

## 13th Annual Nancy Latimer Convening for Children & Youth

*Science Museum of Minnesota, Discovery Hall*

Thursday, May 30, 2019

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm

### **Program Agenda**

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*Emcee: Denise Mayotte, The Sheltering Arms Foundation*

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
*Presented by Lynn Haglin, The Northland Foundation*
- 10:05 a.m. MinneMinds and Legislative Session Update**  
*Nancy Hylden, Hylden Advocacy & Law*
- 10:15 a.m. Legislative & Advocacy Champion Awards**  
*Presented by Denise Mayotte; Sheltering Arms Foundation*
- Award Recipients**  
Karla Smith, Parent Advocate  
Rep. Dave Pinto, Minnesota House  
Sen. Carla Nelson, Minnesota Senate
- 10:30 a.m. Honoring Nancy's Legacy**  
*George Latimer*
- 10:35 a.m. Presentation of the 2019 "Nancy Award"**  
Barbara Yates, Think Small – presented by Dianne Haulcy  
Kelly Monson, The Children's Cabinet – presented by Nancy Jost
- 10:50 a.m. Supporting Children's Mental Health Through Healthy Brain Development**  
*Moderated by Dr. Molly Harney, University of MN, Duluth*
- Panelists:**  
Dr. Charisse Pickron, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of MN, Inst. Of Child Development  
Michele Fallon, MN Assn. for Children's Mental Health – Infant and Early Childhood Division  
Emma Juon, Educational Services Manager, People Serving People
- 11:50 a.m. Closing Remarks**  
*Presented by Allison Corrado, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN Foundation*

## Remembering Nancy Latimer *Advocate for Children & Families*

**Pioneer, Advocate, Mentor, Colleague, Leader.**

Nancy Latimer was all these things and more.

As a longtime senior program officer at the McKnight Foundation, a leader of the Minnesota Early Childhood Funders Network, Nancy was a lifelong advocate for children. Her contributions to the healthy development of young children, the prevention of child abuse, and the creation of public and policy support continues to improve the lives of Minnesota's children and families.



In addition to her work across the entire developmental continuum for children, Nancy was especially dedicated to enhancing early childhood care and education.

Nancy's leadership, passion, creativity, and commitment to children were recognized in 2005 with the national Council on Foundation's Robert W. Scrivner Award for Creative Grantmaking. In her acceptance speech, Nancy spoke of the need to create new connections among diverse community stakeholders and to use more intensive communications and convening to reach policymakers and others who could make a difference.

***"Throughout this process and others, you all work on, it's important to use both head and heart. Our society seems to be losing that kind of heart – the kind that cares for the common good, rather than frontier individualism. My final message to all of you is: Be persistent in reaffirming values for the common good."***

***~Nancy Latimer***

Following Nancy's untimely passing, the Minnesota Early Childhood Funders Network held the first annual Nancy Latimer Convening for Children and Youth in 2007 to continue Nancy's commitment to building connections and communications to benefit children.

The annual "Nancy" Award honors individuals or groups that have embodied Nancy's spirit and advanced early childhood systems, policies and state-wide efforts in a meaningful way.

Previous "Nancy" Award recipients include The Early Childhood Caucus, Minnesota State Legislature; Dr. Martha Farrell Erickson; Glenace Edwall and Zoe Nicholie; Arthur J. Rolnick and Jane Kretzmann; the Minnesota Initiative Foundations; Karen Kelley-Ariwoola; Rob Grunewald; Mary Kosak; Barb Fabre; Dr. Betty Carlson; Carol Miller and Todd Otis and Nancy Jost.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Nancy Latimer Convening for Children & Youth

### 2019 “Nancy” Award Honoree

# Barbara Yates



Barbara Yates, President and CEO of Think Small. Over the past three decades, her professional and community service is inspired by research showing that quality care and education for children in their earliest years yields tremendous human, economic and social benefits; especially for families living in poverty.

She has served in many capacities; chair of Governor Dayton's Early Learning Council, an officer of the board for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and on the Kindergarten Readiness Strategy Team for Generation Next. She has served as an advisor to the MN Growth Fund for First Children's Finance and on the Executive Committee for MinneMinds. Barbara has co-led the national BUILD initiative for MN and currently serves on the Generation Next Leadership Council.

Formerly she was the co-executive director, with Duane Benson, of the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. There, she built a complex multi-million-dollar enterprise to study cost effective ways for children from low-income families to be ready for kindergarten. As a veteran state education official, Yates was a key learning administrator for Governors Perpich, Carlson, Ventura, Pawlenty and Dayton. She served as deputy commissioner, assistant commissioner and in several director positions for the Minnesota Department of Education.

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### 2019 “Nancy” Award Honoree

# Kelly Monson



Kelly Monson served as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Children’s Cabinet. She advised Gov. Dayton on policies that impact pregnant and parenting families with young children. Monson’s expertise in child and family development, policy research and advocacy, coalition building, cross sector collaboration and comprehensive systems building helps advocacy for change.

Monson has over two decades of experience in early childhood and family systems. She has experience in state government, county government, school district early childhood programs and served as both a teacher and a director in a childcare center. She has held various roles within Minnesota state government including serving as the Manager of the MN Children’s Cabinet, Help Me Grow System Coordinator at the MN Dept. of Ed. and Policy & Systems Advisor at the MN Dept. of Health.

Monson holds a master’s degree in Public Affairs from the University of Minnesota, a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education from Concordia University, and a bachelor’s degree in Child Development, with a minor in Early Childhood and Family Education. Monson is also a Minnesota licensed Pre-K and Family Educator. Despite all the experience and education, Kelly believes some of her greatest teachings have come from her own children, Spencer and Lily.

## Recognition Award Recipients



### **Karla Smith**

#### *Advocacy Champion Award*

Karla Smith joined the Family Academy at Northside Achievement Zone in 2018. Passionate about parent voice, she currently serves as Parent Leadership Coordinator at Northside Achievement Zone, which aims to support parents in building advocacy skills. This year Karla actively participated in policy events and spoke at the Minnesota State Capital for Advocacy for Children's Day. She's also contributes her parent voice and advocacy skills to the Education Partnership Coalition and Twin Cities Greater United Way around the ongoing efforts to support and build parent leaders. She's been parenting for 27 plus years and is proud to support the future of our children.



### **State Representative Dave Pinto**

#### *Legislative Champion Award*

Dave Pinto is in his third term representing the southwest part of St. Paul in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He chairs a committee on early childhood finance and policy and is the founder of the award-winning Prenatal to Three Policy Forums. He also serves on committees overseeing health & human services policy, public safety & criminal justice reform finance & policy, and rules & legislative reform. Outside of the Legislature, he serves as a prosecutor in Ramsey County, where he specializes in gender-based violence, including domestic assault and sexual exploitation. He and his wife Abby have two sons in the St. Paul Public Schools.



### **Senator Carla J. Nelson**

#### *Legislative Champion Award*

Carla Nelson is the Minnesota State Senator of Rochester, representing District 26. She is an outspoken advocate for education, health care reform, and small businesses. Carla has spent a large portion of her life in public service. Whether it be educating our youngest citizens or serving in government, Carla believes in working together to build stronger communities. During her time in the legislature, she fought job-killing tax increases, championed job and economic growth proposals, and was a leader in education reform. Carla has served on numerous education and health care committees, most recently serving as chairwoman of the Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee. Carla is a proven leader in business, nonprofit, faith communities and a variety of ongoing committee work.