



W.K. KELLOGG  
FOUNDATION

**2011 Annual Conference  
Learning Laboratories for Early Learning & Education System Change  
Leading Change for Children**

**May 23-25, 2011**

**Hyatt at Olive 8**  
1635 8th Avenue  
Seattle, Washington, 98101  
Telephone: (206) 695-1234  
Fax: (206) 676-4400

**“Building Opportunities: Leading for Equity”**

**The most devastating factor contributing to the lowered achievement  
of students of color is institutionalized racism!**

Pacific Educational Group, Inc.



## **2011 Annual Conference Learning Laboratories for Early Learning & Education System Change Leading Change for Children**

### **CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES**

- Convene Learning Labs site teams to advance the commitment of leading for racial equity in early childhood and education settings across the country.
- Create a forum where Learning Labs partners can share successful strategies, lessons learned, and major challenges of being strong, committed leaders for racial equity.
- Develop individual and state team commitments to taking intentional steps to eradicate racial disparities in educational systems.

### **CONFERENCE FRAMING QUESTIONS**

- How (and in what ways) are the Learning Labs sites working to address the systemic barriers to quality learning environments so that our educational systems operate differently? What benefits and outcomes are we seeing from these system change efforts?
- What are the innovative programmatic approaches that Learning Labs sites are pioneering on the frontlines of schools, early learning centers, and communities to create equitable opportunities?

### **MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS**

#### **Site Directors**

Hugh Dunn, Liz Chun – Hawaii; Nina Auerbach – Washington; Rhea Williams Bishop – Mississippi; Ana Sejeck, Donald Pemberton – Florida

#### **W.K. Kellogg Foundation Staff**

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

#### **Consultants**

**Lastinger Center for Learning** – Pedro Bermudez, Raquel Diaz, Jeffrey Dow, Donald Pemberton

**Makaha Studios LLC** – Keoni Fernandez, Ric Gresia, Sam Kapoi, Nick Smith, Wendy Suite

**National Equity Project** – Victor Cary, Lisa Lasky, Hugh Vasquez

**OSTA Associates** – Kathleen Osta

**vav amani** – Brenda Blasingame

#### **Facilitation Teams**

**Washington**—Victor Cary, Lisa Lasky

**Mississippi**- Jeff Dow, Brenda Blasingame

**Hawaii**—Kathleen Osta, Pete Bermudez

**Florida**—Raquel Diaz, Hugh Vasquez

### Community Agreements

- SHOW UP.....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 evening through Monday morning, May 22-23, 2011**

Throughout day	Participants begin to arrive.
Meals	Participants will be on their own for meals until the conference begins. There are many dining options at the hotel and in the vicinity.

