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Increasing Access to High-Quality Preschool



**Please join us to celebrate the
opening of our new LAUP Preschool**

What: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

When: Friday, January 30, 2009

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Buffet Lunch at Noon

Where: Un Mundo de Amigos Preschool
1480 Long Beach Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90813

RSVP: Corey Jackson (213) 416-1202

LAUP is funded by First 5 LA



Preschool is Looking Up!



Increasing Access to
High-Quality Preschool

**ABOUT
LOS ANGELES
UNIVERSAL
PRESCHOOL**

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is an independent, public benefit corporation created in 2004 to provide access to preschool education for all children in Los Angeles County. We are the proud recipient of the Eureka "Bronze Level" Award from the California Council for Excellence in recognition of our organizational quality and performance excellence.

At LAUP, we are guided by a 10-year Master Plan, a comprehensive community-driven outline created by hundreds of educational professionals, parents, providers, policymakers, business, philanthropic and civic leaders. The Master Plan spells out the important elements of a high-quality universal preschool system in Los Angeles County.

To achieve our objective of universal preschool, LAUP partners with public, private, charter and faith-based preschools. We also include home-based family childcare providers. This combination of high-quality providers enables us to have a complete and comprehensive network of preschool providers for the benefit of children. It also allows parents to select the best educational environment for their kids.

Because better-educated teachers produce improved child outcomes for school readiness and life competence, LAUP is also committed to strengthening the quality and diversity of the current and potential early care and education workforce. We do this by fostering professional development, promoting recruitment and retention and encouraging collaboration among stakeholders.

To learn more about LAUP's community partnerships, please visit us at www.laup.net.

LAUP staff is dedicated to a common cause: we believe that every child is important and that he or she has the right to succeed. Our commitment is strengthened by the myriad of research showing that high-quality preschool education has been proven to be an important springboard to success in life.



A Strong Commitment to a Vital Cause



At LAUP, we understand the unique challenges posed to us by an ethnically diverse Los Angeles County. That is why we are proud of our culturally diverse employees, who also have impressive records of accomplishment in both the private and public sectors. This combination has given LAUP the foundation it needs to better serve the children of Los Angeles County.

Despite its proven benefits, preschool is still out-of-reach for too many young children, who are still not fulfilling their educational and economic potential. We believe that the future of California and our nation depends greatly on maintaining our worldwide edge in education and innovation. That is why LAUP is committed to its long-term mission of universal preschool.



Universal Preschool - A Wise Public Investment!



You may wonder if taxpayer money spent on a universal preschool system is a wise public investment. The answer is an unqualified yes! According to a RAND Corporation study, for every dollar we invest in quality preschool, the public saves \$2.62 in reduced special education needs, crime prevention and other social costs. Other prominent studies show an even greater rate-of-return to society and preparing children for worldwide competitiveness.

**LAUP and
Community
Preschools
Work Together**

Today, LAUP serves thousands of preschoolers in communities across Los Angeles County. Through collaboration and quality oversight with providers, we place emphasis on areas where the greatest need for preschool exists. We also support entire classrooms with resources to maximize the education and engagement of children, parents and teachers. This is accomplished through our funding of new sites or classroom spaces, expert in-field coaching and parent workshops.



Working closely with our preschool partners, LAUP is creating new preschool classrooms to serve tens-of-thousands of more children. Our goal is to fund preschools that will serve more than 100,000 children in Los Angeles County.

To find a list of high-quality preschools funded by LAUP, please visit www.laup.net or call toll free, **866-581-LAUP (5287)**.

Union Pacific Children's Center

La Petite Academy-CAPP

Options-Killian Elementary

LAUSD-Nestle Avenue Elementary

Wonderland Angels Early Learning Center

Long Beach Day Nursery

Cerritos College Development Center

Lynwood Unified School District

UCLA Early Care and Education-Kruger Center

Mueya Maravilla Child Development Center



For additional information
please contact:

Los Angeles Universal Preschool
750 N. Alameda Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90012

Tel (213) 416-1200
Toll Free (866) 581-LAUP (5287)
Fax (213) 416-1299

Email: info@laup.net
Web: www.laup.net

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First 5 LA



preschool facts

The Advantages of Preschool

Strengthening our educational system begins with effective early childhood education programs. When kids have access to preschools and start school ready to learn, our K-12 schools perform better, and all of California benefits.

According to research, good reading skills are the foundation for all learning. And it's best to build this foundation before kindergarten in effective quality preschool programs.

Studies show when kids enter kindergarten after preschool, they are more ready to succeed and the benefits spread rapidly to the K-12 education system, the economy and public safety as such children are more likely to become successful and productive citizens.

Research also shows that children enrolled in high-quality preschools generally outscore their non-participating peers on vocabulary tests and on tests of early math skills.

Upon entering kindergarten, children who attended preschool typically showed an advantage of eight months in pre-reading skills, six months in early writing skills, and four months in early math skills.

According to surveys, about 95 percent of California kindergarten teachers say their students who attended preschool are better prepared in both social and academic areas, from pre-reading skills to early math concepts to the ability to share and play well with classmates.

