SRCD Policy Fellowship Experience

Federal and state fellows are asked to write one-page reflections on their fellowship experiences. At the end of the fellowship year, fellows also develop a Professional Portfolio accompanied by a brief abstract to showcase a selected number of contributions the fellow made at the placement during the fellowship year.

Listing of Current SRCD Policy Fellows: 2022-2023

Federal Policy Fellow Spotlights and State Policy Fellow Portfolio Abstracts

Federal and State fellows are asked to write one-page reflections on their fellowship experiences. In addition, at the end of the fellowship year fellows are asked to develop a Professional Portfolio with brief abstracts of each entry to showcase a selected number of contributions the fellow made at the placement during the fellowship year. Prior to the 2020-2021 fellowship year, Federal fellows wrote one-page reflections while State fellows developed Professional Portfolios.

2023

Federal Policy Fellows

• Marissa Abbott, Ph.D.
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Planning and Evaluation
• Carly Champagne, Ph.D.
Office of Child Care (OCC) in the Administration for Children and Families
• Diane Gumina, Ph.D.
Pregnancy and Perinatology Branch (PPB) at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
• Shirley Huang, Ph.D.
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the National Institutes of Health
• Kelsey McKee, Ph.D.
Office of Head Start (OHS) in the Administration for Children and Families
• Kylee Probert, Ph.D.
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families
• Kizzann Ashana "Shana" Ratcliff, Ph.D.
Office of Head Start in the Administration for Children and Families
• Virginia Salo, Ph.D.
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the National Institutes of Health
• Neda Senehi, Ph.D.
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families
• Tanya Tavassolie, Ph.D.
Office of Head Start (OHS) in the Administration for Children and Families
• Tamarie Willis, Ph.D.
Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families
• Kylie Garber, Ph.D.
Office of Senator Tim Kaine

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

• Alex Busuito, Ph.D.
Center for Perinatal and Early Childhood Health, Rhode Island Department of Health
2022

Federal Policy Fellows

- **Marissa Abbott, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary, Planning and Evaluation

- **Lorena Aceves, Ph.D.**
  Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families

- **Jackie Gross, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

- **Frances Martínez Pedraza, Ph.D.**
  Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families

- **Kelsey McKee, Ph.D.**
  Office of Head Start

- **Parisa Parsafar, Ph.D.**
  Child Development and Behavior Branch, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health

- **Virginia Salo, Ph.D.**
  *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health

- **Neda Senehi, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

- **Tanya Tavassolie, Ph.D.**
Office of Senator Maggie Hassan

- **Dianna Tran, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families

State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

- **Clarissa Corkins, M.S.**  
  Oklahoma State Department of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
- **Eleanor Fisk**  
  Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- **Alex Busuito, Ph.D.**  
  Center for Perinatal and Early Childhood Health, Rhode Island Department of Health  
- **Cassandra Simons Gerson, Ph.D.**  
  Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood  
- **Lillie Moffett, Ph.D.**  
  California Department of Education, Opportunities for All Branch

Federal Policy Fellows

- **Lorena Aceves, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families  
- **Krystal Bichay-Awadalla, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families  
- **Christian Clesi, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Senator Bob Casey  
- **Jackie Gross, Ph.D.**
State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- Jenn Finders, Ph.D.
  Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning

State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

- Andrew (Drew) McGee
  Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood
- Wendy Wei, Ed.M.
  Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
Federal Policy Fellows

• Krystal Bichay-Awadalla, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
• Ellen Litkowski, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
• Parisa Parsafar, Ph.D.
  Office of the Senator Christopher Coons
• Emily Ross, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
• Alayna Schreier, Ph.D.
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

• Christina Padilla, Ph.D., M.P.P.
  District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Learning
• Sarah Prendergast, Ph.D.
  Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood

State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

• Kylie Bezdek
  North Carolina North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education
• Claudia Kruzik
  Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
• Ann Partee, Ed.M.
  Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Office of Early Childhood
• Callie Silver, M.A.
  Illinois Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD)
Federal Policy Fellows

• Emily Ross, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
• Paula Daneri, Ph.D.
  House Committee on Education and Labor
• Amanda K. Gatewood, M.P.H., Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
• Marisa Morin, Ph.D.
  Senate Finance Committee, Office of Ranking Member Ron Wyden
• Rachel McKinnon, Ph.D.
  Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families
• Francesca Longo, Ph.D.
  Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families
• Anne Day Leong, Ph.D., M.S.W.
  Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health
• Kelly Jedd McKenzie, Ph.D.
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
• Sarah Blankenship, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
• Erin Cannon, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

• Rachel Katz, Ph.D.
  Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Early Intervention
• Alicia Miao, Ph.D.
State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

- Nneka Ibekwe, M.S.W., Ed.M.
  Office of Early Learning, Delaware Department of Education
- Caroline Martin
  Vermont Agency of Education
- Meghan McDoniel, Ed.M.
  Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning
- Elizabeth Tremaine, M.S.
  Early Learning Division, Oregon Department of Education

2018

Federal Policy Fellows

- Rachel D. McKinnon, Ph.D.
  Office of Senator Bob Casey
- Alaina Flannigan, Ph.D.
  Joint Economic Committee, Office of Ranking Member Senator Martin Heinrich
- Erin Cannon, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- Anne Day Leong, Ph.D., M.S.W.
  Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health
- Sarah Blankenship, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- Kelly Jedd McKenzie, Ph.D.
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- Francesca Longo, Ph.D.
Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

- Yunsoo Park, Ph.D.
  National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- Jenessa Malin, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- Jameela Conway-Turner, Ph.D.
  National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice