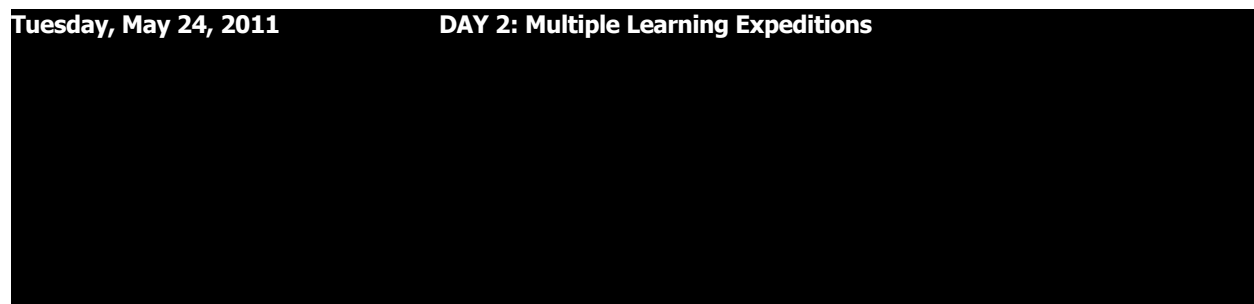
#### **Monday, May 23, 2011**

#### **DAY 1: Coming Together To Explore The Issue**

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Registration, Check-in, and Signup for Learning Expeditions</b> (outside of Ballroom DE)
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<p><b>State Team Session I</b> (Cyan A, Cyan B, Cobalt, Azure)</p> <p><b>Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review</b></p> <p>Cyan A – Hawaii (Facilitators: Kathleen Osta, Pete Bermudez)  Cyan B – Mississippi (Facilitators: Jeff Dow, Brenda Blasingame)  Cobalt – Washington (Facilitators: Victor Cary, Lisa Lasky)  Azure – Florida (Facilitators: Raquel Diaz, Hugh Vasquez)</p>
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<p><b>Michigan Cohort Orientation</b> (Ballroom DE)</p> <p>A facilitated overview of what Learning Labs is about, the focus of each state team’s work, Learning Experiences to Advance Policy and Practice (LEAP) convenings, future direction of Learning Labs, racial equity focus, possible connections and how participants might bring the learning from this conference back to their work in Michigan.</p>
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b> (outside Ballroom ABC)
4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<p><b>Welcome to 4th Annual Learning Labs Conference and Opening Remarks</b> (Ballroom ABC)  Nina Auerbach, President &amp; CEO, Washington Early Fund; and Site Director, Washington team</p> <p><b>Multi-Media Performance – Live Slam Poetry</b>  Live Slam Poetry performance by Taylor Criddle, Sterling Higa, Ke’ala Morrell, and Faith Pascua.</p> <p><b>Introduction of Keynote Speaker</b>  Nina Auerbach, President &amp; CEO, Washington Early Fund; Site Director, Washington team</p> <p><b>Keynote and Call To Action: Advancing Racial Equity in Early Education</b>  Greg Taylor, Vice President-Program Strategy, W.K. Kellogg Foundation</p> <p><b>Facilitated Q&amp;A</b>  Facilitator: Pete Bermudez, University of Florida’s Lastinger Center for Learning  Greg Taylor, Vice President-Program Strategy, W.K. Kellogg Foundation</p>
5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	<b>Reception</b> (outside of Ballroom ABC)
6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.	<b>Dinner Buffet</b> (Ballroom ABC)
7:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.	<p><b>Introduction of “You Are The Promise” Showcase Video and Closing</b> (Ballroom ABC)  Hugh Dunn, Director, P-20 Early Learning, University of Hawaii; and Site Director, Hawaii team</p>
7:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Informal Connections, Final Signup for Learning Expeditions</b> (inside/outside Ballroom ABC)

**Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

**DAY 2: Multiple Learning Expeditions**



8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Learning Expedition Logistics and Directions</b> (Ballroom ABC) Brenda Blasingame, Principal Consultant, vav amin
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Board Buses and Depart for Learning Expeditions</b> (front door of hotel at Olive Street)
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Learning Expeditions</b> (see attached materials for descriptions and locations)  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Statewide Joint Partnership</b></li> <li>2. <b>Jose Marti Child Development Center</b></li> <li>3. <b>The New School Foundation</b></li> <li>4. <b>University of Washington Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences</b></li> <li>5. <b>Community Center for Education Results</b></li> <li>6. <b>Educare Early Learning Center &amp; White Center Early Learning Initiative</b></li> </ol>
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch provided at each location.
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>Return to Hotel – Self Reflection of Learning Expeditions</b> Self-reflection of learning expeditions, followed by free time before dinner.
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Break</b> (outside of Ballroom ABC)
2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>State Team Session II</b> (Cyan A, Cyan B, Cobalt, Azure)  Cyan A – Hawaii (Facilitators: Kathleen Osta, Pete Bermudez) Cyan B – Mississippi (Facilitators: Jeff Dow, Brenda Blasingame) Cobalt – Washington (Facilitators: Victor Cary, Lisa Lasky) Azure – Florida (Facilitators: Raquel Diaz, Hugh Vasquez)  State Teams will unpack and make meaning of the learning expeditions, connect the learning expeditions to individual state context, and begin to identify initial thoughts about consultancy and possible actions in leading for equity.
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b> (outside of Azure)
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<b>Board Buses and Depart for Dinner at Northwest African American Museum</b> (front door of hotel at Olive Street))
5:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	<b>Reception at Northwest Africa American Museum</b> (Legacy Gallery)
6:20 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	<b>Welcome, Personal Reflection, and Introductions of Museum and Performance</b> (Legacy) Rhea Williams-Bishop, Exec. Dir., Center for Education Innovation; and Site Director, Mississippi team
6:30 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.	Brenda Blasingame, Principal Consultant, vav amin
6:40 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.	<b>Youth Performances</b> (Legacy Gallery)
7:40 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Dinner Buffet</b> (Café)  <b>Dessert Stations and Self-Guided Tour of Museum</b> (Legacy /Museum)
8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Staggered Buses Return to Hotel</b>