In the long-term, studies show that children who attend a high-quality preschool are:

1. More likely to graduate from high school.
2. More likely to be employed.
3. More likely to earn a higher income.
4. Less likely to need public assistance.
5. More likely to lead healthy lives.
6. Less likely to be involved in crime.

Stronger Communities

By attending preschool, not only do our public schools benefit because children are better prepared for kindergarten, but our local communities benefit from increased investment in small businesses and infrastructure. And taxpayers benefit because the government has to spend less tax dollars on special education, and because the children are less likely to get in trouble with the law.

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A Wise Public Investment

Many studies show a sizable social return for public dollars invested in quality preschool education for children. One study by the *RAND Corporation* shows that for every \$1 invested in preschool education, a social capital return of \$2.62 is earned. Another study, (*The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40*), states that the real return is \$17 in social benefit for each dollar invested as a result of the children paying higher taxes as productive adults, as well as requiring less hospitalization and less time behind bars and in the court system. Such returns, even at the lower end of estimations, are hard to match in the business arena, let alone in the public sector.

Preschool Spaces Needed in Los Angeles County

There are about 156,000 four-year-old children living in Los Angeles County, roughly 27 percent of the state's total. About half of them do not attend preschool. Cost is one reason, but the lack of available spaces is another major factor.

To increase enrollment, LAUP has made great strides in funding and adding preschool spaces throughout Los Angeles County.

Because of LAUP, thousands of more children in the county will start kindergarten better prepared and more ready to succeed in school and in life as productive adults.



the benefits OF HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL

Research shows that high-quality preschool greatly benefits a child during his or her formative years. A good preschool helps to build children's social skills and self-confidence, and gives them the foundation of knowledge that they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is committed to making high-quality preschool available to every four-year-old in Los Angeles County. We frequently evaluate each LAUP classroom for critical elements of quality, and provide the resources — funding and expert coaching — to help preschools improve.

Benefits to Children & Families

A year of high-quality preschool can help prepare children for success in school and beyond. In fact, nine out of 10 kindergarten teachers say that children who attend preschool are better prepared for school than those who don't. And studies show that there are many additional benefits. For example, children who attend a high-quality preschool are:

- *More likely to read proficiently by third grade.*
- *More likely to graduate from high school and pursue higher education.*
- *Less likely to be held back or placed in special education.*
- *Less likely to become involved in crime.*

Benefits to the Community

LAUP's goal of making high-quality preschool available to all four-year-olds in Los Angeles County is one of the best investments we can make in our communities.

Not only do our public schools benefit because children are better prepared for kindergarten, but our local communities benefit from increased investment in small businesses and infrastructure. And taxpayers benefit because the government has to spend less on special education and crime prevention. In fact, according to a recent study by the RAND Corporation, for every dollar we invest in quality preschool, the public saves more than double that in reduced special education needs, crime prevention, and other costs. In short, preschool education is an investment we cannot afford to neglect.

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the need FOR PRESCHOOL IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Right now, less than half of Los Angeles County's 4-year-olds have access to any preschool at all, and only a fraction of them are enrolled in high-quality programs that produce lasting results. LAUP is working to create new, high-quality preschool classrooms, and to make preschool affordable for more families.

The Challenge

In Los Angeles County, we find most every challenge that can be faced by a preschool system anywhere in the country – lack of available spaces, lack of available teachers, language barriers, cultural differences, transportation issues, difficult home situations, dangerous neighborhoods, and complicated political circumstances, among others.



With a population of roughly 10 million people, Los Angeles County is larger than 41 states. The county covers 4,000 square miles of dense, urban neighborhoods and sprawling, rural communities, with areas of extreme wealth and poverty throughout the region. There are more than 155,000 4-year-old children living here, and more than half of them speak a language other than English at home.

However, there are only about 70,000 licensed preschool spaces available for 4-year-olds, meaning more than half of our children are left out, and in many neighborhoods, the problem is much worse. Publicly-funded programs like State Preschool and Head Start are available to some, but only the poorest families qualify, and spaces are scarce. At any given time, tens of thousands of children are stuck on the county's Centralized Eligibility List, a waiting list for spaces in publicly-funded programs. Private preschools often cost too much for working and middle class families, even if they could get in off the long waiting lists for those programs.

Working towards a Solution

LAUP is combining a deep understanding and passion for early education with leading edge business practices to change the landscape of preschool in Los Angeles County. Created in 2004, LAUP is already funding preschool for thousands of children, many of whom had no access to preschool before. And in communities that need it most, LAUP's goal is to create new classrooms to serve more children.

