

**2010 Annual Conference
Learning Laboratories for Early Learning & Education System Change**

May 24-26, 2010

Hyatt Regency Tamaya
1300 Tuyuna Trail
Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico 87004
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**“Partnerships to Transform Learning and Education through
Community Involvement, Institutional Change, and
Early Childhood Development”**

In communities and states across the country, concern continues to grow that all children are not being given the opportunity to realize their full potential. As a result, the nation’s social and economic future continues to be jeopardized. Leadership and innovation in four key locations around the country provide opportunities for some bold investments aimed at reversing the trajectory and life opportunities for all children.

2010 Annual Conference

Learning Laboratories for Early Learning & Education System Change

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Convene Learning Labs site teams to advance early learning programmatic innovations, systems change, and policy development.
- Advance racial equity as a priority Learning Labs objective.

CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK:

Policy Development

What are the Learning Labs early childhood learning and care policy targets in each state? How do we pursue those and measure progress? What are the barriers to success?

Systems Change

How (and in what ways) are the Learning Labs initiatives helping (social sector, educational, early learning, higher education, health, et al) systems to operate differently? What benefits and outcomes are we seeing from systems change efforts?

Programmatic Innovation

What are the innovative programmatic approaches that Learning Labs initiatives are pioneering on the frontlines of schools, early learning centers, and communities?

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

Site Directors

Nina Auerbach and Brenda Blasingame – Washington; Ana Sejeck and Donald Pemberton – Florida; Hugh Dunn, Tammi Oyadomari-Chun, and Elisabeth Chun – Hawaii; Rhea Williams-Bishop – Mississippi

WKCF Staff

Greg Taylor, Valorie Johnson, Jenefer O'Dell, Cindy Monaweck, Robin Flees

Consultants

Hospitality Team – Laura Harris, Ron Looking Elk Martinez, Stephine Poston

Lastinger Center for Learning – Donald Pemberton, Jeffrey Dow, Pedro Bermudez, Phil Poekert, Magdalena Castaneda, Tanetha Grosland, Alyson Adams

Makaha Studios – Ric Gresia, Sam Kapoi, Keoni Fernandez, Liberty Peralta, Wendy Suite, Dee Bailey, Chad Brown, Nick Smith, Solomon Alfapada, Ed-recco Eli, Bill Evangelista, Nicki Manivanh, Darcie Scharfenstein, Alexi Drosu

Ka Homua Momona International – Noelani Lee Yamashita

OSTA Associates – Kathleen Osta

Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools (BayCES) – LaShawn Route Chatmon, Victor Cary, Hugh Vasquez

Learning Labs Community Agreements

- **Show up (or choose to be present)**
- **Pay attention (to heart and meaning)**
- **Tell the truth (without blame or judgment)**
- **Be open to outcome (not attached to outcome)**

Sunday, May 23, 2010

Throughout Day	Participants arrive.
Lunch/Dinner	Participants will be on own for meals. Some hotel restaurants are closed Sunday evening; the Rio Grande Lounge is open and In-Room Dining is available. The Prairie Star restaurant, a few minutes away, is open 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (see hotel front desk or bell stand for shuttle arrangements); and the Casino Buffet, also a few minutes away, is open 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Brunch is \$13.95 and dinner is \$12.95 (see hotel front desk or bell stand for shuttle arrangements).

Monday, May 24, 2010

Throughout Day	Participants arrive.
Lunch	Participants will be on own for lunch. The Rio Grande Lounge and Santa Ana Café are open and In-Room Dining is available. The Prairie Star restaurant and the Casino Buffet, both just a few minutes away, are also open (see hotel front desk or bell stand for shuttle arrangements).
3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Registration and Check-in (outside of Tamaya Ballroom EFGH)
4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Site Team Meetings I Puma A: Florida Teams (Facilitators: Phil Poekert and Tanetha Grosland) Puma B: New Mexico Team (Facilitator: Alyson Adams) Hawk A: Mississippi Team (Facilitator: Jeffrey Dow) Hawk B: Washington Team (Facilitator: Magdalena Castaneda) Hawk C: Hawaii Team (Facilitator: Pedro Bermudez)
5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Reception (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Makaha Studios Video and Gallery Presentation (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Donald Pemberton, Director, University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning Darcie Scharfenstein, Communication Lead, Makaha Studios Keoni Fernandez, Lead Director, Makaha Studios Nick Smith, Creative Director, Makaha Studios A video and gallery presentation of the tools, resources, support, and services available to Learning Labs site teams.
6:30 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.	Welcome to New Mexico and Native Blessing (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Stephine Poston, President and CEO, Poston & Associates LLC Governor Mark Mitchell, Tesuque Pueblo Tribe

