



Investing in the Early Educator Workforce

A CGLR Funder to Funder Conversation
with Buffett Early Childhood Fund and the Foundation for Child Development

July 28, 2020 | 12:30-2 pm ET/9:30-11 am PT

Presenter & Respondent Bios

PRESENTERS



Jacqueline Jones
President and CEO
Foundation for Child Development
@fcdusorg

Jacqueline Jones has been a teacher, researcher, and policymaker. Currently, she is the President and CEO of the Foundation for Child Development. During the first term of the Obama administration, Dr. Jones served as Senior Advisor on Early Learning to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and as the country's first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning in the US Department of Education. Prior to federal service she was the Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Early Childhood Education in the New Jersey State Department of Education, with responsibility for New Jersey's Abbott Preschool Program, with an annual budget of approximately \$550 million. For over 15 years Dr. Jones served as a Senior Research Scientist at the Educational Testing Service in Princeton where she and her colleagues explored appropriate assessment of young children in the areas of science and literacy. Dr. Jones has been a Visiting Associate Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and early in her career was a faculty member at Lehman College.

She has served as a member of the National Academy of Science's consensus committees that produced *Early Childhood Assessment: Why, What and How* and *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation*. Dr. Jones attended Hunter College and earned both a masters and PhD from Northwestern University.



Jessie Rasmussen
President
Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Jessie has been with the Buffett Early Childhood Fund for 13 years, serving first as the Vice President for four years and then as President since 2011. Jessie leads the Buffett Early Childhood Fund is promoting the opportunity for children facing the greatest odds in life to have quality experiences in the first five years of life. Investments are made in Nebraska and nationally in three key areas- practice, policy and knowledge development. Across her professional career, Jessie has been an early childhood practitioner, Nebraska State Senator, Director of the Governor’s Office of Children and Family Policy, Director of Health and Human Services in Nebraska, Director of Human Services in Iowa, and Director of Early Childhood Policy at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

RESPONDENTS



Naila Bolus
President and CEO
Jumpstart
@Jumpstartkids
@NailaBolus

Naila Bolus is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Jumpstart, a national early education organization that provides language, literacy and social-emotional programming for preschool children from underserved communities and promotes quality early learning for all children. Naila joined Jumpstart in October 2011 with more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector. During her tenure, Jumpstart has significantly expanded its scale and impact: increasing the number of children served annually by 68%, revising its curriculum to improve academic and social-emotional outcomes for children, and developing new programming to increase the number of high-quality early educators and influence the adoption of policies that promote equitable early education opportunities. Naila has focused on diversifying Jumpstart’s funding base and increasing brand visibility and has worked in partnership with an expanded board of directors to strengthen Jumpstart’s national reputation as a thought leader in the early childhood field.

Before Jumpstart, Naila served as Executive Director of Ploughshares Fund, the largest grant-making foundation in the United States dedicated exclusively to security and peace funding. She has also served as co-director of 20/20 Vision, a grassroots organization that sought to promote democracy through helping members communicate with national decision makers, and helped found the Women Legislators’ Lobby and served as the organization’s political director, successfully recruiting one third of female state legislators to lobby for environmental protection, human services, and peace.

Naila graduated from Tufts University in 1987 with a degree in International Relations and now lives in her home state of Massachusetts with her husband and three daughters.



Martine Sadarangani Gordon

Vice President of Programs
Washington Area Women's Foundation
@TheWomensFndtn

Martine is Vice President of Programs at Washington Area Women's Foundation where she leads the development and implementation of the organization's grantmaking and other programmatic strategies, including facilitating the Women's Foundation's Early Care and Education Funders Collaborative. Martine has over a decade of experience in government and nonprofit administration, strategic planning, and program design and implementation. She holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Connecticut and a bachelor's degree in history with a concentration in journalism from the University of Delaware. She is a proud District of Columbia resident where she lives with her husband and two daughters.



Erica Mitchell

Chief Community Impact Officer
United Way of Greater Nashville
@UWNashville

Erica Mitchell is the Chief Community Impact Officer for United Way of Metropolitan Nashville. In her role she is responsible for overseeing grant making processes, cultivating collaborative partnerships and stewarding collective impact initiatives including the Blueprint for Early Childhood Success, an early literacy initiative. She is a native East Tennessean, growing up in the Knoxville area and has lived in Nashville for more than 20 years. Erica holds a bachelor degree in Business Management from North Carolina State University and an M.P.P. from Vanderbilt's Peabody College of Education and Human Development. Her passion is working to accomplish transformational life outcomes for those who have the odds stacked against them. Erica is a wife and mother of three who in her spare time, enjoys volunteering, cooking, and "planting stuff" in her family garden.