State Policy Post-doctoral Fellows

- Aimée Drouin Duncan, Ph.D.
  Office of The State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Early Learning (DEL), District of Columbia
- Kate Giapponi Schneider, Ph.D.
  Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)

State Policy Pre-doctoral Fellows

- Robert Carr, M.A.
  North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE)
- Julie Casper, M.S.Ed.
  Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)
- Melanie Fish
  Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL)/Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)
- Mayra Parada
  Office of Early Childhood and Humanities, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

2017
Federal Policy Fellows

- **Yunsoo Park, Ph.D.**  
  National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- **Jenessa Malin, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Angelique Day, Ph.D., M.S.W.**  
  Office of Congressman Danny Davis
- **Emily M. Douglas, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Senator Ron Wyden
- **Elizabeth Day, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
- **Jameela Conway-Turner, Ph.D.**  
  National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- **Marina M. Mendoza, Ph.D.**  
  National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- **Elizabeth Shuey, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

2016

Federal Policy Fellows

- **Amy Leffler, Ph.D.**  
  National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- **Tracy Clopêt, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families
- **Marina Mendoza, Ph.D.**  
  National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice
- **Elizabeth Shuey, Ph.D.**
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
• **Sangeeta Parikshak, Ph.D.**
  Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families
• **Kirby Chow, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services

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### 2015

**Federal Policy Fellows**

• **Lynlee Tanner Stapleton, Ph.D.**
  U.S. Agency for International Development
• **Cristina Novoa, Ph.D., M.P.P.**
  Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
• **Kirby Chow, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
• **Amy Griffin, Ph.D.**
  Office of Senator Al Franken
• **Sangeeta Parikshak, Ph.D.**
  Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families
• **Beth Meloy, Ph.D.**
  Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families
• **Michelle Boyd, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
• **Nina Philipsen Hetzner, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
2014

**Federal Policy Fellows**

- **Lynlee Tanner Stapleton, Ph.D.**
  U.S. Global Development Lab, U.S. Agency for International Development
- **Kathleen McCoy, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Julie A. Leis, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Christine Fortunato, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Sangeeta Parikshak, Ph.D.**
  Office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
- **Nina Philipsen Hetzner, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Beth Meloy, Ph.D.**
  Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families

2013

**Federal Policy Fellows**

- **Amanda Clincy, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Kathleen McCoy, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Michelle J. Boyd, Ph.D.**
House Ways and Means Committee

- **Lindsey Hutchison, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- **Beth Meloy, Ph.D.**
  Office of Senator Al Franken
- **Christine Fortunato, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Amanda Clincy, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Akilah Swinton, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Kelly R. Fisher, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

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**2012**

**Federal Policy Fellows**

- **Charlayne Hayling-Williams, Ph.D.**
  Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration
- **Akilah Swinton, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Pamala Trivedi, Ph.D., NCSP**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- **Rebecca Taylor, Ph.D.**
  Office of Representative Betty McCollum
- **Kelly Fisher, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Tisha Wiley, Ph.D.**
Federal Policy Fellows

- **Joseph L. Mahoney, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman

- **Elizabeth O’Hare, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Representative Rush Holt

- **Charlayne Hayling, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman

- **Michelle Sternthal, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Policy, Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development

- **Tisha Wiley, Ph.D.**  
  Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health

- **Melinda Leidy, Ph.D.**  
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

- **Sarah Oberlander, Ph.D.**  
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services

- **Sarah D. Lynne-Landsman, Ph.D.**  
  National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health
Federal Policy Fellows

- **Melinda Leidy, Ph.D.**
  Office of Senator Christopher Dodd
- **Binta Beard, Ph.D.**
  Office of Representative Edward Markey
- **Elisa Klein, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
- **Molly Irwin, Ph.D., M.P.H.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Sarah Oberlander, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- **Sacha Klein, M.S.W., Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) and the Children’s Bureau’s Office of Child Abuse and Neglect, Administration for Children and Families
- **Nancy Geyelin Margie, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Ann Rivera, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

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2009

Federal Policy Fellows

- **Diana Tyson, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- **Ann C. Rivera, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Nancy Geyelin Margie, Ph.D.**
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families

- Samantha Harvell, Ph.D.
  Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman
- Taryn Morrissey, Ph.D.
  Office of Senator M. Kennedy
- Glenetta Hudson Harris, Ph.D.
  Office of Head Start and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- Diana Tyson, Ph.D.
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- Jennifer Brown Urban, Ph.D.
  Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
- Layla Esposito, Ph.D.
  *Eunice Kenney Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health

Federal Policy Fellows

- Kathleen Dwyer, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- Sara Vecchiotti, Ph.D.
  Perspective from a former Fellow with a placement in Congress
- Ann Marie White, Ed.D.
  Perspective from a former Fellow with placements in Congress and in the Executive Branch
- Glenetta Hudson Harris, Ph.D.
  Office of Head Start and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
Federal Policy Fellows

- **Dara Blachman, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
- **Nicole Gardner Neblett, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- **Behnosh Najaf, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- **Jill Antonishak, Ph.D.**
  Office of Senator Tom Harkin
- **Taniesha A. Woods, Ph.D.**
  Office of Senator Christopher Dodd
- **Nicole Gardner Neblett, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services
- **Dara Blachman, Ph.D.**
  Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health
• **Carmela Lomonaco, Ph.D.**
  Eunice Kenney Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,
  National Institutes of Health

• **Erika Feinauer, Ph.D., Ed.D.**
  Development and Learning Sciences, National Science Foundation

• **Lauren R. Baskir, Ph.D.**
  National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health

• **Behnosh Najafi, Ph.D.**
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families