

ECPC Cross Cohort Leadership Institute

September 17-20, 2017 | Avon, CT

Presenter Profiles



MARY BETH BRUDER, Ph.D.

Director, Early Childhood Personnel Center

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Mary Beth Bruder has been in the early childhood intervention field since 1976. She began her career as an early childhood intervention public school teacher in VT. She then received her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in Developmental Disabilities in 1983. She currently directs the University of Connecticut A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service. Since 1986, Dr. Bruder has been at the University Of CT School Of Medicine where she is a professor in Community Medicine and Health Promotion, Pediatrics and Educational Psychology. Dr. Bruder has directed over 75 federal and state grants and contracts, and is on the editorial board of several peer reviewed journals in disabilities. She is the editor of *Infants and Young Children*. She is on the board of the International Society of Early Intervention and is the co-chair of the early childhood special interest group for the AUCD. Dr. Bruder is a recognized leader in the early childhood intervention and is also the parent of children with disabilities.



CARL J DUNST, Ph.D.

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Carl J. Dunst is Senior Research Scientist at the Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute in Asheville and Morganton, North Carolina. His research and practice spans more than 40 years and includes early intervention, early childhood special education, family and social support, and family-centered practices. His primary areas of interest include evidence-based child, parent-child, and family intervention practices, meta-analyses and research syntheses of child, parent, parent-child, and family practices, and research on in-service professional development and adult learning methods and strategies.



BETH CARON, Ph.D.

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Beth Caron, Ph.D., has 25 years' experience in early learning and early childhood special education. She has federal and local program experience, including research, university teaching, and home- and center-based direct service delivery. Dr. Caron supported programs for young children and their families at the US Department of Education, including OSEP. In her current role at AEM Corp., Dr. Caron directs and manages the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Technical Assistance contract.

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DEBORAH ZIEGLER, Ed.D.

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Deborah Ziegler, Ed.D. is the Director for Policy and Advocacy and Professional Standards at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), one of the world's premier education organizations. She has broad public policy experience at the international, national, state, and local levels. Dr. Ziegler works to further the overall goals of CEC through improving policies affecting exceptional children and youth and the professionals who work with them, at all levels of government. In her position, she is responsible for providing leadership and direction for the association's public policy agenda, including policy development, implementation, and analysis; information collection and dissemination; and maintaining a grassroots network of Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) Coordinators. She works closely with the White House, the United States Congress, and the Federal Agencies including the U.S. Department of Education to advocate for policies that guarantee a free appropriate public education for children and youth with disabilities and gifts and talents.

Dr. Ziegler serves on the board of and works with several international disability organizations, whose focus is the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She is the recent editor of *Inclusion for ALL: The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, a publication of the IDEA program of the Open Society Institute.

Dr. Ziegler has worked since 1994 in providing technical assistance and training on behalf of the Open Society Institute and other nongovernmental/governmental organizations in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East to assist programs in implementing policies and practices in early childhood education and inclusive education for children with disabilities.

Dr. Ziegler has worked as a special education teacher, special education administrator and faculty at the university level. She has consulted widely and written extensively in the policy arena.

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KATHLEEN HEBBELER, Ph.D.

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Kathleen Hebbeler, Ph.D., has more than 30 years of experience in research and evaluation of education, health, and social programs for children and adolescents. She has extensive experience in longitudinal research, having worked on six longitudinal studies. She has directed large-scale projects involving quantitative and qualitative methods. Hebbeler has directed evaluations for federal and state agencies and private foundations. She also has provided technical assistance and conducted training for a variety of different audiences on such topics as evaluation design, data analysis, and using data for program improvement, with a special focus on identification and measurement of child and family outcomes. Along with many other projects, Dr. Hebbeler currently directs the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy), a technical assistance center that works with state early intervention and early childhood state agencies to have and use high-quality data.



VICKI STAYTON, Ph.D.

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Vicki Stayton, Ph.D. is a Professor in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) in the School of Teacher Education at Western Kentucky University and teaches in the blended Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education (EC/ECSE) programs. Vicki has directed numerous state and federal grants specific to preservice education and professional development. She has been active in both state and national initiatives having served as a Past-President of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), as chair of DEC's Personnel Preparation Committee, and co-chair of the personnel preparation strand for DEC's recommended practices. She has served on CEC, NAEYC, and state committees specific to personnel standards and accreditation and is now DEC's representative to CEC's Knowledge and Skills Subcommittee.

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TOBY LONG, Ph.D.

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Toby Long is Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Georgetown University, Training Director of the Center for Child and Human Development, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and Director of the Graduate Certificate Program in Early Intervention. Dr. Long is also the director of the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development for the District of Columbia's early intervention program, Strong Start. She is Professor of Physical Therapy at the Krannert Graduate School of Physical Therapy, University of Indianapolis, and Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. Dr. Long is an internationally known speaker and consultant on service delivery to children with disabilities and special health care needs. She is the author of *The Handbook of Pediatric Physical Therapy, Second Edition*. Dr. Long was recently named a Catherine Worthingham Fellow from the American Physical Therapy Association.



MAUREEN GREER

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Maureen Greer is the owner and principal of Emerald Consulting, founded in 2001, specializing in perinatal and early childhood finance, policy, and integrated systems. Prior to establishing Emerald Consulting, Maureen spent eight years as the Part C Coordinator in Indiana. In that position, she was responsible for a major redesign of the early intervention system including the establishment of central financing, development of a universal application process and the establishment of independent service coordination. Prior to this position, Maureen spent five years at Indiana University directing the training and technical assistance project for early intervention serving families, providers and the health care/medical community. Maureen currently serves as the Executive Director of the IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA). Maureen also provides consulting services to the Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC), the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI), the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) and the Center for Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy). Maureen has received numerous awards and commendations for her contributions and accomplishments at the state and national level to improve the lives of families and their very young children and the communities in which they live.

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DARLA GUNDLER

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Darla Gundler holds the positions of Director, Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project and staffs the Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council at the Department of Public Health. Darla joined the ECPC team to encourage family engagement at all levels. She is involved in advocacy at both the state and the national level to encourage parent leadership development at all levels, and utilization and access to online resources to become better informed.



DAVID MERVES, MBA, C.A.S.

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David Merves, MBA, C.A.S. is a Senior Evaluator and EEC Director of Operations. He holds an MBA in Operations Research/Statistics. He also completed the Claremont Graduate University Certificate of Advance Study Program in Evaluation. Mr. Merves participates in project methodology selection, logic model development, data collection, analysis and reporting.

David has a special interest in the use of technology to share evaluative data/information and improved reporting. He is a member of OSEP's State Personnel Development Grants Technology Professional Learning Community. He has presented at the Eastern Evaluation Research Society, American Evaluation Association Annual Meeting, and numerous OSEP sponsored activities. His extensive business background includes statistics, survey development-implementation-analysis, professional development and utilization of technology for project implementation and reporting.