

Annual Forum October 20, 2005
Making the Most of our Early Education Investments

Speaker Bios

RUBY TAKANISHI

Ruby Takanishi is President of the Foundation for Child Development. Before working at the Foundation, she was Assistant Director for Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education in the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), working on education reform and The Children's Initiative. From 1986-1996, Takanishi was executive director of the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development, an operating program of Carnegie Corporation of New York. She was the founding executive director of the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences (1982-1983), and head of the Office of Scientific Affairs of the American Psychological Association from 1984-1986. In 1998, the Association awarded her the Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy Award. Takanishi was educated in the Hawai'i public schools, and holds a B.A. (Psychology) and Ph.D. (Education) from Stanford University.

GENE MAEROFF

Gene Maeroff is a distinguished national education writer. He was the founding director of the Hechinger Institute On Education and The Media at Teachers College, Columbia University and now serves as a senior fellow. Currently, he is completing a book funded by FCD, which is scheduled for publication next September on PK-3 programs throughout the country. Gene was also the author of FCD's 2003 annual report, "First Things First: PK as the starting point for Education Reform."

EDITH ALLEN-COLEMAN

Edith Allen-Coleman is the principal of Daniel Webster Lorraine Hansberry Child Parent Center in Chicago. Edith has been the school's principal for eight years. During her thirty-six years at the school, she has held teaching positions in the school's pre-school, kindergarten, and primary grade levels. Edith is a life-long resident of Chicago. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and received her Masters from Roosevelt University. She's been a staff developer for Chicago public schools and holds membership in various organizations and outreach programs.

ADRIANA BIRNE

Adriana Birne is the principal of the Early Childhood Programs for the Union City Board of Education. Adriana is a former second-grade and kindergarten teacher and served as the Executive Director of the Union City Daycare Program. In 1987, she was given the honor of New Jersey's Teacher of the Year by former New Jersey governor, Christine Todd Whitman. Adriana is also the recipient of the Elena Mederos Award from the National Association of Cuban-American Women in 2002. Arriving in the U.S. from Havana, Cuba at the age of nine, Adriana speaks English, Spanish and Italian and holds degrees from Jersey City State College.

JIM HINSON

Jim Hinson received his degrees from Missouri Southern State College. He received his EDD from St. Louis University. In 2001 and 2003, Jim became the Superintendent of the Independence School District in Missouri. His accomplishments among others in the district have been to implement nutritional policies based on statistical findings of a task force he organized to review child obesity and health concerns.