



State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Commission on Children

## A Connecticut Summit on the Early Years

### About Our Speakers

#### George Coleman

George A. Coleman was named deputy commissioner of education by the State Board of Education on May 2, 2007, after serving as interim commissioner of education from August 14, 2006, through April 13, 2007. Mr. Coleman, who had previously served as associate commissioner of the Division of Teaching and Learning Programs and Services since 1998, joined the Department of Education in 1987 as an education consultant in kindergarten and the primary grades. He served as chief of the Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction and of the Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services before becoming associate commissioner. He earned a bachelor of science degree in history from the Tuskegee Institute graduate degrees in early childhood education and curriculum and instruction from Teacher's College at Columbia University. He has authored a number of publications on early childhood development.

#### House Speaker James A. Amann

James A. Amann has been speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives since 2005. He has been the state representative for the 118<sup>th</sup> District, in Milford, since 1990. As leader of the House, he has been instrumental in the passage of autism, organ donor, and stem cell research legislation. Also during his tenure as a state lawmaker, he has spearheaded health care legislation that has improved breast cancer and prostate cancer coverage, eliminated "drive through" mastectomies, reformed managed care, created stricter child car safety seat requirements, and improved kidney screening. He also has been a leader in the state's effort to provide Connecticut's needy elderly and children with drug prescription coverage under the ConnPACE and HUSKY programs. Prior to his election to the House, Speaker Amann he served as a member of the Milford Board of Aldermen from 1983 to 1990 and was a member of the local chapter of Young Democrats.

#### Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro

Rosa DeLauro is serving her ninth term representing Connecticut's 3rd District, which includes New Haven. She sits on the influential House Appropriations and Budget Committees and serves as chairwoman of the Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Subcommittee. In 1999, she was elected assistant to the Democratic leader by her colleagues, making her the second-highest-ranking Democratic woman in the House of Representatives. She was re-elected to this position in 2000. She has served as co-chair of the House Steering and Policy Committee since 2002. Congresswoman DeLauro's record includes spearheading initiatives in Washington and Connecticut to meet the challenges facing parents and children. She has championed legislation that would make child care more affordable and has worked to improve public education by reducing class size and modernizing public schools. In 1999, she established

“Rosa's Readers,” a program designed to increase interest in reading outside the formal classroom environment. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Marymount College and a masters degree in international politics from Columbia University. She also has studied at the London School of Economics.

#### Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi has represented California's 8th District – which includes most of San Francisco – in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1987. She became the first woman to lead a major party in Congress when House Democrats elected her as their leader in 2002, and she became the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House in January 2007. She touts a record of increasing educational opportunity, protecting workers, and promoting health care, including women's health and the creation of a nationwide health tracking network to examine the links between environmental pollutants and chronic disease. She has been a strong proponent of increased investments in health research and has secured funding to double the budget for the National Institutes of Health. Speaker Pelosi graduated from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. in 1962.

#### Governor M. Jodi Rell

M. Jodi Rell began her first full term as Connecticut's governor in January 2007, culminating more than two decades of public service, including nine years as lieutenant governor and many years as a state representative from Brookfield. She is the state's first female Republican governor. Among her accomplishments as governor, she lists making unprecedented investments – more than any other Connecticut governor – in innovative early childhood programs and education cost sharing (ECS) grants for cities and towns. As lieutenant governor, she launched an unprecedented effort to guarantee that Connecticut's schools and libraries have access to the best possible technology and that students are “cyber-ready” by the sixth grade. Her work resulted in the creation of the Connecticut Education Network, the nation's first all-optical network.

#### Dr. Neal Halfon

Neal Halfon is director of the Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities at the University of California in Los Angeles. He also directs the Child and Family Health Program at the UCLA School of Public Health and the National Center for Infant and Early Childhood Health Policy. Dr. Halfon also teaches pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, community health sciences at the UCLA School of Public Health, and public policy at the UCLA School of Public Affairs. He is a consultant to the Health Program at RAND and served as a domestic policy and health care advisor to former Vice President Al Gore, providing guidance in 1998 and 1999 on the development of several new initiatives focused on family-centered community building. He continues to work with Gore on a recently launched initiative examining new approaches to health care reform.

#### Dr. Dalton Conley

Dalton Conley is a professor of the social sciences at New York University and chair of NYU's Sociology Department. He also holds appointments at NYU's Wagner School of Public Service, as an Adjunct Professor of Community Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and as a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). His research focuses on the determinants of economic

opportunity within and across generations. In this vein, he studies sibling differences in socioeconomic success; racial inequalities; the salience of physical appearance to economic status; the measurement of class; and how health and biology affect (and are affected by) social position. His books include "Being Black, Living in the Red: Race, Wealth and Social Policy in America," "Honky," "The Starting Gate: Birth Weight and Life Chances," and "The Pecking Order: Which Siblings Succeed and Why."

