

Tracy Merriman Jost
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Education

May 2011: Certificate of Advanced Study, Education Public Policy, Towson University.
 May 2000: Master of Education, Towson University.
 May 1997: Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies, University of Maryland University of College.

Work Experience:

Jan 2020-current	<p>Policy Advisor/Early Childhood Education Policy Specialist, <i>National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)</i>, Rutgers University. Initially hired as a Policy Advisor consultant and transitioned to employment. Provide expert consultation and technical assistance on PreK expansion and costs, quality benchmarks, early childhood education matters, Birth-3 years framework, and analysis on effective State Offices of Early Learning. Conduct policy scans to determine the status of state or local policy, provide best practice research and identify gap analysis to allow State and local government officials to develop strategic plans toward highly functioning early childhood education systems. Research and evaluate state and city policies on investments in PreK and determine current quality benchmarks to inform on state and local progress and a National snapshot toward implementing highly quality PreK. Conduct research and collect data on State special education policies. Draft, collect responses, and analyze data from States on a special education workforce survey. Co-author reports and policy briefs. Establish and maintain partnerships with federal, state and local government officials, non-profit and for-profit agencies, and philanthropic organizations.</p>
Oct 2017-Sept 2019	<p>Senior Policy Advisor, <i>Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO)</i>, National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers University. Led and managed CEELO's Leadership Academy with Senior Director designed to build the competencies of early childhood leaders working in State education agencies. This intensive academy provided curriculum on results-based decision making, systems thinking, communication, equity considerations and reflective leadership practices. Provided expert consultation to PreK administrators on implementing high-quality PreK, designed products and meetings, reviewed data on state needs; identified speakers and resources as needed to deliver face-to-face and electronic events for State education specialists peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Share expertise with individual State grantees to address issues of preschool expansion, preschool monitoring, and determining the costs of high-quality PreK. Assist the Senior Project Director of CEELO in managing reporting, tracking TA and results and oversight of projects and workplans.</p>
Jan 2014-Mar 2017	<p>Education Program Specialist & Pre-K Grant Manager, Division of Early Childhood Development, <i>Maryland State Department of Education</i>, Baltimore, MD. Project Manager for \$2.5 million new State-wide program for developmental screening as part of federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. Federal Pre-K Grant Manager for \$60 million Preschool Development grant and \$4.5 million State Pre-K grant implementation across Maryland. Developed PreK Grant manual on fiduciary responsibilities. Family Support Center program manager for \$4.5 million grant. Division liaison with the Division of Special Education. Member of several committees and workgroups. Hosted Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan & Secretary John B. King, Jr. on two separate occasions for public events at Maryland PreK Expansion sites.</p>
Oct 2006-Sept 2021	<p>Owner/Founder, <i>Kid's Campus Early Learning Center</i>, Dunkirk, MD. Founded and managed for 15 years a Maryland State Department of Education accredited early learning center serving 150 children, age ranges of 6 weeks to 12 years. One of only 45 of Maryland's 9,500+ providers selected for the Maryland Excels Quality Rating & Improvement System pilot. Center chosen by Johns Hopkins University for a professional development film for early education assessment training series. Managed the budget and a staff of 30 trained professionals and general oversight of entire school. Successful grant recipient of State PreK Expansion grant for multiple years. Led and managed the team through the pandemic, required resiliency and adaptability to changing protocols, policies, enrollment and staffing challenges. Advocated in partnership with Maryland Child Care Association and Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children in support of childcare providers, children and family needs during the pandemic.</p>

Mar 2012-2013	Adjunct Graduate Instructor, <i>Towson University</i>. Teach Early Childhood Education Leadership & Advocacy Class to graduate students seeking a Master's degree in early childhood education
Sept 2003-Jun 2004	Preschool Teacher, <i>Bright Beginning's Children's Center</i> Owings, MD. Full time teacher for classroom of 20 preschool children
Jun 2002-Nov 2002	Campaign Manager, <i>Friends of Peter Murphy for Charles County Commissioner</i>
Feb 2001-Jun 2001	Senior Paralegal, <i>Law Offices of Richard McGill</i>, Upper Marlboro, MD.
Apr 2000-Feb 2001	Senior Paralegal, <i>Law Offices of Drummond & O'Brien</i>, Upper Marlboro, MD.
Nov 1999-Apr 2000	Education Assistant, <i>Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.</i>, Washington, DC
Jan 1999-Nov 1999	Public Affairs Specialist, <i>U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census</i>, Suitland, MD
Dec 1997-Jan 1999	Paralegal/Office Manager, <i>Law Offices of Drummond & O'Brien</i>, Upper Marlboro, MD
Jul 1997-Dec 1997	Paralegal, <i>Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Osbinsky</i>, Washington, D.C
Sep 1991-Jul 1997	Statistical Assistant, <i>Population Division, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census</i>, Suitland. MD

