



**The National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials
Educational Fund**

presents

NALEO Education Leadership Initiative

*7th Annual Summit on the
State of Latino Education*

*Special Session on Early Learning:
Promoting Healthy Child Development
and School Readiness*

September 26, 2011

Washington, D.C.

Speaker Biographies

Session I: The Science of Child Development: Implications for School Readiness

Hon. Lucy Flores

Assemblymember
Nevada State Legislature
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Assemblymember Flores represents the 28th assembly district of Nevada. She is a member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, and Latin Chamber of Commerce. She has received various awards such as: Excellence in Legal Clinics Award, Boyd School of Law, UNLV; Dean's Award, Boyd School of Law, UNLV; Hubbard Award; Mexican American Alumni Association; and the USC Unruh Institute of Politics award. She has a Bachelor's from the University of Southern California and Juris Doctorate from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Mr. Matthew Melmed, JD

ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families
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Mr. Matthew Melmed is the Executive Director of ZERO TO THREE. Since 1995, he has guided the growth of the organization's activities to help enhance early social emotional development through promotion, prevention and treatment strategies in both public and private systems and programs. Under his leadership, ZERO TO THREE launched a number of major initiatives including: The Early Head Start National Resource Center, The National Infant Toddler Child Care Initiative, The Center for Training Services, The ZERO TO THREE Press, Coming Together Around Military Families, Court Teams for Maltreated Infants and Toddlers, The ZERO TO THREE Policy Center, and The ZERO TO THREE Leaders for the 21st Century Fellowship. In addition, Mr. Melmed has initiated national parental awareness campaigns and forged strong partnerships with corporate and nonprofit partners. Mr. Melmed and ZERO TO THREE were recently awarded the prestigious Sonya Bemporad Award by the World Association of Infant Mental Health. This award is given in recognition of significant contributions to the advancement of social and public policies that contribute to the mental health and overall benefit of infants, toddlers, and their families. Prior, Mr. Melmed served for 13 years as Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services. Mr. Melmed is currently serving as the first elected Chair of the Children's Leadership Council, a coalition of 44 leading national policy and advocacy organizations working together to improve the health, education and well-being of children and youth. He also chairs the Board of the Food Research and Action Center, the nation's leading domestic anti-hunger policy organization, serves as vice-chair on the Board of Generations United and has been a Director on such Boards as Rob Reiner's *I Am Your Child Foundation*. Mr. Melmed is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harpur College, where he graduated with the highest honors. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from the Faculty of Law and Jurisprudence at S.U.N.Y. Buffalo.

Dr. Ellen Frede

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Dr. Ellen Frede is Senior Vice-President of Early Learning, Research and Training at Acelero Learning. Prior to joining Acelero Learning, she was Co-Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University. At Rutgers she primarily investigated the relationship of program quality to educational child outcomes, the longitudinal effects of preschool, and early education policy. Her current research includes a longitudinal investigation of the effects of preschool on participants' achievement at age 11, a study comparing bilingual staffing patterns for bilingual preschoolers, ethnography of cultural and other adaptations in a parent child education program, and a National Science Foundation-funded project that investigates the effects of increasing math and science instruction on bilingual children. Dr. Frede also served as Assistant to the Commissioner for Early Childhood Education at the New Jersey Department of Education. Her office oversaw the implementation of high-quality preschool in more than 150 school districts, serving 50,000 children and their families with a budget of over half a billion dollars annually. In addition, she has served as an editor on the review boards of national journals and as a consultant to local agencies, state governments, the OECD, national governments and the World Bank. She recently co-edited with Eugene Garcia the volume, *Young English Language Learners: Current Research and Emerging Directions for Practice and Policy* (Teachers College Press, 2010).

Session II: Policy that Promotes Healthy Child Development for Latinos

Hon. Louis Ruiz

State Representative
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The Honorable Louis Ruiz is currently serving his first term as a state representative for the 32nd District in the Kansas House of Representatives. In 2003, he retired from Lucent Technologies after 30 years of service to that company and its corporate predecessors. During his time in the corporate sector, he was elected a union representative for Local 6395 of the Communication Workers of America. Additionally, he was selected by corporate management to organize and lead a local HISPANIC chapter to assist in the career advancement and leadership skills of Latino employees. At this time, he has two volunteer appointments to the Board of Commissioners for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. As a Human Relations Commissioner, Representative Ruiz is engaged in efforts to mitigate hate crimes and intimidation, efficiently resolve neighbor disputes, enhance operation of county governmental entities, and improve the performance of HUD programs. Concurrently, as a member of the Community Task Force, he is actively involved in improving community-government relations. In addition to serving as a member of the Board for the United Way of Wyandotte County, Representative Ruiz has demonstrated his commitment to his community through his support of public broadcasting. He previously served 10 years as president of the KCPT Channel 19 Community Advisory Board. Presently, he has been appointed to the KCPT Board of Directors where he chairs the KCPT Legislative Committee. Over the years, he has served two terms as vice president of the National Friends of Public Broadcasting organization. His awards include: the 2003 Campfire USA United Way Volunteer of the Year Award; the 2002 Del Corazon Award; and the 1998 APTS Grassroots Advocacy Award from America's Public Television Stations.

Ms. Hannah Matthews

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Ms. Hannah Matthews is a Senior Policy Analyst on the Child Care and Early Education team at CLASP. Her expertise is in the areas of child care subsidies, children of immigrants and early education, and Title I preschool. She has contributed to several publications on the child care subsidy system and its importance for low-income families. Ms. Matthews works on CLASP's "Breaking Down Barriers" project, which works to improve access to high-quality early care and education for immigrant families. For the project, she co-authored the publication, *The Challenges of Change: Learning from the Child Care and Early Education Experiences of Immigrant Families*. Ms. Matthews has also contributed to several publications on the use of Title I funds for early education. Prior to CLASP, Ms. Matthews held research assistant positions at the National Assembly of Health and Human Service Organizations, the Levitan Center for Social Policy Studies, and Voices for America's Children. She also worked at Human Rights Watch. She earned a master's degree in Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree from The George Washington University.