Leveraging Workforce Investment Strategies to
Improve the Early Care and Education Workforce
Mesa, AZ

Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West
860 North Riverview Mesa, AZ 85295
Canyon Ballroom

AGENDA

February 23, 2016

7:45-8:30 Registration, Breakfast, and Networking

8:30-9:00 Welcome and Overview of the Learning Lab’s Purpose and Agenda

9:00-10:15 Opening Plenary: Advancing the Early Childhood Profession and Implications for Policymaking in States

Presenters:
- Rhian Evans Allvin, Executive Director, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Marcy Whitebook, Director, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at the University of California, Berkeley

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:00 State Team Time #1: Identifying State Priorities
States will discuss and identify up to three key policy areas their state faces regarding the early care and education workforce. States will use these key areas to ground their team’s goals and focus for the Learning Lab.

11:00-11:45 Plenary: Workforce Investment 101

Presenters:
- Marjorie Cohen, Senior Policy Analyst, Education Division, NGA Center
- Mike Bartlett, Policy Analyst, Workforce Program, NGA Center
This plenary will provide information on strategies and resources employed in the workforce development sector. The presenters will address common terminology and approaches in workforce development. In addition, the presenters will provide information on federal and state legislation and resources that are applicable to the early care and education workforce.

11:45-12:45
Lunch

12:45-1:30
Panel: State Practitioner Perspectives on Workforce Development

Moderator:
- Mike Bartlett, Policy Analyst, Workforce Program, NGA Center

Panelists:
- Catherine Moga Bryant, North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions
- Melissa Aguilar, Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
- Stephanie Veck, Colorado Workforce Development Council

Building on the earlier plenary, this panel will bring together leading practitioners with extensive experience with workforce issues. The panelists will provide specific examples of successful workforce development partnerships.

1:30-2:00
State Team Time #2: Fostering Collaboration between Workforce and ECE Policy Makers

States will have time to discuss where they might deepen or create partnerships between the ECE and workforce sectors.

2:00-3:15
Plenary: Opportunities in WIOA and CCDBG Reauthorization for ECE Workforce Development

Presenters:
- Bryan Wilson, State Policy Director, National Skills Coalition
- Sarah LeMoine, Director, Early Childhood Workforce Innovations, Zero to Three

Participants will discuss opportunities and challenges presented by the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to advance the knowledge and skills of the early care and education (ECE) workforce. Presenters will provide an overview and specific examples of intersections between WIOA and CCDBG. State participants will share ECE workforce development related sections and approaches in their draft state WIOA and CCDBG plans, and explore strategies to further leverage synergies.

3:15-3:30
Break
3:30-4:30 **State Team Time #3: Addressing Challenges and Leveraging Strengths**

States will have an opportunity to reflect on the day and begin to move forward on identifying next steps for moving forward ECE workforce challenges.

4:30-6:00 Reception

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**February 24, 2016**

8:00-8:30 Breakfast and Welcome Back

8:30-9:15 **State Team Time #4: Exchanging Ideas on Leveraging Workforce Investments**

Participants will have the opportunity to work with peers across states in similar roles to address how they can move forward on ECE workforce issues in their state. Participants will utilize information from day one to dig deeper into their own responsibility in moving work within their own state.

9:15-9:30 Transition to Breakout Session

9:30-10:30 **Breakout Session #1**

- **Session 1: The Role of Apprenticeships in Improving the Early Care and Education Workforce** – *Canyon F*
  Moderators: Syritha Robinson, Policy Analyst, NGA Center  
  Sarah Silverman, Program Director, NGA Center
  Panelists:
  - Randi Wolfe, Coordinator, Training Center Project at Service Employees International Union (SEIU) California
  - Jan Walker, Director of Statewide Systems, Vermont Child Development Division
  Participants will discuss Los Angeles County and Vermont’s ongoing efforts to build and improve the quality of the ECE workforce using the apprenticeship model. Presenters will share information about the development, components of the models, and share insights on how to use partnerships to develop and sustain apprenticeship models.

- **Session 2: Improving the Degrees and Credentials of the Current ECE Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities** – *Canyon G*
  Moderators: Sara Mickelson, Policy Analyst, NGA Center  
  Marjorie Cohen, Senior Policy Analyst, NGA Center
  Panelists:
  - Margie McNabb, Professional Development Specialist, Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division
- Gail Joseph, Assistant Professor, University of Washington
Participants will discuss challenges and opportunities in supporting the current early care and education workforce in continuing or attaining degrees. Experts will discuss how states can support those currently working in the field to attain an associate’s or bachelor’s degree to help further their knowledge and skills as educators and ultimately improve child outcomes. Presenters will discuss the policy environments, financial incentives, program structures, and other supports necessary to ensure successful degree attainment.

- **Session 3: Supporting Career Pathways** – *Canyon H*
  Moderators: Aaliyah Samuel, Senior Policy Analyst, NGA Center
  Mike Bartlett, Policy Analyst, NGA Center
  Panelists:
  - Sue Russell, Executive Director, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood National Center
  - Ginger Sandweg, Senior Director of Early Learning, Arizona First Things First

  The session will start with Sue Russell from T.E.A.C.H providing an overview of career pathways for ECE. Ginger Sandweg from First Things First in Arizona will elaborate the strategies and resources states have employed to support multiple career pathways for ECE. This will include a discussion on professional development registries, competencies for ECE, and other topics.

10:30-10:45 Transition to Breakout Session

10:45-11:45 **Breakout Session #2** – *See Session Descriptions and Locations Above*

11:45-12:30 **State Team Time #5: Final Team Reflections** – *Lunch Will Be Provided*

  States will have a final opportunity to synthesize the knowledge they’ve gained during the Learning Lab by identifying lessons learned and action items for their team to complete after the meeting.

12:30-1:00 **What’s Next and Adjournment**

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