**Wednesday, May 25, 2011**

**DAY 3: Taking the Lead – Making a Commitment**

8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	<p><b>Good Morning and Welcome Back, Agenda Review, and Framing the Day</b> (Ballroom ABC) Ana Sejeck, COO, The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation; and Site Director, Florida team</p> <p><b>Conference Evaluation</b> Ana Sejeck, COO, The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation; and Site Director, Florida team</p> <p><b>Motivational Video</b></p>
8:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<p><b>Introduction of Guest Speaker</b> (Ballroom ABC) Victor Cary, Senior Director, National Equity Project</p> <p><b>Leading for Equity: The Case for Uncommon Confidence, Hopefulness, and Commitment</b> David Montes de Oca, M.S., Executive Director, Quality Community Schools Development, Oakland Unified School District</p> <p><b>Facilitated Discussion</b> Kathleen Osta, Senior Partner, OSTA Associates</p> <p>What does it mean to apply this work on the ground and be a leader on racial equity?</p>
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<p><b>State Team Session III</b> (Cyan A, Cyan B, Cobalt, Azure)</p> <p>Cyan A – Hawaii (Facilitators: Kathleen Osta, Pete Bermudez) Cyan B – Mississippi (Facilitators: Jeff Dow, Brenda Blasingame) Cobalt – Washington (Facilitators: Victor Cary, Lisa Lasky) Azure – Florida (Facilitators: Raquel Diaz, Hugh Vasquez)</p> <p>Tune dilemmas and prepare for consultancies; determine who will attend which consultancy. Introduction of Leading for Equity Commitment activity.</p>
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b> (outside Ballroom ABC)
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<p><b>Team Consultancies</b> (Cyan A, Cyan B, Cobalt, Azure)</p> <p>Cyan A – Hawaii (Facilitators: Kathleen Osta, Pete Bermudez) Cyan B – Mississippi (Facilitators: Jeff Dow, Brenda Blasingame) Cobalt – Washington (Facilitators: Victor Cary, Lisa Lasky) Azure – Florida (Facilitators: Raquel Diaz, Hugh Vasquez)</p> <p>Site teams will present a genuine dilemma for success tied to their actual work and its relationship to a commitment to lead for racial equity. Each team presents dilemma (3 team members stay; 12 team members attend other teams' consultancies).</p>
12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<p><b>Lunch Buffet and Tabletop Conversations</b> (buffet in Ballroom DE)</p> <p><b>General Conference Participant Tabletop Conversations</b> (Ballroom ABC) Informal tabletop lunch conversations on selected topics relevant to leading for equity and Learning Labs focus areas.</p> <p><b>Funders Group Tabletop Conversation</b> (will meet separately in Azure) Facilitated by Alfred L Castle, Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation, on the topics of “Innovative Funding Models” and “Alternative Financing.”</p>
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<p><b>State Team Session IV</b> (Cyan A, Cyan B, Cobalt, Azure)</p> <p>Cyan A – Hawaii (Facilitators: Kathleen Osta, Pete Bermudez) Cyan B – Mississippi (Facilitators: Jeff Dow, Brenda Blasingame) Cobalt – Washington (Facilitators: Victor Cary, Lisa Lasky) Azure – Florida (Facilitators: Raquel Diaz, Hugh Vasquez)</p> <p>Reflection on individual commitments to leading for equity. State teams will work on racial equity action steps to implement. Each state will have a facilitation team and will work with facilitators to prepare this section of the agenda.</p>
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b> (outside of Ballroom ABC)
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<p><b>Conference Closing</b> (Ballroom ABC) Kathleen Osta, Senior Partner, OSTA Associates</p> <p>State teams will commit to 2-3 action items; site director will make commitments to support the team’s action items and move the actions forward.</p> <p><b>Introduction of Closing Video and Slam Poetry</b> Don Pemberton, Director, University of Florida’s Lastinger Center for Learning; and Site director, Florida team</p> <p><b>Closing Remarks and Final Call To Action</b> Greg Taylor, Vice President-Program Strategy, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Valorie Johnson, Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Jenefer O’Dell, Program Manager, W.K. Kellogg Foundation</p>
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<p><b>Final Announcements and Evaluation Forms</b> Brenda Blasingame, Principal Consultant, vav amin</p>
Evening on own	<p><b>Dine Around Seattle</b> Information on dining and entertainment opportunities provided.</p>

<b>Thursday, May 26, 2011</b>		<b>DAY 4: Planning Committee 1`</b>		<b>Conference Debrief</b>	
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Breakfast and Conference Debrief</b> (Azure) Conference planning committee				

