

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT SAMUEL J. MEISELS

“Sam was Erikson’s longest-serving president, leading our school from 2002 until 2013. Under his guidance, Erikson grew in a number of exciting ways. During Sam’s tenure, Erikson launched the Fussy Baby Network, Early Math Collaborative, Distance Learning, the Herr Research Center, Center for Children and Families, and the Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center. These new and creative endeavors are a testament to Sam’s vision and ability to bring diverse stakeholders together to help Erikson achieve new heights.”

-Mariana Souto-Manning, President, Erikson Institute

“Dr. Meisels has been a tremendous teacher and collaborator with constituents throughout the state. He has advised educational leaders who represented urban, suburban, and rural districts—each grappling with unique challenges. Sam modeled the ability to listen to each person, to establish respect and trust, and to bring experience and expertise that helped guide district goals and outcomes. Sam’s leadership has helped transform the lives of young children and families in our state.”

-Nancy Edick, Dean, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, University of Nebraska at Omaha

“Sam is iconic: a veritable legend in his time! Who else has done so much? Who else is adored by so many? Who else has created assessments, written seminal books, founded prestigious organizations, led academic departments and colleges, chaired national committees, and all this while being a wonderfully delightful human being, exceptional husband and father, and loyal, caring friend? Few are blessed to have accomplished so much, so often, and with such warmth and grace. An incomparable national treasure!! A legend for the ages!!!”

-Sharon Lynn Kagan, Buffett Institute Board of Advisors, Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Early Childhood and Family Policy, Teachers College, Columbia University, and Adjunct Professor, Child Study Center, Yale University

“Dr. Sam Meisels has a tremendous vision for Nebraska—the best place to be a baby or young child. I love this vision, and it continues to inspire me and others to make it happen. Sam is happy, kind, caring, funny, smart, and collaborative. It is a pleasure to work with him and to learn from him. I thank him for inspiring and shepherding a state to develop a positive future for young children. Thank you, Sam! Happy retirement!”

-Sherri Jones, Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of Nebraska—Lincoln

“Samuel Meisels is a scholar, innovator, and organizer who is changing the lives of young children in Nebraska as a model for improving the lives of young children everywhere. His long history of pioneering and broadening educational practices has changed our view of how best to benefit children and their families.”

-Arnold Sameroff, Buffett Institute Board of Advisors, Emeritus Professor of Psychology and Emeritus Research Professor, Center for Human Growth and Development, University of Michigan

“I vividly remember how excited the search committee was when Sam applied to be the Founding Director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute; and how even more excited everyone was that he was selected. Because of his esteemed national reputation in the early childhood field combined with his known passion for every child having strong beginnings, he brought instant credibility to the new Institute. After leading the Buffett Institute for 10 years, he has built a strong operation with smart, dedicated professionals who share his commitment to excellence. He has made the Institute unique and nationally recognized, evidenced by the attraction of major early childhood leaders to become his successor. What an amazing accomplishment! Thank you, Sam, for setting the Buffett Institute up for continued success and impact in the future.”

-Jessie Rasmussen, President, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

“When the Buffett Early Childhood Institute was barely a dream, I got advice from the leading experts in the country. I spent the day in Chicago at the Erikson Institute to learn what I could from its renowned president, Sam Meisels. At the end of the day, Sam asked if there was anything else he could do for us. I said there was; he could agree to be the inaugural head of the Institute. I’m pretty sure he laughed at me. And then he said no, of course. A year later, when Susie’s gift had established an institute with transformational goals and support, I called Sam back. This time he said yes. And that has made all the difference. Sam was exactly the right leader at the right time to bring our dream to reality, and I have always been deeply grateful.”

-J.B. Milliken, Chancellor, University of Texas System, former president, University of Nebraska System

“Knowing and working with Sam has been an honor. The swath he has cut as academician, advocate, and leader seems to have no boundaries. I have experienced many times the reverence expressed by individuals in Sam’s field. He has been blessed to have many influential chapters in his life in different settings with varied purposes, but in all of those situations, he has, I have no doubt, made the world a better place for all people—especially those in their early years.”

-Mark Reid, Dean, College of Education, University of Nebraska at Kearney