



# NORTH CAROLINA EARLY EDUCATION COALITION

## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

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### *NC Early Education Coalition Announces State Legislative Early Childhood Education Champions Awards*

Raleigh, NC (April 3, 2018). The NC Early Education Coalition is pleased to announce its 2018 Early Education Champion awards will go to five NC state legislators in recognition of their efforts to promote early childhood education and support young children and families.

“Early childhood is the most important time in a young child’s life. The science is clear—our brains grow faster between the ages of 0 and 5 than at any other point in our lives. When we support young children with healthy beginnings, supportive families and quality early care and learning, we are building a solid foundation for their future success in school and in life,” said Michele Rivest, Policy Director for the NC Early Education Coalition.

“State policymakers are stepping up to be early childhood education champions, and know that early childhood education offers a solid return on investment. When we invest in young children and their families, we ensure a strong future for us all,” Rivest added.

#### **2018 Early childhood education champions include:**

- Sen. Ralph Hise, Senate District #47 representing Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford and Yancey Counties
- Sen. Chad Barefoot, Senate District 18 which includes Franklin County and parts of eastern and southern Wake County.
- Sen. Terry Van Duyn, Senate District #49 representing Buncombe County.
- Rep. Craig Horn, House District #68, Union County.
- Rep. Verla Insko, House District #56 Orange County.

The awards will be given to these state legislators during an awards ceremony from 11:30am – 12:15pm at the “Building Strong Foundations for Babies” forum at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh, NC. The forum begins at 9:00 and concludes at 3:30. The agenda is attached.

This event launches a new initiative called *ThinkBabiesNC* focused on building public awareness and public support for infants, toddlers and their families. For more information contact Michele Rivest, Policy Director, NC Early Education Coalition, or visit [www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org/think-babies.html](http://www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org/think-babies.html)

#### **About the NC Early Education Coalition**

*The N.C. Early Education Coalition works to ensure that all children have access to high quality early care and learning experiences. Since 1990, the organization has highlighted the proven power of quality early childhood education by sharing information and resources with parents, professionals and policymakers. For more information, please visit, [www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org](http://www.ncearlyeducationcoalition.org) or follow @ncearlyedco on Twitter.*



# North Carolina Early Education Coalition

## Building Strong Foundations for Babies

April 4, 2018 McKimmon Center, Raleigh, NC

### Agenda

- 8:15**      ***Registration and Networking – Room 2A***
- 9:00**      ***Welcome***  
**Sarah Norris**, Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, NC Early Education Coalition
- 9:15**      ***North Carolina’s Babies and Toddlers Can’t Wait!***  
**Rachel Schumacher**, Director, Pritzker Children’s Initiative
- 10:00**      ***North Carolina’s Babies Matter!***
- **Sen. Ralph Hise**, Chairman, Senate Health & Human Services Appropriations Committee
  - **Anna Carter**, Director, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education
  - **Ken Dodge**, Professor of Early Learning Policy Studies and former director of the Child and Family Policy Center, Duke University
  - **Dr. Marian Earls**, Director, Pediatric Programs, Community Care of North Carolina and founder of the Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Project
- 11:30**      ***Early Childhood Education Champions - Legislator of the Year Awards***
- 12:30**      ***Lunch and Networking – Room 2A&B***
- 1:15**      ***Who’s Caring for Our Babies?***  
**Mary Martin**, Vice President for System Research and Development, Child Care Services Association
- 1:45**      ***Programs That Work for Infants, Toddlers and Families!***
- **Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships:** Tonya Venable, State Child Care Partnership Coordinator, Telamon NC Early Head Start
  - **Infant Toddler Quality Enhancement Project:** Julie Clinkscale, Education Manager, Infant-Toddler Quality Enhancement Project
  - **Triple P Parenting Program:** Libby Throckmorton, Program Manager, Catawba County Partnership for Children
  - **NC Child Treatment Program:** Dr. Dana Hagele, Co-Founder and Co-Director, NC Child Treatment Program
- 3:00**      ***Think Babies! What’s Next?***  
**Michele Rivest**, Policy Director, NC Early Education Coalition
- 3:30**      ***Closing***