## LEARNING EXPEDITION SUMMARIES

<p><b>Learning Expedition 1</b>          10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.          Limited to 23 participants          Lunch on location</p>	<p><b>Statewide Joint Partnership (Focus: Policy)</b>  <b>Thrive by Five Washington</b>  <b>Seattle Tower, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor</b>  <b>1218 Third Avenue, Suite 800</b>  <b>Seattle, WA 98101</b></p> <p>Participants will have an opportunity to meet state leaders who have come together to develop this public/private joint partnership. During this visit, participants will learn about the development of the statewide Early Learning Plan and how the partnership is incorporating racial equity into strategic decision making and implementation of the Quality Rating and Improvement System, full day Kindergarten, and WaKIDS (Kindergarten assessment process). Participants will also have an opportunity to learn about the reconciliation and healing process currently underway to deconstruct and reconstruct the statewide Early Learning Benchmarks that have faced issues of cultural relevance, and learn how they are being developed into more inclusive guidelines. They will also learn about the innovative establishment of the statewide Hope Visiting Matching Fund account.</p> <p>Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Learning Plan – Discuss the process of the development of the Early Learning Plan and the outreach that was done to include diverse input into the plan, talk about how the Learning Labs Conference in Florida was a big influence on how the plan was developed and how the early learning plan and implementation is designed to target funding, and implementation to reach the most vulnerable children and communities</li> <li>• Discuss Key Strategies from the Early Learning Plan – Story of full day Kindergarten, starting with specific communities and doing WaKIDS and Quality Rating and Improvement System the same way; using the principal of racial equity in the decision making on how to implement especially in tight economic times</li> <li>• Building of Partnership – Discuss the partnership and the how the partners have moved forward working together; talk about how resources have been brought together in order be able to move forward efforts; share examples of how collaboration has come together and the principals of the public/private statewide partnership;</li> <li>• Benchmarks – Discuss the process of working through the issues of the cultural relevance regarding the benchmarks and the process that has been undertaken to heal the issues that resulted from the original process of developing the benchmarks</li> <li>• HVSA – Discuss the home visiting matching fund as a public/private venture</li> </ul>
--	---

<p><b>Learning Expedition 2</b> 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Limited to 23 participants Lunch on location</p>	<p><b>Jose Marti Child Development Center (Focus: Practice)</b> <b>El Centro de la Raza: The Center for People of All Races</b> <b>2524 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Room 304</b> <b>Seattle, WA 98144</b></p> <p>Participants will visit Jose Marti, the only nationally-accredited bilingual child development center in Washington. The Child Development Center provides accessible, affordable, quality childcare that nurtures self-awareness, self-esteem, and cultural pride using a bilingual, multicultural curriculum. In addition to learning about the program’s curriculum, participants will hear the rich history of the development of El Centro de la Raza, an organization with a strong commitment to advocating for civil rights for all persons, regardless of race. The organization is grounded in the Latino community with a mission to build unity across all racial and economic sectors, to organize, empower, and defend our most vulnerable and marginalized populations and to bring justice, dignity, equality, and freedom to all the peoples of the world. El Centro was a recipient of the Seattle Human Services Coalition Ron Chism Anit-Racism Award in 2010.</p> <p>Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of short historical video</li> <li>• History of El Centro, current activities/programs, and impact of programs</li> <li>• History of Jose Marti Child Development Center and description of program</li> <li>• Tour of El Centro</li> <li>• Tour of Jose Marti Child Development Center</li> <li>• Q&amp;A session</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Expedition 3</b> 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Limited to 23 participants Lunch on location</p>	<p><b>The New School Foundation (Foci: Program and Policy)</b> <b>South Shore PreK-8 School</b> <b>4800 Henderson</b> <b>Seattle, WA 98118</b></p> <p>Participants will visit the South Shore PreK-8 School, a model site whose momentum has led to the development of the PreK-3 Partnership in Seattle. For more than a decade, the New School Foundation has been working in Seattle schools to fine-tune a comprehensive approach to public education so that every child receives a quality education and has an opportunity to succeed. The New School Foundation focuses their efforts in some of the city’s most economically and racially diverse neighborhoods where academic achievement gaps are most pronounced. Seattle Public Schools, the City of Seattle, and New School Foundation have set a bold agenda to establish a new PreK-3 system in 20 schools in Seattle over the next five years to ensure a strong start for every child in every neighborhood.</p> <p>Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Overview – Program, demographics, and results</li> <li>• School Tour – Three classrooms, PreK-3</li> <li>• Debrief – What did you see? What didn’t you see? Surprises? Keisha Scarlett, Principal, and Laurie Morrison, Assist. Principal</li> <li>• South Shore’s Wellness Program Rachel Carrasco, Counselor</li> <li>• Lunch</li> <li>• Seattle PreK-3 Partnership Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Background/Overview Laura Kohn, Executive Director, New School Foundation</li> <li>➢ Key Ingredient - City Investments in PreK Quality and Availability Sharon Knight, Early Learning Professional Development Mgr,, City of Seattle</li> <li>➢ Early Accomplishments and Near Term Goals Mary Seaton, Early Learning Director, Seattle Public Schools</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Final Comments, Discussion</li> </ul>

