

The Speakers' Bureau

The Speakers' Bureau is a unique cohort of 15 early educators, one that aims to represent the demographics of the ECE field in Massachusetts, and fill a systemic gap in our state, of having well-prepared and trained voices from the field to speak up and speak out on behalf of the field. After completing the skill-building series, participants will be better prepared for any advocacy opportunities and public-speaking engagements they come across in their careers.

Ana Rivas, FCC owner/educator (Clarendon Early Education Services)

Christine Little, FCC owner/educator

Danielle Scanlon, Assistant Director, YWCA of Central MA

Darmerly Montoya, FCC owner/educator (Acre Family Child Care)

Dottie Williams, FCC owner/educator (Child Development and Education)

Emmett Prescott, Site Director, MetroWest YMCA

Gloria Valentin-Denson, FCC owner/educator

Heidi Bailey, Teacher, Buckingham, Browne and Nichols

Kate Murphy, Teacher, The Family Cooperative

Kristen Benevides, Teacher, Citizens for Citizens Head Start

Lilly Zing, FCC owner/educator (Clarendon Early Education Services)

Luisa Palladino, Director, YWCA of Central MA

Maria Otano, FCC owner/educator (Neighborhood Development Corp of Jamaica Plain)

Marybeth Brown, Seven Hills Foundation (CCR&R)

Vanessa Pashkoff, Teacher, Williston Northampton Children's Center

Session Overview

Session 1: Introductions and Knowing you 'why?'

Session 2: Advocacy 101 and why your influence matters

- Guest Speakers: Donna Denette and Jeri Robinson

Session 3: Equity in Early Education

- Guest Speakers: Maria Moeller and Nikki Burnett

Session 4: Preparing for panels, events, and other public speaking engagements

- Guest Speaker: Alyssa Haywoode

Session 5: Working with legislators

- Guest Speakers: Rep. Andy Vargas and Sarah Mills

Session 6: Speaking with reporters

- Guest Speaker: Kathleen McNerney

Session 7: Conclusion and reflections

"I was talking to a new provider, and she was so unsure about herself. I chose my words carefully in order to empower her and share that she is the expert!"

– **Christine Little**

"To promote equity in our field we involve culture and values in our teaching from an early age."

– **Maria Otano**

"I feel as though we are heard differently and maybe not taken as seriously as other professions due to the young age of the children. Or possibly because the field is made up of women and minorities. It is so important to find new and innovative ways to help our early educators feel as though they do matter and finding a platform for them to communicate their thoughts and concerns."

– **Luisa Palladino**

Reflections from the Speakers' Bureau

"The child care infrastructure children, working families, educators, and businesses rely on every day is in crisis."

– **Marybeth Brown**

"Hey, wait a minute? I've been doing this (advocating) my whole life for my children and other people's children and never putting a title to it. It took what was deep inside and sparked it back up."

– **Lilly Zing**

"I'm trying to think a bit more openly, to get a better sense of the big picture. To get a better sense of the goal and to reach a more positive outcome."

– **Kristen Benevides**

"It was cool to be able to have such a diverse group here. And having a lot of Latinx representation in this group was special to me. It's not often that you get to see a lot of people from different backgrounds. Especially backgrounds that reflect your own."

– **Emmett Prescott**

"It feels, and I think I speak for most of us that we are in a field where we give a ton of our time to speak at conferences that we're not even compensated for. We get to pay to attend to give a lecture. Just the fact that we were given a stipend for this just shows that you really value us."

– **Vanessa Pashkoff**

"Now we all have a formula."

– **Dottie Williams**