6:40 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.	Dinner Buffet (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH)
7:10 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.	Welcome to Third Annual Learning Labs Conference (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Rhea Williams-Bishop, Director/Early Education, MS Center for Education Innovation
Monday, May 24, 2010, continued	
7:15 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.	Opening Remarks (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Laura Harris, Executive Director, Americans for Indian Opportunity

7:25 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Introduction and Welcome of Keynote Speaker (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Ana Sejeck, COO/Project Dir., Ready Schools Miami & The Early Childhood Initiative Fndn. LaDonna Harris, President, Americans for Indian Opportunity
7:30 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.	Keynote Address: "Strengthening the Conversation on Racial Equity and Structural Barriers for Good Outcomes for Children" Greg Taylor, Vice President of Programs, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
7:50 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Remarks by WKKF Board Trustee (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Hanmin Liu, Trustee, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Tabletop Conversations and Q&A (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Learn from Speaker Protocol Facilitator: Pedro Bermudez, Lastinger Center for Learning A 10-minute tabletop conversation to surface insight, followed by a 10-15 minute Q&A with keynote speaker, Greg Taylor.
8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Learning Expedition Sign-up (outside of Tamaya Ballroom EFGH)

Tuesday, May 25, 2010	
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH)
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Site Team Updates (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Jenefer O'Dell, Program Manager, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Nina Auerbach, Site Director, Washington Hugh Dunn, Site Director, Hawaii Donald Pemberton, Florida Ana Sejeck, Florida Rhea Williams-Bishop, Mississippi Learning Labs' site directors describe their team's composition, successes, challenges, and equity stance.
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Learning Expedition Logistics and Directions (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Cindy Monaweck, Program Specialist, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
10:00 a.m.	Board Buses and Depart for Learning Expeditions (circle drive at front entrance)

Tuesday, May 25, 2010, continued

Learning Expedition 1

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Limited to 25 Participants

Pueblo of Acoma

Host: Ms. Vina Leno, Program Director, Acoma Language Retention Program

Host: Dr. Christine Simms, Asst. Professor; Dept. of Language, Literacy & Sociocultural Studies

Welcome: Governor Chandler Sanchez

The Pueblo of Acoma provides quality early childhood programs while incorporating the Keres language and Acoma culture. The Pueblo sits upon a 367 foot high sandstone mesa and is the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in North America. Both the Mission San Esteban del Rey (1629) and the Pueblo are Registered National Historical Landmarks.

Acoma has a long history of supporting and implementing some of the earliest Head Start programs. Through a grant, Acoma is in the midst of planning a language nest targeted for early childhood. This Keres/English bilingual program is an excellent example of weaving modern early childhood education into an Acoma culture-based initiative. A planning advisory committee for the language nest initiative is representative of the community including two parents, tribal council, and an oral history teacher.

Learning Labs participants can expect to learn about the importance of the Keresan language to the early childhood programs. Members of the Pueblo's planning advisory committee will help host by providing an overview of the early childhood language program and answer any questions participants may have.

Participants will also tour the Pueblo on the mesa which will provide insight into why language and culture preservation is essential to this community.

NOTE: This group will not arrive back at the hotel until close to 5:00 p.m.

Learning Expedition 2

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Limited to 25 Participants

Pueblo of Jemez

Host/Welcome: Mr. Kevin Shendo, Director of Education

Host: Governor Joshua Madalena

The Pueblo's mission is to continue strengthening, respecting, and encouraging their traditional language and culture while building on the unique talents of each individual to develop well-educated, knowledgeable, healthy, and competent leaders for a stronger and healthier community.

The Pueblo's education department provides various services and opportunities for all students in the Pueblo of Jemez community. These programs are intended to expand and increase the educational levels of the students. The education department provides the necessary resources to insure individual and community success. The Jemez education department has early childhood programs, a community library, a higher education center, and the Walatowa High Charter School.

Learning Labs participants will learn more about how the Jemez Pueblo education department is incorporating core cultural values into all aspects of this unique multi-generational program.