<p><b>Learning Expedition 4</b>  10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  Limited to 23 participants  Lunch on location</p>	<p><b>University of WA Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences (Foci: Research and Science)</b>  <b>University of Washington</b>  <b>Portage Bay Building</b>  <b>Box 357988</b>  <b>Seattle, WA 98195-7988</b></p> <p>Participants will journey to the University of Washington and tour the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS), an interdisciplinary center dedicated to discovering the fundamental principles of human learning to enable all children to achieve their full potential. I-LABS is the home of the MEG Brain Imaging Center, housing the first brain imaging device in the world optimized for the neuro-scientific study of infants and young children. Participants will explore opportunity gaps as seen by I-LABS and the role of research on early learning; gender stereotypes and interfaces between gender, self-identity, math, and culture in K-3 learners; roots of literacy linking pre-verbal infant language development, family literacy practices, and reading readiness; and examining home language environment to language outcomes and brain development in bilingual toddlers.</p> <p>Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction by Drs. Patricia Kuhl and Andrew Melzoff, Opportunity gaps as seen by I-LABS, and the role of research on early learning</li> <li>• Dr. Dario Cvencek, Gender Stereotypes: Interfaces between gender, self-identity, math &amp; culture in K-3 learners. We will share current research on how gender-math stereotypes can be measured in young children, and discuss implications for education.</li> <li>• Dr. Gina Levedeva, Early Language Experience and Brain Development: Linking early experience to later learning in monolingual and bilingual children. Ongoing studies are investigating how quality of social and language input to infants and toddlers shape brain development, setting the stage for Kindergarten readiness and beyond.</li> <li>• Follow up questions and dialogue</li> <li>• Lunch with continued questions and dialogue</li> </ul>
--	---

<p><b>Learning Expedition 5</b>  10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  Limited to 23 participants  Lunch on location</p>	<p><b>Community Center for Education Results (Focus: Policy)</b>  <b>Hyatt at Olive 8 - Azure Meeting Room</b>  <b>1635 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue</b>  <b>Seattle, WA 98101</b></p> <p>Participants will have the opportunity to learn about this regional framework effort aimed at dramatically improving the cradle to college/career education pipeline in South Seattle and South King County. The overarching goal is to close the achievement gap that exists for low-income students and children of color, and increase achievement for all students from cradle to college/career. Participants will learn about efforts to double the number of children who are on track to graduate from college or achieve a career credential by 2020. This visit will include a discussion of the Road Map Project that has been developed, polling results that were completed with parents on the topic of education, and of the groups moving this important work forward in nine high-need communities in South Seattle and South King County.</p> <p>Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of the Strive in Cincinnati model which began in Seattle and the national Cradle to College/Career Network, and their collective impact</li> <li>• Discuss the overall project goal to double the number of children that are on track to graduate from college or with a career credential (by 2020)</li> <li>• Discuss the first phase of development, why this work was begun, the level of need in the schools, and the schools that are failing children in Seattle</li> <li>• Illustration of how students are achieving in two different school pipelines</li> <li>• Discuss work of the P-3 work group focusing on ways to improve results in Kindergarten Readiness and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading</li> <li>• Discuss polling that was done in the region around attitudes about education and college</li> <li>• Show short video</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Expedition 6</b>  10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  Limited to 23 participants  Lunch on location</p>	<p><b>Educare Early Learning Center &amp; White Center Early Learning Initiative (Focus: Practice)</b>  <b>625 Southwest 100<sup>th</sup> Street</b>  <b>Seattle, WA 98146</b></p> <p>Participants will visit Greenbridge, a new mixed-income community in South King County and the home of the Educare Early Learning Center and the White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI). Educare provides high-quality, full-day early childhood education programs using the Educare approach. The Greenbridge site is one of 16 sites across the country establishing Educare Centers as part of the BOUNCE Learning Network. Participants will also learn about the work of the Educare Professional Development Center and the WCELI partnership of community members, and public and private organizations working together to provide education and support for parents, caregivers, and child care providers so that all children in this community begin school ready to succeed.</p> <p>Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Overview of Educare including Professional Development</li> <li>• Tour of Educare</li> <li>• WCELI Community Presentation with partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Overview of WCELI initiative</li> <li>➢ Open Arms – culturally relevant home visitation services</li> <li>➢ Pacifica – culture based school readiness approach</li> <li>➢ Community Development Association – creating community connections through family connections, community ambassador program and development of local promise neighborhood approach</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dialogue</li> </ul>