



Speaker Bios

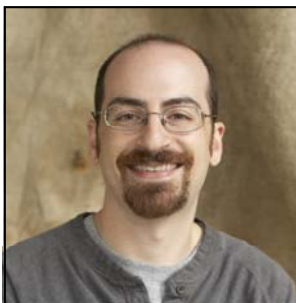


Event Emcee

Enrique Cerna is the co-creator, host and executive producer of the weekly regional current affairs programs KCTS 9 Connects and Conversations at KCTS 9. In addition, he serves as the station's Executive Director of Production.

Cerna has worked in the Seattle broadcast market for 36 years. He began his broadcast career as a news reporter/anchor for KOMO Radio in 1975. Prior to joining KCTS, he worked for KOMO Television as a general assignment news reporter and KING Television as a producer, reporter, and program host.

Cerna has earned five Northwest region Emmy awards. The Seattle Weekly honored him with a 2003 Editors' Choice selection as Best TV Host. In 2006, Seattle Magazine named Cerna one of the most influential people of the year for his broadcast work. And in 2008, the Zeta Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate fraternity established by African Americans, awarded Cerna its Community Service Award for coverage of communities of color.



Matthew Amster-Burton is a personal finance columnist for Mint.com and co-host of the hit food-and-comedy podcast Spilled Milk. He is the author of *Hungry Monkey: A Food-Loving Father's Quest to Raise an Adventurous Eater*, and has been featured in the Best Food Writing anthology repeatedly.



Dr. Dimitri Christakis is Director of the Center for Child Health, Development and Health Care, Seattle Children's Hospital Research Institute and Professor of Pediatrics, UW School of Medicine.

Author, researcher, pediatrician and internationally known expert on media and its effects on childhood development and behavior, Dr. Christakis has become a go-to expert for national major media outlets about television and how various media and play affects children's behavior, learning, development and language acquisition. The Center for Child Health, Development and Health Care, which he directs for Seattle Children's Hospital Research Institute, is devoted to improving the medical, social, cognitive and psychological outcomes of children in their homes, neighborhoods, schools, clinics and when hospitalized. (cont.)

(Dr. Christakis continued)

Dr. Christakis has been featured on CNN, NPR, Today Show, CBS News, ABC News, NBC News and more. He has written over 100 original research articles, a textbook on pediatrics, and co-authored *The Elephant in the Living Room: Make Television Work For Your Kids*.



Adrian Z. Diaz has been a police officer for 14 years with the Seattle Police Department. He oversees the School Emphasis Officer Unit for the Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative. Officer Diaz also work on two Mayor Initiatives, The Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative and the Youth and Families Initiative.

Officer Diaz holds a B.A. in Law and Justice from Central Washington University and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington.

Officer Diaz serves on the Department of Justice's Community Collaboration project, the King County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board, Alliance for Education Community Engagement Task Force, and the National Latino Peace Officers Association (Seattle Chapter). In his personal time, he is an Assistant Wrestling Coach at a local high school.



Steven G. Gilbert, Ph.D., DABT is the Director and Founder of the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND), Seattle, Washington. INND is a non-profit (501(c)3 institute dedicated to research and education in the neuroscience's.

Dr. Gilbert consults and lectures on issues related to toxicology, drug development and bioethics. He is available for speaking engagements on toxicology, stem cells, drug development, and bioethics. He is particularly interested in making toxicology and biomedical research accessible to the public and policy makers.



Dr. Bette Hyde was appointed Director of the Department of Early Learning (DEL) by Gov. Chris Gregoire on Feb. 10, 2009. Bette's focus is on creating one statewide early learning system that prepares all Washington children for school and life. She strongly believes that school-readiness means ready schools, ready children, ready families *and* ready communities.

Bette previously served as superintendent of the 5,500-student Bremerton School District, well-known for its emphasis on partnering with local early learning groups to improve kindergarten readiness. Under Bette's leadership, The Bremerton Schools received the National School Board Association's Magna Award for their system of early childhood partnerships.

She began her career as a special education teacher, and has worked as a school psychologist, principal and assistant superintendent in the Seattle, Vashon Island and Highline school districts. Bette worked as deputy superintendent for Puget Sound Educational Services District. She also has served on the governor's Washington Learns K-12 Advisory Committee, the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance, and the King County Commission on Children and Youth.

Bette earned her doctorate from the University of Minnesota, and completed a post-doctorate administrative certification from the University of Washington. She has two children, Sarah and Sam, and a grandson, Mateus.

Jerome M. Jainga— Bio Coming



Kristie Kirkpatrick has served as director of Whitman County Rural Library District (WCL) for the past 15 years. In a total of 23 years with the library district, Kirkpatrick has held nearly every staff position from computer system's administrator to public services and children's programming.

Kristie was a part of the initial steering committee for the state's Early Learning Public Library Partnership and regularly serves on a number of local, state and regional committees and councils. In 2011, Kristie received two Merit Awards from the Washington Library Association, one of which spoke directly to advances in library services for children, parents and caregivers in Whitman County.

Under Kirkpatrick's leadership as Director, WCL won the Sustainability Award from Webjunction as "The Little Library That Could" and has been featured in ALA's Real Success Stories. Washington State Library called WCL the best rural library in the State nominating them as one of the top 100 libraries in the USA. Bill Gates visited WCL in 2002 citing the library's innovative approach. WCL's programs and staff have won numerous awards and have been featured in local, statewide and national workshops, broadcasts and publications.



Nancy Stewart is a national award-winning musician who has been writing and performing for young children and their families for twenty years. This followed a successful fifteen year-long career as lead guitarist and vocalist with a nationally known show band. Featuring original and traditional songs, Nancy's nine CD's for children can be heard in schools, homes, and libraries across the country. Her music workshops for teachers, parents, and librarians have been highly praised for their relevant, useful, and easy to use songs and ideas.

Nancy has also shared the stage with Burl Ives, Shirley Jones, Bill Cosby, and Lily Tomlin at concerts and nightclubs across the United States and Canada. As lead guitarist and vocalist she performed with Randy Sparks and the Back Porch Majority beginning in 1971, and recorded several albums in Nashville and Los Angeles, the Disney movie theme "The Apple Dumpling Gang", and numerous radio and TV commercials.



Val Thomas-Matson's television production experience began at King Broadcasting in Seattle, Washington, as a segment producer for King's live morning talk show *Good Company*. She has written for the national game show *Campus All-Star Challenge* on the Black Entertainment Network (BET), served as the arts and crafts host on the *KIRO Noon News*, made multiple appearances on *Bill Nye the Science Guy*.

Val also worked with King County Human and Community Services on numerous substance abuse and violence prevention campaigns, which precipitated her role as producer/host for King County Public Access TV, *Communities in Action*. In her role as Executive Producer with North by Northwest's Nonfiction Division, she's worked on the Council for Children & Families' Post Pardon Depression PSA, Youth Suicide Prevention educational video for middle school students, Friends of Youth, and Pride Foundation video productions. She is currently in development on a research-based children's program called *Look, Listen & Learn*.