Tuesday, May 25, 2010, continued

Learning Expedition 3
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Limited to 20 Participants

THINK New Mexico

Host/Welcome: Mr. Fred Nathan, Executive Director

THINK New Mexico is a results-oriented think tank whose mission is to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans, especially those who lack a strong voice in the political process. They fulfill their mission by educating the public, media, and policymakers about some of the most serious problems facing New Mexico, and by developing and advocating for effective, comprehensive, sustainable solutions to those problems.

Their approach is to perform and publish sound, nonpartisan, independent research. Unlike many think tanks, THINK New Mexico does not subscribe to any particular ideology. Instead, because New Mexico is at or near the bottom of so many national rankings, their focus is to promote workable solutions.

THINK New Mexico is best known for successful initiatives that have resulted in landmark laws making full-day kindergarten available to every child in New Mexico; repealing the state's regressive tax on groceries and defeating attempts to reimpose it; creating a strategic water reserve to protect and restore New Mexico's rivers; establishing New Mexico's first state-supported Individual Development Accounts; redirecting millions of dollars a year out of the state lottery's excessive operating costs and into full-tuition college scholarships; and reforming title insurance to lower closing costs for homebuyers and homeowners who refinance their mortgages.

Meeting at New Mexico's Roundhouse, Learning Lab participants will join in on a lively exchange of ideas on early childhood education policy and learn more about the types of policies being introduced in New Mexico.

Panelists include:

Claire Dudley

Child & Youth Policy Advisor, Office of Lt. Governor Diane D. Denish

Secretary Dorian Dodson

Children, Youth and Families Department, and Member of the Children's Cabinet

Fred Nathan

Executive Director, THINK New Mexico

Participants will also have an opportunity to tour the Roundhouse and get a quick peek of the City of Santa Fe's popular plaza, rich in history and culture.

Tuesday, May 25, 2010, continued

Learning Expedition 4
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Limited to 20 Participants

PB&J Family Services, Inc.

Host/Welcome: Ms. Susannah Burke, Executive Director

Founded in 1972 as Peanut Butter & Jelly Therapeutic Preschool, PB&J pioneered the use of interactive parenting and bonding programs as an effective way to prevent child abuse and neglect, and as a way to preserve the family unit. PB&J believes that through intensive therapeutic counseling, support, parenting education, early intervention and prevention, and case management services, seriously challenged families can learn the skills necessary to survive and thrive, helping to build the foundation for parents to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children. In the past 30 years, PB&J Family Services has become a respected, nationally-accredited agency with two permanent sites and over 90 employees, serving tens of thousands of children and families throughout Central New Mexico.

Today, they operate an ambitious range of programs dedicated to helping at-risk children within their families. They are committed to responding to the needs of children, birth to age five, and their parents with a focus on hands-on parenting, and developmental and behavioral issues. At PB&J's main center in Albuquerque's South Valley, there are three therapeutic classrooms. Both of the Peanut Butter & Jelly Therapeutic Preschools are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and are PB&J's largest programs in terms of the number of clients served annually.

PB&J's other programs include a Home-Based Program for families usually geographically isolated or unable to maintain a consistent and successful relationship with helping agencies. The focus is on families with children birth to age six, particularly new mothers who need help with parenting skills, focusing on bonding and attachment. The Supported Living Program serves families in which at least one parent has a developmental disability and/or a mental illness. PB&J works with families on parenting support and life skills as well as providing therapeutic home-based intervention. The Time Limited Reunification Program is under contract with the State of New Mexico's Children, Youth, and Families Department to work with families in which a child has been removed from the home by the State because of abuse or neglect. The goal of this program is to develop a safe, permanent environment for children within their families. PB&J provides intensive, therapeutic home-based intervention to increase the life skills and parenting skills of the parents. Services are offered in Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia counties. PB&J is also implementing several programs for families with an incarcerated parent.

Participants will see firsthand how this multi-faceted program interweaves the lessons learned from one program into another and how the organization has evolved over the years to remain on the cutting edge for early childhood programs while carrying out powerful advocacy work and policy change.