Affiliations

2023-current	MSDE, UMBC & Teachstone Teacher Certification Pilot Workgroup Member
2022-current	Advisory Council Member to Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program
2018-current	Advisory Board member and leadership coach, Maryland Early Childhood Leadership Program, Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities, UMBC
2020-2021	Member of Calvert County Early Childhood Advisory Council & Local Interagency Coordinating Council
2019	Waters Center for Systems Thinking Train-the-Trainer approved trainer
2017	Appointee, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, to Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Prekindergarten for 4-Year Olds per Maryland House Bill 516.
2014-2017	Member of the Maryland Developmental Screening Consortium with representatives from Kennedy Krieger & American Academy of Pediatrics
2011-2014	Appointee of Maryland Governor to the Early Childhood Advisory Council which oversees the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Fund Grant
2012-2014	Appointee, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools to the Comprehensive Assessment System State Advisory Committee, part of the Race to the Top Early Learning Grant
2012-2014	Member, Maryland Child Care Network Resource Advisory Board
2011- 2014	President, Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children
2010-2014	Member of the State Legislation Public Policy Committee for Maryland Family Network
2009-2010	Public Policy Co-Chair, Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children
2004-Current	Member, National Association for the Education of Young Children
2009-2017	Member, Office of Child Care Advisory Council, Maryland State Department of Education

Accomplishments

- Advisory Council Member to Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program
- Advisory Board member to design program content development for Maryland Early Childhood Leadership Program, 2018-on-going
- Member of the Child Care Licensing Database Review Panel, Child Care Aware, 2018
- Selected as a 2015-2016 leadership fellow for the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Education Outcomes
- Aligned Maryland Early Learning Standards with Maryland's College & Career Ready Standards and edit the *Supporting Every Young Learner: Maryland's Guide to Early Childhood Pedagogy Birth to Age Eight* publication, 2015.

- Expert witness before Maryland Legislature on childcare and early learning issues multiple times
- NAEYC Public Policy conference participant and advocate for early learning issues and funding to representatives of U.S. Congress, 2008 to 2014
- Bronze Medal Award, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2003

Publications

Friedman-Krauss, A. H., Barnett, W. S., Garver, K. A., Hodges, K. S., Weisenfeld, G. G., & Gardiner, B. A., Jost, T. *The State of Preschool 2021: State Preschool Yearbook*. National Institute for Early Education Research

Connors-Tadros, L., Northey, K., Frede, E., Hodges, K., & Jost, T. (2021). Effective state offices of early learning: structural features, enabling conditions, and key functions in four states. *Research Report*. National Institute for Early Education Research.

Hodges, K., Jost, T., & Northey, K. (2021). “A Case Study of the Effectiveness of the New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education.” In L. Connors-Tadros, K. Northey, E. Frede, K. Hodges & T Jost, Effective state offices of early learning: structural features, enabling conditions, and key functions in four states. *Research Report*. National Institute for Early Education Research.

Jost, T. (2020, April 3). *Opinion | keeping a child-care center open amid coronavirus*. The Washington Post. Retrieved April 14, 2022, from https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/local-opinions/keeping-a-child-care-center-open-amid-coronavirus/2020/04/02/6ab45c60-72c5-11ea-85cb-8670579b863d_story.html

Jost, T. M. (2018). *A summary of the CEELO Leadership Academy Retrospective Study*. Retrieved April 14, 2022, from http://ceelo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/CEELO-LA-Retrospective_Summary.pdf

Schilder, D., & Tracy, J. (2018). *CEELO Leadership Academy: A retrospective review after three years of ...* Retrieved April 14, 2022, from http://ceelo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/CEELO-LA-Retrospective_July2018.pdf

Presentations

- 2021, Testimony to Maryland Legislature, HB 392, Child Care Centers—Early Childhood Screening & Assistance
- 2020, Testimony to Maryland Legislature, HB 386, Early Childhood Screening for Developmental Disabilities
- 2020, Testimony to the Early Childhood Subcommittee, Briefing by the State Department of Education and Maryland Family Network on the Impact of COVID-19 on Child Care
- 2019, National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education Annual Roundtable Meeting, Facilitator CEELO Leadership Academy Fellows Meeting
- 2018, National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education Annual Roundtable Meeting, Early Learning Opportunities in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) with Rolf Grafwallner
- 2017, Testimony to the Kirwan Commission on Universal PreK Expansion
- 2016, National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education Annual Roundtable Meeting, host and facilitator of meeting in Baltimore, MD
- 2015, Maryland Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, Developmental Screening in Daycare Centers presentation
- 2014, Maryland State Child Care Association Leadership Symposium, Developmental Screenings and Assessments presentation
- 2013 Maryland Systems of Care Training Institute, *Building a Stronger System of Care Together*, Conducting Developmental Screenings in Early Care and Education Settings, with Amy Nicholas, Assistant Professor Johns Hopkins University and Jennifer Buffone, Special Instructor, Calvert County Infants and Toddlers Program
- 2013, Maryland Family Network Interview for article, *Compensation in Child Care; Parents and Providers Both Feel Squeezed* & 2012 Interviewee: *Paper Chains: The Importance of Early Childhood Transitions*
- 2013, Prince George’s Child Resource Center, Director’s Summer Institute, *What Works for Us* panel presentation
- 2011, Testimony to Maryland Legislature, HB 712/SB 104, Early Child Care/Education Enhancement Program Annual Report