#### Dr. T. Berry Brazelton

T. Berry Brazelton has been described as "America's most celebrated and influential baby doctor since Benjamin Spock." Major hospitals throughout the world use his Brazelton Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS), while many parents know him as the host of the cable television program, "What Every Baby Knows." He has written more than 200 scholarly papers and 24 books.

Dr. Brazelton graduated from Princeton in 1940 and in 1943 from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, where he accepted a medical internship at Roosevelt Hospital. He completed his medical residency in Boston at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) before undertaking pediatric training at Children's Hospital. He entered private practice in 1950, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His interest in child development led to training in child psychiatry at MGH and the James Jackson Putnam Children's Center. He subsequently served as a fellow with Professor Jerome Bruner at the Center for Cognitive Studies at Harvard University. In 1972, he combined his interests in primary care pediatrics and child psychiatry by establishing the Child Development Unit, a pediatric training and research center at Children's Hospital in Boston. Since 1988, he has been Clinical Professor of Pediatrics Emeritus at Harvard Medical School.

#### Nina Sazer O'Connell

Nina Sazer O'Donnell, M.Ed., is director of National Strategies, Success By 6, for the United Way of America. Success By 6, or SB6, is the nation's largest network of early childhood coalitions, focused on improving school readiness through community change. In more than 350 communities or states, SB6 coalitions are changing the way things work so young children can come to school ready to succeed. Ms. O'Connell has a diverse background in early childhood policy and practice, philanthropy, communications, community mobilization, early childhood system building, and public engagement and outreach at the local, state and national levels. At the United Way, she also has helped to create and provides technical assistance to Born Learning partners and is helping the United Way deepen collaboration with national partner organizations and initiatives.

#### Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba

Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, MPH. is the research and policy director of the Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program (C-SNAP) at the Boston University School of Public Health/Boston Medical Center. Led by a national network of pediatricians and public health researchers, C-SNAP collects data and produces original, timely research to inform policy decisions that prevent child hunger and promote children's health. Ms. Ettinger de Cuba has worked in the nutrition field of public health for the past 10 years. She worked in hunger and health advocacy for Project Bread – The Walk For Hunger and was project evaluator for an innovative U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded

food stamp outreach and policy project to develop an online food stamp application for Massachusetts.

Dr. Laura Justice

Laura Justice, PhD., is a clinical speech-language pathologist and applied researcher in early childhood language and literacy development, communication disorders, and educational interventions. She directs the Preschool Language and Literacy Lab in the University of Virginia's Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning. She also is a faculty member in the McGuffey Reading Center in the Curry School of Education, teaching a course in reading disabilities and early literacy development. Dr. Justice's research activities have been supported by grants from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the International Reading Association, the National Institutes of Health, and the U. S. Department of Education. Her research on early language and literacy has received awards from the International Reading Association, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and the Council for Exceptional Children. Dr. Justice is currently the principal investigator of three randomized clinical trials supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences. They focus on preschool literacy and language acquisition.

Michael Petro

Michael J. Petro is vice president and director of business and government policy as well as chief of staff at the Committee for Economic Development, a Washington, D.C.-based, nonpartisan organization of business and education leaders dedicated to policy research on the major economic and social issues of our time and the implementation of its recommendations by the public and private sectors. Mr. Petro is responsible for connecting CED's policy projects and activities to the business community, government officials, and members of the media. In recent years, Mr. Petro has helped build new constituencies around such issues as campaign finance reform, trade and globalization, K-12 education reform, and early childhood education. Prior to joining CED, Mr. Petro served as vice president for the Center for National Policy.

Curtis O. Law

Curtis Law is executive director of the Norwalk Housing Authority, where he has been instrumental in improving the lives of tenants and in developing new public housing communities. He also has worked to provide education opportunities – especially young residents, through after-school programs at their 5-Learning Centers and through the development of a Reading Library in collaboration with other local agencies. Mr. Law received a B.S. in business administration from Franklin University in 1969 and a master's degree in city planning from Ohio State University in 1971.

Dr. Edward Zigler

Edward Zigler, Sterling professor of psychology emeritus at Yale University, is the former head of the Psychology Section of the Child Study Center at Yale's School of Medicine and founder of the Center in Child Development and Social Policy. The Center has been renamed in his honor and is now known as The Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy. He is the founder of the School of the 21st Century, which has been adopted by more than 1,300 schools nationwide. Dr. Zigler regularly testifies as an expert witness before congressional committees and has served as a consultant to a number of cabinet-rank officers. He was one of the planners of Project Head Start and President Carter later named him chair of the 15th anniversary analysis committee.

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