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Los Angeles Universal Preschool SERVING AS A MODEL FOR OTHER COUNTIES AND STATES

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is dedicated to giving every child in Los Angeles County an opportunity to attend a high-quality preschool. Building a universal preschool network is challenging in any county or state, however, and LAUP hopes to serve as a model for others who are making the commitment to prepare every child to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

LAUP is serving as a model to other counties and states by:

- **Creating new preschool spaces efficiently** by, in addition to new buildings, providing funds to operate previously empty classrooms, and constantly looking for opportunities to maximize the use of public and private funds.
- **Making preschool more affordable** because it is often out of reach for middle-and working-class families. Many LAUP preschools are completely free, and no families are turned away because they cannot afford to pay or due to geographic location.
- **Giving preschools the funding they need** to run high-quality programs, because research shows that's the only way the potential benefits of preschool can be realized. The additional funding enables preschools to hire and retain qualified teachers, and fill their classrooms with materials that aid in learning.
- **Continuously improving quality** in the classroom through intensive quality coaching, support, and the development of exemplary practices in a number of important areas. LAUP even supports preschools that do not meet its initial standards for quality, so they may reach their potential and join our network.
- **Letting families choose** from a wide range of preschool programs. LAUP funds preschool classrooms in public schools (including charters), private schools, community and for-profit centers, and we are one of the few universal preschool programs to include home-based family child care programs as full partners. LAUP does not restrict enrollment in any of the programs it funds – all children are welcome. However, due to public funding restrictions, some LAUP-funded preschool programs have their own income limitations.
- **Attracting participation of preschools** by minimizing paperwork and maximizing innovation. While all providers should meet certain basic standards, we know that they face different challenges and present different opportunities. We take a "one size does NOT fit all" approach and seek to support our preschools, not run them.
- **Connecting our programs to their communities** by involving families in decision-making, working to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers, and developing programs that link community services to our preschools.

"I have been in the field for more than 30 years, and over that time I've developed a healthy cynicism about publicly funded programs. LAUP is proving itself different. Its staff understands that not every program has to look and feel the same, and they've supported our efforts to provide a varied, imaginative experience."

– Michelle Ventimiglia, LAUP Provider

LAUP's goal is to enroll as many four-year-olds as possible in high-quality preschools throughout Los Angeles County, where a universal preschool system would be the largest in the nation, and second largest among all state systems.



all about LOS ANGELES UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL

Combining a deep understanding and passion for early education with leading edge business practices, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is changing the landscape of preschool in Los Angeles County.

Created in 2004, LAUP is a non-profit organization dedicated to making high-quality preschool available to every 4-year-old in Los Angeles County.

LAUP is already funding preschool for thousands of children, many of whom had no access to quality preschool before. And in communities that need it the most, LAUP is helping create new classrooms to serve thousands more.



LAUP is funded by First 5 LA.

LAUP is increasing access to high-quality preschool by:

- **Creating new preschool spaces**, especially in areas of the county where they are needed most.
- **Making preschool more affordable**, because right now, preschool is often out of reach for middle- and working-class families.
- **Giving preschools the funding they need** to run high-quality programs.
- **Letting parents choose** where they send their child for preschool (LAUP funds public, private, and charter preschools, as well as home-based family child care programs).
- **Helping families choose a good preschool** by evaluating each classroom for quality before it can bear the LAUP name and logo.
- **Providing intensive coaching** to help preschool teachers and administrators improve the quality of their programs.

To find a list of preschools funded by LAUP, or to sign up for the LAUP newsletter, please visit www.laup.net, or call 866-581-LAUP (5287).



selected preschool studies

Research into the benefits of early childhood education has grown tremendously over the last several years, bolstered by the data collected in a number of long-term studies. Studies have also been conducted on the lack of access to quality preschools, workforce issues, and other related matters. Some of the most interesting and important studies are summarized below:

GENERAL STUDIES

High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40

(Ypsilanti, Michigan—High/Scope Press, 2004)

<http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/assets/Summary-Conclusions-and-FAQ.pdf>

High/Scope Perry Preschool Study is one of the longest running and best-known studies of the effects of preschool education. This study, which began in Ypsilanti, Mich., in the 1960s, followed a group of high-risk inner city children throughout their lives, half of whom were randomly picked to attend preschool.

The study documented a wide variety of life experiences — including family stability, physical and mental health, income, drug abuse and incarceration — and proved that those who had attended preschool did better as a group in every category. The Perry Report also kept track of the fiscal life-long realities faced by society for those who do and do not attend preschool. After four decades, and when adjusted for inflation, the researchers discovered that the ratio between the money originally spent on preschool compared to the return to the community in higher taxes paid, less hospitalization and less time behind bars and in the court system added up to a return on the initial investment of \$17 for every dollar invested.

Chicago's Child-Parent Centers

(Reynolds, A. J., Temple, J. A., Robertson, D. L., & Mann, E. A., 2001)

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/search?fulltext=chicagos+child+parent+centers>

Chicago's Child-Parent Centers is the nation's oldest federally funded preschool. Researchers followed preschoolers from the program through adulthood, comparing them to similarly disadvantaged children who did not attend preschool. Altogether, 1,500 students participated in the study. So far, the study reports:

- By age 5, 46.7 percent of the preschoolers met the national average on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, compared to 25 percent of the control group.
- By age 15, 23 percent had repeated a grade, compared to 38.4 percent of the control group.
- By age 25, 20.6 percent had spent time in jail or prison, compared to 25.6 percent of the control group.