Tuesday, May 25, 2010, continued

<p>Learning Expedition 5 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Limited to 20 Participants</p>	<p>Cuidando los Niños Host/Welcome: Dr. Jaime Tamez, Executive Director</p> <p>Cuidando los Niños is a high-quality early childhood education and parent support for families who are experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Nationally-accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and state licensed with a five-star rating from the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department, Cuidando los Niños provides a year-round program for 52 children, ages 6 weeks to five years. Cuidando los Niños also closely collaborates with City of Albuquerque Early Head Start using the EHS Performance Standards as well as NAEYC Standards as criteria throughout their program.</p> <p>Learning Lab participants will learn about the unique challenges of being a homeless family and some of the successful methods for providing support and assistance to homeless families. They will tour three classrooms (infant, toddler, and preschool), playgrounds, a therapy room, a parent education room, and a health clinic.</p> <p>Participants will receive information on the status of child homelessness, nationally and locally, and its impact on young children as well as information on the comprehensive family services model developed and implemented by Cuidando los Niños which includes the child curriculum, family action plan, family support services, and their system of formal collaborations with other agencies.</p>
<p>Learning Expedition 6 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Limited to 15 Participants</p>	<p>Wemagination Center Host: Lois Vermilya, Director, Family Development Program UNM Host: Diana Montoya, Program Manager</p> <p>University of New Mexico’s Family Development Program’s Wemagination Center was established in 1997 to serve as an educational resource that promotes best practices in child development and advocacy for children’s learning through play.</p> <p>During this site visit, participants will have an opportunity for a hands-on experience using high quality, recycled materials to deepen their understanding of how play is foundational for early learning in core academic competencies as well as social and emotional development. Play is a process that is shared by people of all ages and cultural and ethnic backgrounds, yet it is often undervalued in schools.</p> <p>The Wemagination Center offers an opportunity to level the playing field for all children. Disadvantaged children often enter school behind their middle-class peers and tend to have fewer tools at home and fewer opportunities for enrichment outside of the classroom.</p> <p>Through a discussion, participants will explore how play helps us to see our differences as well as similarities, and how that understanding can make our life richer. Participants will also have an opportunity for a deeper conversation regarding racial and cultural experiences that children bring naturally when they play.</p>
<p>4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Return to Hotel - Debrief and Reflection on Bus Facilitated by Learning Lab facilitation team. Followed by free time before dinner.</p>
<p>6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Dinner Buffet (Tamaya Ballroom EGH)</p>

Tuesday, May 25, 2010, continued

6:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.	Introduction of Dinner Entertainment (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Stephine Poston, President and CEO, Poston & Associates LLC
6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	<p>Native Roots Native Roots was formed in 1997 by musician John L. Williams (Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux) and lyricist/vocalist Emmett "Shkeme" Garcia (Santa Ana Pueblo) to reach out with a message of pride, unity, and respect among all nations through the universal language of music. This dynamic and award winning combination has produced three CD's that have propelled Native Roots into the Native American and Reggae music scene as the premier Native American Reggae band whose music is 100% Native American written, produced, and performed.</p> <p>Native Roots contributes their solid reggae foundation to the influence it has had on Native American communities. Native Roots is a natural extension of growing up living and loving reggae music. John Williams' extensive musical background in working with different styles of music has allowed him to incorporate various elements into the music without compromising the essential reggae feel. In addition, "Shkeme's" singing style reflects not only a variety of reggae styles, but years of experience singing both traditional pueblo and pow wow music. The blending Native influences such as traditional drums, rattles, chants, language, and flute, with a variety of reggae styles including ragamuffin, one drop, rockers, and dancehall, makes Native Roots music unique. Lyrical themes include the importance of traditional languages and culture, spirituality, respect for elders, the sacredness of youth and love.</p> <p>Native Roots has played at an array of venues over the years, some of which include Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City; Sundance Film Festival; Bob Marley Music Festival in Phoenix; Native Roots and Rhythm Festival in Santa Fe; Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque; Cherokee Tribal Fair in North Carolina; Seminole Tribal Fair in Florida; Havasupai Peach Festival in the Grand Canyon; and the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. Native Roots was honored to be a part of a cultural exchange and performance series in New Zealand in 2006. Additionally, Native Roots has worked with popular reggae bands such as Israel Vibration, Burning Spear, Toots and the Maytals, and Fully Fulwood as well as Native artists such as Robert Maribal, Keith Secola, and Indigenous.</p>
7 :30 p.m.	Inspiration for Wednesday (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Liz Chun, Executive Director, Good Beginnings Alliance

