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INSTITUTE *for* CHILD SUCCESS

LEADERSHIP *for* AMERICA'S YOUNG CHILDREN

Launched:
May 2015

Leadership:
Joe Waters, Executive Vice President, Institute for Child Success
Annette Richiazzi, Board of Directors, Institute for Child Success
Grady Powell, Principal, Openfields

About ICS:
A leading research and policy organization, the Institute for Child Success aims to shape the dialogue about how best to secure the future for young children. Through policy research, leadership development, knowledge sharing, and advisory services, ICS relentlessly pursues its vision: the success and wellbeing of all young children.

OBJECTIVE

In the United States today, over 16 million children live in poverty, 80% of low-income children are not reading at grade-level by the fourth grade, 35% of children live in single-parent households, and nearly 55% of young children are not in school. However, brain science has taught us that the foundations for success in both school and in life are established in the first five years of life. Yet the health, education, and social systems designed to serve young children are not delivering innovation or impact at scale. The systems are fragmented, dysfunctional, and are slow to adapt to the complex needs of people and communities.

We need fresh vision, new approaches, renewed energy, and bold cross-system, cross-sector entrepreneurial leadership to realize the success of all young children. In order to achieve this vision, the Institute for Child Success has launched Leadership for America's Young Children.

This community of leaders from across the social, public, cultural, and business sectors will work in collaboration to address the complex needs of young children to help them thrive and make a lifelong contribution to society while diligently attending to their own leadership development through tools made available by the Institute for Child Success and its partners.

This new initiative aims to develop a pipeline of cross-sector leaders who have the perspective, relationships, and tools they need to ensure that America's young children overcome their most complex challenges and realize their most exciting opportunities.

"At no time in history have we needed such system leaders more. We face a host of systemic challenges beyond the reach of existing institutions and their hierarchical authority structures. Problems like climate change, destruction of ecosystems, growing scarcity of water, youth unemployment, and embedded poverty and inequity require unprecedented collaboration among different organizations, sectors, and even countries. Sensing this need, countless collaborative initiatives have arisen in the past decade– locally, regionally, and even globally. Yet more often than not they have floundered–in part because they failed to foster collective leadership within and across the collaborating organizations."

-Peter Senge, Hal Hamilton, and John Kania,
"The Dawn of System Leadership,"
Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2015

"Systems thinking and forecasting will help me look at my work in a broader perspective, not just in a day-to-day perspective, but what early childhood could look like in decade. I wasn't looking at it like this before. Now I can see how the small steps I take will make a greater impact for our children."

-Danielle Adamson, National Black Child Development Institute

PARTICIPANTS

Nearly 70 rising leaders—educators, healthcare professionals, policy makers, researchers, artists, and entrepreneurs—from across the United States have participated in LAYC activities and events. Over the next five years, we aim to accelerate our work to serve 5,000 rising leaders from all 50 states with powerful leadership development opportunities and cross-system collaboration to improve outcomes for our youngest children.

ACTIVITIES

1. **The ICS Future Forum** is an annual gathering of rising leaders relentlessly focused on improving outcomes for young children and hungry to grow as leaders. Using systems thinking, human-centered design, and forecasting, the Future Forum mobilizes and equips a network of cross-sector leaders around a vision for developing long-term innovation and systems change for young children.

2. **Program consulting and coaching** to help organizations and individuals translate innovation and systems leadership models into action plans, fellowship programs, research agendas, policy proposals, and media.

3. **Annual leadership agenda** highlighting the challenges facing early childhood systems innovation and the ideas, people, policies, and organizations that are making a difference.

4. **Leadership seminars** to expand relationships and thinking beyond typical structures to include the values, beliefs, history, art, entertainment, and technology that shape the way we think about and value children.

5. **Childhood systems innovation residency** to provide the most innovative leaders in any sector working on behalf of children the time and space to develop, refine, and prepare to scale their ideas and products.

KEY MILESTONES

Inaugural Future Forum
Metro Atlanta, May 2015

National Policy Leadership Summit
Washington, DC, November 2015

SXSWedu Early Learning Summit
Austin, TX, March 2016

ICS Future Forum 2
Sonoma County, CA, May 2016

Race, Justice, and the Young Child in America
Charleston, SC, September 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

Childhood Unplugged: Growing Up in a Digital Age
Los Angeles, CA, 2017

ICS Future Forum 3
Spring 2017

"One of the biggest things I gained at the Future Forum was a set of tools for systems thinking. Whether it's trying to identify leverage points, or see connections between systems, or think about unintended consequences, I never had such clarity on how to approach a problem. I felt like the amount of learning that happened in three days was so deep and rich, I really appreciated the opportunity to be a part of this."

-Seth Saeugling, Teach for America

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We aim to secure additional investment to support the implementation of the Leadership for America's Young Children initiative at planned scale over the next ten years.

Leadership for America's Young Children provides a level of programming, community, connection, access, and visibility along with an intentional cross-sector and cross-system frame that no other initiative or organization is achieving. America's children deserve the very best leadership that we can provide. Leadership for America's Young Children aims to deliver that.

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"Systems level work is so important and our ability to build capacity and leadership around systems level thinking will be the key to the community goals and outcomes we are trying to impact."

- Chris Ellis, United Way of Salt Lake