



EARLY INVESTMENTS - July 2008

A monthly newsletter of the Foundation for Early Learning

Greetings!,

The Foundation for Early Learning has much to celebrate. With a change in seasons comes a change in our board and a growth in the Foundation's staff. As of July 1, Board Member Vijay Vashee has taken on the role of Board Chair. We are excited about his passion for early learning. Vashee succeeds previous Board Chair Marleen Alhadeff who is continuing her service on the Board. Be sure to read the complete [press release](#) about this change.

Recently the Foundation has also brought on the new Program Manager Erin Okuno, and our new graduate student intern Hannah Locke. We look forward to their contributions and are glad that they have joined our staff.

In this issue of *Early Investments* you will find Foundation updates and early learning news.

Best,

Jeanne Anderson, Executive Director

New Board Chair Vijay Vashee Welcomed

The Foundation for Early Learning Board of Directors elected Vijay Vashee, Chairman and founding President of TiE Seattle, to the position of Board Chair. Vashee succeeds previous Board Chair Marleen Alhadeff who continues her service on the Board.

Vashee is a strong supporter of community programs directed towards children. "Children are the future of our community. We need to take care of them from the day they are born," said Vashee. "It is my honor to serve as the Board Chair of the Foundation for Early Learning. I look forward to supporting its important mission and in building on the great work of my predecessors," Vashee added.

Visit our news section to read the complete [press release](#).



Libraries and the Foundation: Working together to advance early education



Earlier this year the Foundation for Early Learning joined with the [Early Learning Public Library Partnership](#) to promote early learning in Washington State libraries. This relationship



has highlighted the value of libraries in providing dedicated resources, space and programs for children of all ages - especially those birth through age five.

With recent additions, the partnership now spans 21 library systems from across Washington State. This partnership has also recently met with the Department of Early Learning and Philanthropy Northwest's Early Learning Affinity Group to explore how the groups can collaborate and build stronger partnerships. Additional news and updates are available on the [Early Learning Public Library Partnership](#) page. If your library system is interested in joining the Partnership, or for more information, please contact Erin Okuno, Program Manager, at erin@earlylearning.org.

New Grants Awarded to Island, Skagit, Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties

The Foundation for Early Learning is excited to announce new grants to our partners in the Island County for Early Learning and Skagit County Early Learning Coalitions. These grants will aid their work as they enter stage two of the Foundation's funding process. Each community was provided with \$8,000 in support from the Foundation. This crucial phase involves coalitions conducting community or informational gathering sessions as they research and examine their community's early learning needs.

We are also pleased to announce a grant to the Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Early Learning Coalition as they continue their early learning planning work, now in stage three. This award from the Foundation was for \$15,000.

With these grants, the Foundation now supports community investments covering 27 Washington counties. [Click here](#) for more information on our coalition funding and how your community can get involved, or contact Vaughnetta J. Barton, Director of Programs, at vaughnetta@earlylearning.org.

Coalition Communications Workshop

The Foundation for Early Learning is going to hold a Fall 2008 Coalition Communications Workshop. This all-day training session is dedicated to supporting the communications needs of coalitions from across the state. A follow up to last year's business plan writing workshop, this training will be conducted by marketing and public relations professionals. Topics may include:

- Writing a Communications Plan
- How to Talk to the Media
- Community Engagement Strategies
- Online Communication Tools

The agenda, date and location of this free workshop will be announced shortly. If your coalition or organization has particular communications needs or if you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Joel Ballezza, Communications Manager, at joel@earlylearning.org.

Early Learning News

Selected early learning news articles from around the web. If you have news items or announcements that you would like listed, please contact joel@earlylearning.org.

[Bilingual child-development center serves Latino families](#)

Seattle Times - United States

José Martí, the first accredited bilingual early-learning program on the West Coast, according to El Centro, serves 68 preschool students, whose progress is ... [READ MORE](#)

[Early childhood is good time to invest](#)

Allentown Morning Call - Allentown,PA,USA

These are the children who, if their learning needs are not addressed early, will fail in school. Then, they will come to cost

society far more in the ... [READ MORE](#)

For additional early learning news, visit www.earlylearning.org/news

Early Investments is a monthly newsletter produced by the Foundation for Early Learning. To request an event or announcement to be included in an upcoming issue, please contact Joel Ballezza, Communications Manager, at joel@earlylearning.org.

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