The study calculated that for every dollar spent on the program, \$10.15 was returned in later economic benefit, including savings in public services.

The Abecedarian Project

(The University of North Carolina FPG Child Development Institute)
<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~abc/>

The Abecedarian Project was a carefully controlled study in which 57 infants from low-income families were randomly assigned to receive early intervention in a high quality childcare setting, and 54 were in a non-treated control group. The treated children received full-time educational intervention in a high-quality childcare setting from infancy through age 5.

The investigators have now completed a young adult follow-up assessment of study participants. At age 21, cognitive functioning, academic skills, educational attainment, employment, parenthood, and social adjustment were measured. Some of the major findings show that the treatment group had higher reading and math achievement scores, higher employment levels, and were more likely continue their education beyond high school compared to the control group.

The Economics of Investing in Universal Preschool Education in California

(Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corp., 2005)
http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9164.1/index1.html

Economists at RAND Corp., a nonprofit research organization, show that California would get \$2.62 back for every dollar invested in quality preschool opportunity for all, including savings from improvements to K-12.

Estimates for Los Angeles County:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2005/RAND_RB9164.1.pdf

If a high-quality, universal preschool program for four-year-olds were implemented in Los Angeles County, each annual cohort of participants would realize the following benefits, among others, over the course of their childhood and adolescent years:

- 4,500 fewer children ever retained in grade
- 20,000 fewer child-years of special education
- 3,200 fewer high-school dropouts
- 1,500 fewer children ever abused or neglected
- 9,600 fewer juvenile petitions in court

These reductions range from 6 to 26 percent of what would occur without the universal preschool program. The improvements are associated with substantial financial benefits to California taxpayers, preschool participants, and California society at large.

TOPIC SPECIFIC RESEARCH

Economic Benefits of Preschool

- American Business Leaders' Views on Publicly-funded Pre-Kindergarten and the Advantages to the Economy: http://www.ced.org/docs/poll_earlyed2006zogby.pdf (Zogby International, December 2005) A national poll conducted by Zogby International revealed overwhelming support for publicly-funded preschool programs among senior executives of Fortune 1000 companies. Business leaders across the nation say that quality preschool for every child will help keep America's economy globally competitive. http://www.ced.org/newsroom/press/press_earlyed2006conf.pdf.
- Invest in the Very Young: <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/assets/jheckman-invest-in-young.pdf>

(Ounce of Prevention Fund/University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy Studies, 2000). Nobel Laureate in Economics James Heckman has written extensively about the returns on public investments in quality early education programs. This 6-page paper gives a good overview of his research.

School Readiness Benefits of Preschool

- The Effects of State Prekindergarten Programs on Young Children's School Readiness in Five States (NIEER, 2005) <http://nieer.org/docs/index.php?DocID=129>. This NIEER study of quality preschool programs in five states (Michigan, New Jersey, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and West Virginia) finds that children attending state-funded pre-k programs improve significantly in children's early language, literacy, and mathematical development regardless of ethnic or socio-economic background.
- The Children of the Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study Go to School (Chapel Hill, NC: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/ncedl/PAGES/cq.cfm>)

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1999) High-quality childcare positively affects children's cognitive and social skills through the second grade, according to a major national study by researchers at four universities. Children who attended quality preschool programs when they were 3- and 4-years-old scored better on math, language and social skills development through the early elementary years than children in poor-quality programs.

- The Effects of Universal Pre-K on Cognitive Development: <http://www.apa.org/releases/dev416-gormley.pdf> (Georgetown University, Washington D.C., 2005) In a study comparing Oklahoma children who have completed one year of preschool with those just entering preschool and those who didn't attend preschool, William Gormley, Ted Gayer, Deborah Phillips and Brittany Dawson conclude that Oklahoma's universal preschool program has succeeded in enhancing the school readiness of a diverse group of children.

Benefits of Universal Programs

- The Universal vs. Targeted Debate: Should the United States Have Preschool for All? <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/assets/nieer-universal-v-targeted.pdf> (NIEER, 2004) The National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University published this comprehensive policy brief detailing the arguments for universal programs and those for programs targeted to poor children only.

Social Benefits of Preschool

- School Readiness: Closing Racial and Ethnic Gaps http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info_show.htm?doc_id=255946 (Princeton, NJ: The Future of Children, Vol. 15, No. 1, 2005). This Princeton University-Brookings Institute- produced volume includes eight articles written by some of the nation's leading scholars on early education and the achievement gap. The articles address the size of the gap, synthesize what is known about its causes, and identify some policy solutions. See the accompanying policy brief, "Closing the Achievement Gap" http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/Policy_Brief__SPRING_2005pdf.pdf
- Science Says: Early Childhood Programs, <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/assets/teen-pregnancy-research-0604.pdf> (Washington D.C.: Child Trends, 2004) The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy conducted a research review and reports on the success of early childhood education programs in lowering the risks of pregnancy in adolescence.
- The Brookline Early Education Project Follow-Up Study <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/116/1/144> (Pediatrics, 2005). Researchers at Children's Hospital and Boston College conducted a 25-year follow-up study on a community-based program from the 1960s and 1970s that provided early childhood health and developmental services for Brookline and neighboring Boston children and their families. The effects for low-income children were significant.

