

# Planting The Seeds for Economic Growth

## OKLAHOMA ECONOMIC SUMMIT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT



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Dear Colleague,

You are invited to attend Oklahoma Economic Summit on Early Childhood Investment at the Skirvin Hilton in **Oklahoma City on Monday July 27, 2009 from 11:45 am to 3:45 pm**. Why should you join a select group of business leaders from all across Oklahoma to discuss this topic? Here are just four fast reasons:

1. To attract and retain the best companies, Oklahoma must have a high quality well educated workforce. Researchers from economists to neuroscientists, will tell you that in order to achieve this goal, we must focus more resources on early education particularly when it comes to our most at-risk children and families. Otherwise, Oklahoma will not have the human capital to meet your company's needs.
2. When young children are deprived of quality early life experiences, the result is a lack of readiness for school and life, subsequent education failure and high costs for remediation. The consequence is a financial drain on society and decreased workforce potential. Research shows that the most critical time in the development of children occurs before the age of 4 and if a child is not reading, writing and performing math at grade level by the third grade, the likelihood is the child will never catch up.
3. Oklahoma is widely regarded as a national leader in providing early childhood education, but that is often an unknown fact to many local business leaders whose awareness can help ensure that we fully leverage the investment that has already been made; and,
4. Your time at the upcoming summit will be rewarded by being presented facts and insights from national experts on the subject, including a Nobel Prize-winning economist.

Please help us maintain momentum by joining Oklahoma's top business leaders to learn why quality early childcare and education is so important for employers, for our economy and for our citizens.

Attendees will hear from Dr. James Heckman, a Nobel Laureate economist; Dr. Sonya Anderson, National Director of the First Five Years Fund; and Rob Dugger, head of the Partnership for America's Economic Success, a national coalition of foundations and businesses focused on improving our competitive position in the world.

Attached is a **Save the Date** flyer and registration information. Your participation will make a difference for Oklahoma's future!

Sincerely,

Dave Lopez  
*American Fidelity  
Foundation*

Bob Ross  
*Inasmuch  
Foundation*

Ken Levit  
*George Kaiser  
Family Foundation*

Ray Potts  
*Potts Family  
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