

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

HOW CHILDCARE AND EARLY EDUCATION IMPACTS MISSISSIPPI'S STATE ECONOMY

THURSDAY | MARCH 17, 2022 | MS TRADE MART

SPEAKERS



Jeana Ross

Early Childhood Education Consultant, Former Secretary of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

Jeana Ross is an Early Childhood Education Consultant and Former Secretary of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE). Throughout her career Jeana Ross has created, developed, directed, and evaluated programs that have positively impacted Alabama children from birth through graduation. Ross has 28 years of public school and state government experience in Alabama with much of her time devoted to establishing quality early childhood programs. Ross's work earned the ADECE national recognition for more than doubling the state's voluntary high-quality Pre-K programming and made Alabama one of four states to meet all 10 requirements for the National Institute of Early Education Research's quality benchmarks.



Kuna Tavalin

Senior Early Childhood Advisor, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Kuna Tavalin has 18 years of experience in public affairs, advocacy and strategic planning in the early childhood, education and human services arenas. Kuna focuses on federal policy encompassing appropriations and education policy from birth through higher education and professional development. She began her career in the U.S. Senate where she worked for five years covering issues that ranged from education, early childhood education, and poverty to housing, transportation, and judiciary issues. Kuna holds a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University and a master's degree from Smith College.



Dr. Art Rolnik

Senior Fellow at Humphrey School of Public Affairs, The University of Minnesota

Arthur J. Rolnik is an Adjunct Professor of Economics at the University of Minnesota. He previously served at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis as a senior vice president and director of research and as an associate economist with the Federal Open Market Committee. Rolnik works to advance multidisciplinary research on child development and social policy. His essays on public policy issues have gained national attention, and his work on early childhood development has garnered numerous awards, including those from the George Lucas Educational Foundation the Minnesota Department of Health, both in 2007, and he was named 2005 Minnesotan of the Year by Minnesota Monthly magazine.

MODERATORS AND PANELISTS



Lloyd Gray

Exec. Director, Phil Hardin Foundation



Dr. Carla Evers

Superintendent, Pass Christian School District, CFM Board Member



Dr. Jill Dent

Early Childhood Director, MS Dept. of Education



Sarah 'Izzy' Pellegrine

Co-Owner, Elucidata



Scott Waller

President and CEO, MS Economic Council



Amy Brandenstein

Community Affairs Representative, Chevron



Mayor Toby Barker

City of Hattiesburg, Mayor



Jerome Brown

Exec. VP, The First Bank



Ms. Nadine Coleman

Founding Director, Coleman Family Center, Petal, MS



Senator Brice Wiggins

Representative District 52, Attorney



Tonya Ware

Exec. Director, MS Ready Nation



Dr. Chad Allgood

Co-Child Care Administrator, MS Dept. of Human Services



Rep. Richard Bennett

House Education Chair, District 120



Rep. Kent McCarty

District 10



Dr. Ruth Patterson

Pediatrician, UMMC



Tamara Smith

Early Childhood Director, Little Samaritan Montessori



Holly Spivey

Head Start Collaboration Director & Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Tate Reeves



Dave Dennis

President, Specialty Contractors CFM Board Chair

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UNTAPPED POTENTIAL IN MS: HOW CHILDCARE AND EARLY EDUCATION IMPACT MISSISSIPPI'S ECONOMY

AGENDA

8:30 *Registration and refreshments*

9:00 *Welcome Video*

Lloyd Gray

9:10 *Setting the Stage - From the Business Perspective*

Presented by Ms. Kuna Tavalin

9:30 *State of Mississippi Perspective*

Moderated by Dr. Carla Evers

Dr. Jill Dent, Sarah 'Izzy' Pellegrine, Scott Waller

9:50 Q&A

10:00 *Video, US Chamber of Commerce*

10:05 *Where Have We Been? Mississippi's Pre-K Collaboratives*

Moderated by Amy Brandenstein

Mayor Toby Barker, Jerome Brown, Ms. Nadine Coleman, Senator Brice Wiggins

Recognition of Pre-K Collaborative Donors by Dr. Jill Dent

10:30 *Break*

10:45 *The Alabama Story: Promoting Quality Early Care and Education Expanding Pre-K*

Presented by Ms. Jeana Ross

11:05 *Q&A with Jeana Ross*

11:10 *Video*

11:15 *Panelist Reaction to Alabama Story: Where are the Opportunities for Mississippi?*

Moderated by Tonya Ware

Dr. Chad Allgood, Representative Richard Bennett, Representative Kent McCarty, Dr. Ruth Patterson, Tamara Smith, Holly Spivey

11:45 *Panel Q&A, Lunch*

12:15 *Luncheon Keynote: Economic Impact of Investing in Quality Early Care and Education*

Presented by Dr. Art Rolnick

Introduction by Dave Dennis

12:35 *Questions and Answers*

12:45 *Closing Remarks: Role of Business and Philanthropy - Scott Waller*

1:00 *Adjourn*

Please enjoy the sunflowers throughout the room as a reminder of hope for the children and families of Ukraine.

The Children's Foundation of Mississippi is a 501(c)3 focused on improving the policies and systems that affect the well-being of children in our state. We were founded in 2019 to serve as a convener, facilitator, advocate, and catalyst for positive change. When we make sure that children and youth get off to a strong start, we're setting the stage for Mississippi to realize new possibilities. Today's young people are our tomorrow's neighbors, leaders, and workforce. By building their wellbeing, we are building a better future for our state.