Lack of Access to Preschool in California

- California Report Card 2005 <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/assets/Report-Card-2005.pdf> (Children Now, Oakland, CA, 2005) Children Now's 2005 *California Report Card* assesses how well the state is meeting children's needs. The bottom line? Not well. California receives poor marks in such areas as access to preschool and children's health insurance, and the quality of K-12 schools. The report finds that while Americans say they want a greater focus on children, public investments in their well-being are declining.
- Public Safety Can't Wait: California's Preschool Shortage <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/assets/Public-Safety-Can-t-Wait-FCIK-report.pdf> (Oakland, CA: FCIK, 2005) The law enforcement group Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California conducted the first-ever survey of California preschool waiting lists and reported that three out of four publicly-funded preschool programs in California are turning children away for lack of capacity to serve them. This report also highlights recent research drawing the connection between quality preschool and improved public safety.

Lack of Access to Preschool California (cont'd)

- Preschool and Childcare Enrollment in California
<http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/assets/crb-data.pdf> (Sacramento, CA: CRB, 2004) The California Research Bureau analyzed 2000 U.S. Census data and found that California ranks 37th in the nation for preschool enrollment, with a little over half of 4-year-olds enrolled in some type of program. This data set provides the largest available sample, showing dramatic enrollment disparities across counties, ethnicities and family incomes.

Workforce Issues

- Raising Teacher Education and Training Standards For Universal Preschool in California: Assessing the Size of the Task <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/assets/raising-teacher-education.pdf> (Berkeley, CA: 2004). Universal Preschool in California: An Overview of Workforce Issues (PDF) (Berkeley, CA: 2003) The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at the University of California, Berkeley, has documented the need for more and better trained preschool teachers.
- Low Wages = Low Quality; Solving the Real Preschool Teacher Crisis
<http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/assets/nieer-low-wages.pdf> (Rutgers, NJ: NIEER, 2003). The National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University reports how low compensation for preschool teachers contributes to low quality for programs.
- From Capitols to Classroom, Policies to Practice: State-Funded Prekindergarten at the Classroom Level <http://nieer.org/resources/files/NPSteachers.pdf> (Rutgers, NJ: NIEER, 2005). Researchers at Yale have evaluated the benefits of having high quality and well compensated teachers, qualified assistant teachers and the importance of lesson planning time in the preschool classroom.

Preschool Advocacy Studies

- Kids Can't Wait to Learn (pdf) (Oakland, CA, Preschool California, 2004) This Preschool California report pulls together statewide and national research on brain development, economics, education and demographics, as well as voter surveys and expert testimonials. All of it points to preschool opportunity for all as one of the smartest and most strategic investments California can make in its children, its economy and its future.
- Praise for Preschool: California Kindergarten Teachers Say all Children Will Benefit (PDF) (Preschool California, November 2005) More than 9 out of 10 kindergarten teachers in California say it is important for children to go to preschool before they start kindergarten, according to a new statewide poll of California public school kindergarten teachers. The poll, conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates for Preschool California, found near-unanimous support for quality preschool among kindergarten teachers, no matter where they teach or for how long they have been in the profession.
- Ready to Learn (Sacramento: California Department of Education, 1998). The Universal Preschool Task Force, convened by state Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin, published this report calling for "publicly funded universal preschool within ten years for all three- and four-year-old children in California." This valuable document elevated preschool in policy debates and became a basis for future work on preschool for all. It is not available electronically, but copies can be ordered from CDE by calling (800) 995-4099 and asking for item number 1399 (\$8.00).

Preschool Advocacy Studies (cont'd)

- Preschool for All: Investing in a Productive and Just Society (Washington D.C., Committee for Economic Development, 2002) In this groundbreaking report, CED calls for a new compact between the state and federal governments to make free, high-quality early education available and to help close the achievement gap. Read the CED Press Release (pdf), the Executive Summary (pdf) and the Full Report (pdf).
- Master Plan for Education (pdf) (Sacramento: California Assembly and Senate, 2000). The Master Plan's School Readiness Working Group recommended that California "give every child the best possible start in life and in school" by providing quality preschool for all. The plan recognizes that the strength of California's K-12 system relies in part on the preparation of students entering that system.



LAUP Management Team Biographies

Dr. Gary Mangiofico, Chief Executive Officer

As Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Gary Mangiofico brings to Los Angeles Universal Preschool a vast and impressive background in child development issues, proven executive leadership and a passion for social change that is critical to the organization's overall mission and success.

Under Gary's leadership, LAUP is successfully funding high-quality preschool education for thousands of children throughout Los Angeles County, many of whom previously had no access to early childhood education.

Gary's career in the education, health and development sectors has prepared him well for his leadership role at LAUP. In many ways, his position at LAUP is the culmination of his vast experiences. His proven leadership and background in Organizational Psychology have also enabled him to position LAUP as a successful and innovative forward-looking organization with a clear mission that is supported by a high-performing staff in a creative and supportive multicultural environment.