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH)
8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.	Good Morning and Welcome Back (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Hugh Dunn, Director of Early Learning Programs, Hawaii P-20
8:35 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	Conference Evaluation (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Noelani Yee Yamashita, Executive Director, Ka Honua Momona International

Wednesday, May 26, 2010, continued

8:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<p>New Mexico Panel Discussion (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Embedding Culture, Equity, and Community in Early Education Moderator/Facilitator – Kathleen Osta, Senior Partner, OSTA Associates</p> <p>Opening statements from each panelist, followed by tabletop group discussions, and ending with a 30-minute Q&A with the panel.</p> <p>Panelists include:</p> <p>Baji Rankin Executive Director, New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children</p> <p>Everett W. Hill Executive Director, New Mexico Forum for Youth in Community</p> <p>Eric Griego Executive Director, New Mexico Voices for Children State Senator, District 14</p> <p>Laura Harris Executive Director, Americans for Indian Opportunity</p>
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<p>Site Team Meetings II</p> <p>Bear A: Hawaii Team (Facilitator: Pedro Bermudez) Bear B: Mississippi Team (Facilitator: Jeffrey Dow) Eagle A: Washington Team (Facilitator: Magdalena Castaneda) Eagle B: Florida Teams (Facilitators: Phil Poekert and Tanetha Grosland) Hawk A: New Mexico Team (Facilitator: Alyson Adams)</p>
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch (Tamaya Veranda)
1:15 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	<p>Announcement of Consultancy Sessions (Tamaya Veranda) Pedro Bermudez, Lastinger Center for Learning</p>
1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Break
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<p>Consultancy Sessions</p> <p>Bear A: Hawaii Team (Facilitator: Pedro Bermudez) Bear B: Mississippi Team (Facilitator: Jeffrey Dow) Eagle A: Washington Team (Facilitator: Magdalena Castaneda) Eagle B: Florida Teams (Facilitators: Phil Poekert and Tanetha Grosland) Hawk A: New Mexico Team (Facilitator: Alyson Adams)</p> <p>Site teams share a dilemma for success tied to their actual work.</p>
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<p>Site Team Meetings III</p> <p>Bear A: Hawaii Team (Facilitator: Pedro Bermudez) Bear B: Mississippi Team (Facilitator: Jeffrey Dow) Eagle A: Washington Team (Facilitator: Magdalena Castandea) Eagle B: Florida Teams (Facilitators: Phil Poekert and Tanetha Grosland) Hawk A: New Mexico Team (Facilitator: Alyson Adams)</p>
Wednesday, May 26, 2010	
5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	<p>Conference Closing (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Greg Taylor, Vice President for Programs, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Valorie Johnson, Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Jenefer O'Dell, Program Manager, W.K. Kellogg Foundation</p>
5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<p>Announcements: Evaluation Forms and Dinner Activities (Tamaya Ballroom EFGH) Noelani Yee Yamashita, Executive Director, Ka Honua Momona International Cindy Monaweck, Program Specialist, W.K. Kellogg Foundation</p>
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	<p>Horseback Riding and Carriage Rides (Tamaya Veranda and grounds)</p>
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<p>Southwest BBQ (Tamaya Veranda)</p>
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	<p>Mariachi San Jose (Tamaya Veranda) Mariachi San José was established in December 2000. The program started with 25 students at East San José elementary school. By the fall of 2001, more students wanted to attend the mariachi program, so the administration of East San José elementary decided that a new group would be begin every school year. With the help of fund raising and the students' performances, they maintained the cost of three instructors, (one guitar and guitarron, one violin, and one trumpet) at the elementary level.</p> <p>In 2003 the original group, known as Group #1, started middle school. At this time, the administration at Washington middle school accepted the program. However, funding was an issue. The Mariachi San José was able to raise funds and do performances to meet the added expenses. By 2004, Group #2 was at Albuquerque High School and the Mariachi program had grown to four groups. Currently, there are three performing groups, (one at East San José, one at Washington middle school, and one at Albuquerque High School). The success of these groups is due largely to the support of each of the schools.</p> <p>Today, there are over 100 students in the program. They have placed 1st and 2nd place in the high school, middle school, and elementary school divisions of the Mariachi Spectacular competition every year since the program began.</p>
8:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.	<p>Cowboy Singer (Tamaya Veranda fire pit)</p>
8:45 p.m. - TBD	<p>Native American Storyteller (Tamaya Veranda fire pit)</p>