—including parents, families, early childhood providers, schools, businesses, community leaders, state agencies, elected officials, and nonprofit organizations—has a vested interest in supporting the healthy development and learning of each child.

We Care for Kids/Por todos los niños is a collaborative statewide campaign to build support for quality early childhood education for all Nebraska families and raise awareness concerning the important role of early childhood educators in ensuring that children, families, and communities thrive.

Highlights from 2023 include:

- The campaign partnered with over 100 organizations statewide. Partners include chambers of commerce, child care centers, small businesses, school districts, and more, who are all coming together to build awareness and engage with the campaign.
- In March 2023, We Care for Kids, in partnership with Nebraska Extension, released a statewide survey to better understand the perspectives of Nebraskans and learn where child care and early learning fall in comparison to other issues in the state.
- The campaign sponsored a table at the Nebraska State Fair, reaching more than 312,000 people. We Care for Kids-branded Safe Kids ID bracelets were distributed to more than 6,000 children during the fair.
- Sept. 25–Oct. 1 marked the second annual We Care for Kids week, which included a formal proclamation signing by Gov. Jim Pillen, declaring Sept. 30 as We Care for Kids Day.
- The first *Por todos los niños* Spanish-language virtual and tele-town hall was held during Hispanic Heritage Month and attracted more than 3,000 Spanish-speaking Nebraskans. Panelists discussed

topics surrounding early childhood education, access to child care, and the importance of early educators.

- The Nebraska Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America awarded We Care for Kids its 2023 Community Service Award. This prestigious award is based on external nominations and recognizes an organization that has made significant contributions to the common good of the community.

The Buffett Institute coordinates the campaign in association with external communications and media firms, and organizations from across the state are campaign partners. The campaign includes a comprehensive evaluation being conducted by UNMC's College of Public Health designed to inform subsequent phases of the campaign. All efforts are being documented so that our experience in Nebraska will be useful to others. Funding for the campaign is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Preschool Development Grant, which is administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the Holland Foundation and the Buffett Institute.

2023 Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference. Since its inception in 2018, the Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference has emphasized partnerships, elevated local voices, and provided much-needed time and space for community leaders from across Nebraska to collaborate and learn from each other, share success stories, and offer solutions to common challenges such as workforce retention and child care shortages. The sixth annual conference, held in September 2023, attracted more than 450 civic, business, education, health care, and government leaders from more than 100 Nebraska communities, six other states, and the District of Columbia.

Each year of the conference, a second day of learning has been offered in partnership with Communities for Kids, an initiative of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. In 2023, more than 200 community leaders participated in this "Day Two" experience, focusing more intensively on community-driven strategies for improving early childhood in their communities.

Nebraska Early Childhood Champion Awards. The Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative and the We Care for Kids/*Por todos los niños* campaign launched the Early Childhood Champions Awards to highlight the importance of the early childhood workforce. Every month for a year, from October 2022 through September 2023, two winners were selected from a pool of early childhood professionals nominated by their communities. Each winner received a \$1,000 gift and a plaque to honor their commitment to excellence and service to their communities. Winners are featured on the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative website (see the [Early Childhood Champions page](#)).

Goal 4. Nebraskans will implement the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission's recommendations to achieve a highly qualified and diverse workforce on behalf of all young children and their families.

Authentic engagement of Nebraska's early childhood workforce. From the beginning, commission members emphasized the importance of authentically engaging members of Nebraska's early childhood workforce. This engagement empowers early childhood professionals to participate in the change

process and design solutions based on their lived experiences. Examples of this work include the following:

- **Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Leadership Cadre.** The first cohort of the [Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Leadership Cadre](#) is in its second year, and all 26 members remain active. The group meets in person for a day and a half each quarter, in communities across the state. Members also connect in small groups and independently with the group’s facilitators. Each cadre member has identified an impact project to address and solve an early childhood need in the community where they live. Over the next year, members will design, prototype, implement, and evaluate their impact projects. Cadre members are learning about early childhood systems and leading change through action.

The Institute’s role in convening the cadre is to provide the supports, resources, and coordination necessary to help cadre members engage with one another in ongoing professional learning that elevates their teaching skills and increases their capacity to create change at the systems level in the communities where they work and live. This approach is informed by research on collective impact, human-centered design, and design thinking. Members of the cadre play a central role in designing meeting agendas and cadre activities, with facilitation and support provided by the Institute. Current issues facing the early childhood workforce, such as limited staffing and funding, also inform both meeting content and processes.

- **Increasing engagement of Spanish-speaking early educators.** Engagement with the state’s Spanish-speaking early childhood workforce gained momentum in the past year. The [Center for Rural Affairs](#) hosted a one-day conference entirely in Spanish for early educators in Grand Island. This was a collaborative effort of 16 organizations and partners, many of whom were involved in the commission. The conference was designed to help Spanish-speaking providers develop their own home-based business. Attendees received educational hours toward their child care licenses.