Gary received his Ph.D. in Organizational Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. He is a practicing faculty member teaching at Pepperdine University's Graziadio School of Business Management, and is an active member of the Academy of Management, the American Psychological Association, and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Dr. Celia Ayala, Chief Operating Officer

For more than 31 years, Dr. Celia Ayala has worked tirelessly as a teacher, administrator and an advocate for the children of Southern California.

As Chief Operating Officer at Los Angeles Universal Preschool, Celia is responsible for overseeing the organization's day-to-day operations. This includes supervising departments and programs that help preschools improve their classrooms and services to children and their families, fund preschool classroom construction and

upgrades, and create incentives and educational opportunities to attract and retain preschool teachers and providers.

Celia has a rich professional history in early childhood education and institutional management. Prior to joining LAUP, she served as the Assistant Superintendent, Division of Children & Family Services, at the Riverside County Office of Education. In that role, she managed all early childhood education programs and activities within the division, including the county's Head Start program. She also worked with staff and the community to improve the quality of child care.

As an educator, Celia wishes to give all children similar positive experiences as what her own kids enjoyed while growing up: a lot of love, nurturing, encouragement and freedom to learn.

Celia holds a doctorate in education from the University of Southern California.

Clare Shephard,
Chief Financial & Technology Officer

As Chief Financial and Technology Officer of Los Angeles Universal Preschool, Clare Shephard has a clear mission: making quality preschool education available to all children in Los Angeles County.

Arriving in October 2004 as an unpaid volunteer with more than 20 years of broad financial management experience, Clare was the first person entrusted to begin operations at LAUP. She was called upon to build a financial foundation for LAUP that would last for years to come, which she has done.

Clare has successfully kept LAUP's administrative costs at less than 5 percent of each year's total budget. She has also been instrumental in developing a funding sustainability plan for LAUP that assures its long-term viability.

Clare's 25 years of experience also include success stories at high-profile companies such as Paramount Pictures and Ernst & Young, LLP.

When she's not working, Clare is fascinated by her teenage son and daughter and continues to learn a lot about life from them. She also enjoys golf and watching college football.

Clare earned her Master's Degree in Professional Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida.

Fernando Almodovar,
Vice President of Finance & Accounting

Along with day-to-day finance and accounting functions, Fernando Almodovar manages the Fiscal Provider Services Department at Los Angeles Universal Preschool. This department is responsible for providing fiscal coaching support to more than 350 preschools in the LAUP network, as well as monitoring how the preschools are spending their money.

Fernando brings 18 years of experience in finance and accounting to LAUP. He joined LAUP when the Finance and Accounting Department was comprised of only four employees and processed grants and expenses totaling \$26 million per year. Today, the department employs nine staff members, and grants and expenses are expected to reach \$76 million in fiscal year 2008/09.

Fernando is happily married and a proud father of a one-year-old daughter, who is looking forward to attending preschool one day. His favorite hobby is playing beach volleyball.

Fernando obtained his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University, and his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from California State University, Fullerton. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

Susan Cooper,
Vice President of Provider Network Operations

As Vice President of Provider Network Operations (PNO), Susan Cooper is responsible for programs at Los Angeles Universal Preschool that involve center-based and family child care preschools. With a staff of more than 40, the PNO division is responsible for connecting providers to families and community resources, aiding providers with transitioning preschoolers to Kindergarten, validating quality standards of providers with LAUP's star-rating system, and conducting the environmental rating assessments.

Susan's career in education includes being the founder of a non-profit organization and establishing and directing four preschools and infant care centers in Southern California, as well as at other locations throughout the U.S. Susan also worked as a teacher, having taught computers, web design and accounting in a public high school for nine years. Prior to joining LAUP, Susan most recently served as President of Las Vegas College. Overall, Susan has more than 30 years of experience in the educational field.

Susan earned her Master's Degree in Education and Bachelor's Degrees in Early Childhood Education and Organizational Leadership at Chapman University. She has two children who attended her infant care, preschool, private school and the same public high school where she taught.

Dion Jackson,
Vice President of Business Development

As the head of the Business Development Division, Dion is responsible for efforts to expand the LAUP preschool network. Three departments carry out this role: *Capacity Development*, which oversees the preschool selection process; *Starting Points*, which prepares new providers to operate high-quality programs; and *Facilities Development*, which is responsible for the facilities infrastructure.

Prior to joining LAUP, Dion was the Associate Director for the University of Southern California Center for Economic Development, an outreach arm of the School of Policy, Planning and Development, where she specialized in community outreach and economic development strategic planning. Her role included providing clinical experience to graduate students, preparing grant proposals, and managing applied research projects for local governments and nonprofits.

Dion also successfully assisted Los Angeles Unified School District in locating sites for their Primary Center schools in the late 1990s.

In her free time, Dion enjoys reading, listening to good music, and puttering in the garden.

Dion holds a Master's Degree in Urban Planning, a Master of Business Administration, and a Master of Real Estate Development from the University of Southern California.

