



**Montana Summit on Early Childhood Education**  
**organized by the Advancing Early Childhood Education Alliance (AECEA)**  
**and**  
**The Montana Children's Trust Fund**  
**February 12-13, 2015**  
**Red Lion Colonial Hotel – Helena, Montana**

**Thursday, February 12**

- 5:30 p.m.** Opening reception - hors d'oeuvres  
**6:30 p.m.** Short film screening of "Raising of America"  
**7:00 p.m.** Panel and audience discussion

**Friday, February 13**

- 9:00 a.m.** Opening blessing by Marcy Garay and welcome by Alliance members
- 9:15 a.m.** **The Case for Investing in Early Childhood Education**  
John Pepper, Retired Chairman and CEO, The Procter & Gamble Company
- 10:15 a.m.** **Break**
- 10:30 a.m.** **The Benefits of Investing in Early Childhood Education**  
Gloria J. Higgins, President, Executives Partnering to Invest in Children  
CHiXapkaid (D. Michael Pavel, PhD), Skokomish Indian Tribe  
Ron Peters, businessman and former Oklahoma State Legislator
- 12:15 p.m.** **Buffet Lunch**
- 12:45 p.m.** **The Brain Science of Early Intervention**  
Dr. Elizabeth Kohlstaedt, Chief Clinical Officer, Intermountain
- 1:15 p.m.** **Montana speaks!** – facilitated tabletop conversations
- Where can investments in high-quality, high-impact early childhood education improve opportunity for all Montana families?
  - What are the priorities?
  - Recommendations for our communities and policy makers
- 2:30 p.m.** **Adjourn**

## **The Advancing Early Childhood Education Alliance (AECEA)**

The Advancing Early Childhood Education Alliance (AECEA) is a partnership of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund, The Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, First Interstate Foundation, the Kelley Family Foundation, the Montana Community Foundation, the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, Hopa Mountain, and Thrive. We believe that our most precious resource is our children and that we must help support Montana families and communities that are working to make life better for every child. We develop collaborative relationships with foundations, nonprofit organizations, schools, community leaders and policymakers to help children in Montana live happy, healthy lives and reach their full potential. We are dedicated to shaping Montana's future in the most positive ways — by providing proactive, strategic leadership and funding for collaborative, targeted projects that make a real difference at the most critical times in a child's life. Bringing together other funders, government agencies, nonprofits and business leaders yields projects that have greater impact than any of us can achieve working independently.

Montana sits at an important crossroads for the future of early childhood care and education in the state. Momentum for policy change and increased priority of early care at both a state and national level has never been greater. At this time, Advancing Early Childhood Education Alliance seeks to align our potential with this impetus by educating the public, business leaders and policymakers on the importance of early childcare in the state through media campaigns, conferences, seminars, best practices workshops and the like so that real change can be made. We will also look to leverage funds by developing public-private partnerships and collaborations with national funders in addition to funding specific nonprofit organizations working in early childcare in the state.

For more information, please contact Tawnya Rupe at (406) 578-2071