Authentic engagement within and across communities. Commission members also prioritized the engagement of people and organizations in communities across the state, recognizing the important role that community members play in leveraging local resources to address early care and education needs. Examples of community-engaged initiatives in 2023 include the following:

- **Communities for Kids.** In 2023, 16 additional communities across Nebraska engaged in [Communities for Kids](#), an initiative of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation that awards funds to increase child care capacity at the community level. Nebraska’s Early Childhood Community Coordinators collaborate with stakeholders in communities to build sustainable early childhood systems that leverage community strengths and meet their needs. Embedded in the communities in which they work, the coordinators work with local stakeholders—including early childhood providers, families, and community leaders—to build partnerships and coordinate resources, planning, and support at the local, regional, and state levels.

- **Early Childhood Policy Leadership Academy.** The fifth cohort of the [Early Childhood Policy Leadership Academy](#) led by First Five Nebraska was launched with 26 leaders from child care, public schools, and the public health workforce. The yearlong academy helps individuals develop skills and knowledge to lead change in their communities. Since the first cohort, 125 individuals from 35 communities have been a part of the academy.

Infrastructure improvements. The commission also called for developing and implementing the statewide infrastructure needed to help policymakers and stakeholders make informed decisions about early childhood care and education. Key pieces of this developing infrastructure include the following:

- **Implementation of the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan.** In August 2023, the revised Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan was submitted to the Nebraska Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council. This plan was revised based on the input of more than 300 residents, including early childhood educators, parents, and community members who participated in Strategic Planning for Equitable Access to Quality early care and education in Nebraska (SPEAQ Up! Nebraska) events. To encourage open and meaningful discussions about participants’ concerns and suggestions for change, these events were hosted by facilitators based in each community. The SPEAQ Up! Nebraska events intentionally reached out to and captured more voices from diverse communities across the state than were reflected in the 2020 plan—including people living in rural areas, people of color, families of children with disabilities, Spanish-speakers, and more. Over 50 events were held in person and over Zoom across the state, providing valuable input to make the Strategic Plan one that is by and for Nebraskans.
- **Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).** The [Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System](#), or ECIDS (pronounced “e-kids”), represents a collaboration between state agencies, providers, organizations, and communities to collect, connect, integrate, and report information about the early childhood population and programs across Nebraska. In 2023, the initial version of Nebraska’s ECIDS was deployed internally as a Minimum Viable Product to demonstrate the capability of using data from partner organizations to address questions that can inform decision-making related to policies and program improvement. In the coming years, ECIDS’s capacity will be expanded to utilize data from more data sources to support other program improvement, research, and planning efforts by early childhood collaborators across the state.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2023, commission members and the organizations they represent made significant progress in implementing the commission’s recommendations and elevating Nebraska’s early childhood workforce. In 2024, several foundational implementation initiatives will continue and grow:

- The RESPECT team will continue collaborative efforts to transform the structure of early childhood teacher preparation in Nebraska.

- The Nebraska Early Childhood Funding Map will provide policymakers and other stakeholders with the data they need to make informed decisions about the allocation and distribution of investments in Nebraska’s early childhood care and education system.
- Nebraska will continue to champion high-quality early care and education and the critical role of the workforce in young children’s learning and development through the statewide We Care for Kids/*Por todos los niños* campaign.
- The 2024 Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference will bring Nebraskans together to collaborate and learn from each other.
- Members of the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Leadership Cadre will implement projects designed to make systems-level changes in the communities where they work and live.
- The development of the Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) will continue.
- Early Childhood Community Coordinators will continue collaborating with stakeholders to build sustainable early childhood systems that are responsive to the unique strengths and needs of communities across the state.

Help Spread the Word

This update presents just a snapshot of what is happening now and a small glimpse of what is yet to come in this growing effort to elevate the early childhood workforce in Nebraska. Going forward, commission members are invited to help spread the word and shine the spotlight on authentic partnerships that contribute to elevating the state’s early childhood workforce.

You can help spread the word in several ways, including the following:

- Follow the [Buffett Institute](#) on social media for implementation updates and share with your networks.
- Continue to share copies of the commission’s report, *Elevating Nebraska’s Early Childhood Workforce*, when presenting or communicating with stakeholders. If you need hard copies sent to you, please reach out to beci@nebraska.edu. A virtual copy and supporting materials can be found [here](#).
- Track current legislation on [First Five Nebraska’s webpage](#) and [contact your state senator’s office](#) to show your support.
- Read the Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan to learn more about the overarching vision to provide all Nebraska children and their families with access to quality early childhood care and education and other essential services that support children’s healthy development from birth through age 8.
- Save the date for the 2024 Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference, to be held on Sept. 17 in Kearney. Join community leaders, including those in education, economic development, child care, business, government, health care, higher education, and philanthropy, for a day of learning on key research, program, policy, and outreach aspects of high-quality early childhood education programs and services and their important role in economic development.
- Share stories about your work. The Buffett Institute seeks input from commission members about ongoing partnerships and collaborations that contribute to elevating the workforce, as well as ideas about new partnerships that may be needed. To see your work highlighted in future updates, please

send a brief summary (150 words or less) to [Holly Hickson at the Buffett Institute](#). Please also include links to any relevant publications, events, or opportunities to get involved.

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