Terri Rosales,
Vice President of Communications

Terri Rosales joined Los Angeles Universal Preschool in 2007 and brings more than 15 years of corporate and agency public relations experience to the organization. Her work is well noted for creating strategic marketing and public relations campaigns.

Prior to joining LAUP, she held a number of progressive communications positions at Nissan North America. Before working at Nissan, Terri spent six years at

Fleishman-Hillard International, a public relations firm where she specialized in crisis communications, consumer marketing and media relations.

Throughout her career, Terri has received numerous awards for her work, including the prestigious Silver Anvil award from the National Public Relations Society of America for a multi-million dollar public relations campaign for the California Department of Food and Agriculture; the Public Communicator of Los Angeles-Nissan North America Award for Excellence; the Levi Strauss & Co. Award of Excellence; and, the Inside PR-Merit Award for Multicultural Communications for the California Milk Advisory Board.

Terri is married and has two preschool-aged children, who actively attend preschool. She enjoys cooking, international travel, fashion and skiing.

She is a graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership, and received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Los Angeles.

Maria Veloz,
Vice President of Public Affairs
and Advancement

As Vice President of Public Affairs and Advancement, Maria Veloz provides strategic planning, leadership and oversight in growing LAUP's external stakeholder support.

Maria's extensive experience includes an appointment by former President Bill Clinton to serve in the United States Department of State, where she developed and implemented legislative strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean. Maria also has experience at the local, state, federal and executive levels of government, including her appointments in the Office of Presidential Personnel in the Clinton White House, the U.S House of Representatives working for Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, and in the California State Assembly working for Roybal-Allard and Gloria Molina.

During her free time, Maria juggles the competing demands for her time as a mother, daughter, sister, wife and child advocate. Maria always finds ways to stretch her day or dollar to volunteer in her community.

Maria received her Master's Degree in Administration from the University of California, Riverside, and has two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of California, Irvine, in Art History and Spanish.

Dr. Kimberly Hall,
Senior Evaluator

Dr. Kimberly Hall has been a member of the LAUP team since September 2005. As a Senior Evaluator, Kimberly is responsible for the ongoing internal evaluation of Los Angeles Universal Preschool operations.

In addition to leading evaluation efforts at LAUP, Kimberly also provides guidance and supervision to evaluation and monitoring staff, and represents the Research & Evaluation Department in external collaborations and committees.

Before joining LAUP, Kimberly worked as the West Coast Regional Coordinator for the Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research. The Center seeks to increase the capacity of state Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies and community-based organizations to document the impact of their programs and develop culturally competent services. In that capacity, Kimberly provided training, technical assistance and other services as needed to support agency staff in conducting participatory evaluations of their programs.

Kimberly is trained as a Community Psychologist and holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Denise Price,
Director of Starting Points 4 Preschool
and Capacity Development

As Director of Starting Points 4 Preschool and Capacity Development, Denise Price ensures that new LAUP providers are prepared for their quality standards review and transition to full contracts. The Starting Points team also focuses on enrollment, business development training, and implementation of Special Initiatives.

With two grandchildren, Denise has a vested interest in championing opportunities that will inspire a love for learning among young children. Her experience ranges from hands-on classroom teaching to a variety of administrative, management and leadership roles.

Denise's diverse background also includes a unique blend of for-profit and non-profit business experience and acumen.

Denise is a prior Advisory Board Member and accreditation validator for both the National Child Care Association and the National Association for the Education of

Young Children and a current member of both associations. Denise has a Master's Degree in Human Services with a specialization in the Management of non-profit agencies, and a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development and Psychology from the University of West Florida.

Denise and her husband, David, live in Long Beach with their grandchildren Noelle and Jackson. Denise's favorite past times include walking on the beach and horseback riding.

Schellee Rocher,
Director of Provider Operations

Schellee Rocher brings 17 years of experience in the field of Early Childhood Education to Los Angeles Universal Preschool. She is currently leading the Quality Support Coaching Team as the Director of Provider Operations.

Before joining LAUP, Schellee served as a Head Start teacher in Atlanta, and worked as a public school teacher in Minneapolis. She also worked as a Head Start director in New York, and as an Early Childhood Education field coach for New York City's Administration for Children's Services-Agency for Child Development. After returning home to Los Angeles, she joined Crystal Stairs, Inc. in the fall of 2002 as Manager of the Early Childhood Education Special Projects Unit.

Schellee is a member of the Southern University Alumni Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and the National Black Child Development Institute. She enjoys traveling, bike riding/walking and spending time with her family.

Schellee holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Bill Sperling,
Director of Legal & Compliance

As Director of Legal & Compliance, Bill Sperling is responsible for managing the provider compliance system, as Providers are required to operate in accordance with Los Angeles Universal Preschool operating guidelines in order to receive monthly payments.

Bill oversees a staff that determines providers' compliance with the Operating Guidelines before authorization is given to the Finance Department to issue payment. He also oversees the administration of all contracts with outside vendors. Furthermore, Bill provides General Counsel services to the organization. Bill has been practicing law for 12 years, and joined LAUP in 2006.

Prior to arriving at LAUP, Bill worked as a business litigator for several different Los Angeles law firms. His practice experience includes corporate litigation as well as environmental regulation. Early in his career, Bill worked for the Maryland State Attorney's Office as a prosecuting attorney.

Bill earned his law degree from American University in Washington, D.C., and moved to Los Angeles in 1998. He's married and lives in Westchester with his wife Elizabeth. During his free time, Bill enjoys beach volleyball and following the Boston Red Sox.

Dr. Randi Wolfe,
Director of Workforce Development

Having worked in the field of Early Care and Education for 30 years, Dr. Randi Wolfe has taught preschool, directed a day care center, as well as developed and directed a community-based family support center. Prior to joining Los Angeles Universal Preschool, she spent 10 years as a professor of Early Childhood Education at Northern Illinois University.

Under her leadership, the Workforce Development Department has successfully developed and implemented six Workforce Initiative grant projects aimed at preparing the next generation of early care and education teachers. Also, Randi and her team conceived and instituted the Professional Growth Plan aimed at enhancing the quality of the LAUP workforce, and the LAUP Stipend Program that provides financial incentives to teachers who pursue college coursework and degrees.

Randi earned her Ph.D. in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University and her Master's Degree in Education and Instructional Leadership from the University of Illinois at Chicago. But she has learned the most from raising her 23-year-old daughter, Elisheva, and her 19-year-old son, Ben.

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six things FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LAUP

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) funds preschools throughout Los Angeles County, and provides new resources — like expert quality and fiscal coaching and assistance — to help improve quality at area preschools. LAUP's goal is to make high-quality preschool available to every four-year-old in Los Angeles County, regardless of their family's income or geographical location. Here are six other things you should know about LAUP:

LAUP...

1 ...makes preschool affordable

LAUP shares the cost of preschool to make it affordable for **all** families. In fact, many LAUP programs are completely free for half-day preschool (full-day programs have additional fees). No parents are turned away because they can't afford to pay!

2 ...lets parents choose their child's preschool

Parents can apply to any preschool program in the LAUP network, no matter where in Los Angeles County they may live. And because we fund public, private, and charter schools as well as community-based non-profits and Family Child Care homes, we're working to give families a wide variety of preschools to choose from.

3 ...gives more children the chance to go to a high-quality preschool

In many neighborhoods, there just aren't enough preschools to serve every child who wants to attend. LAUP is working with communities to create new classrooms where they're needed most.

4 ...makes it easier to find a quality preschool

LAUP takes the time to evaluate each preschool before it joins our network. Every one must meet high expectations when it comes to providing a quality program and other important factors — like teacher qualifications, group size, and health and safety.

5 ...helps families participate in the preschool experience

Children benefit when families are involved in the preschool experience. LAUP encourages all of our preschools to welcome parents into the classroom, and helps teachers design programs with families in mind.

6 ...needs your help!

LAUP is funded by First 5 LA. ***But families and communities that want to see the spreading of preschool education continue long-term need to make their voices heard.*** Start by sharing your family's preschool experience with friends and neighbors to make sure they know why preschool should be available to all children. Sign up for our newsletter at www.laup.net and learn about more ways you can help!

To find a list of preschools funded by LAUP, or to sign up for the LAUP newsletter,
Please visit www.laup.net, or call 866-581-LAUP (5287)



valuing quality IN THE PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is changing the face of quality preschool education in Los Angeles County. By starting with an initial evaluation of each classroom, followed by individualized coaching and built-in incentives for improvement, LAUP encourages all preschools in its network to provide the highest quality programs possible for children.

Valuing High Quality in Every LAUP Classroom

LAUP evaluates preschool classrooms using criteria developed in collaboration with educators and parents. We look at teacher qualifications, class size, adult/child ratios, the level of parent engagement, and a host of other factors relating to the environment in which children can maximize their learning and development.

Because LAUP only funds preschools that meet its high expectations, parents of children in LAUP classrooms can feel confident that their four-year-olds are in a preschool program that has been evaluated for quality.

Helping Preschools to Improve Quality

LAUP's commitment to quality does not stop after one evaluation. After all, *every* preschool can improve. For those that do not yet meet our high expectations, LAUP invests time and effort to help them improve. And even the highest-rated preschools use LAUP's support to remain high performers. The following are some of the ways LAUP helps preschools improve quality:

- LAUP preschool coaches work with preschools new to the organization's network to help them build a strong foundation of quality.
- LAUP Quality Support Coaches — highly qualified early childhood professionals with extensive experience in the field — work directly in the classroom with teachers to offer valuable support and guidance.
- LAUP's in-house experts work to identify exemplary practices in specific areas of childhood development, and are committed to integrating those practices into LAUP classrooms.
- LAUP provides resources so that preschool programs can help teachers get the training and education they need to develop as professionals in the field.

To find a list of preschools funded by LAUP, or to sign up for the LAUP newsletter, please visit www.laup.net, or call 866-581-LAUP (5287).
