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: 2021-2022

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.

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.**
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.
  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.
  Child Development and Behavior Branch, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health
• Frances Martínez Pedraza, Ph.D.
  Office of Child Care, 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
• Dianna Tran, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families
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

2020

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 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)

2019

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.
  Early Learning Division, Oregon Department of Education

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
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.
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

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

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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
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
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.**
  Office of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health

2011

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

2010

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

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
- Layla Esposito, Ph.D.
  Eunice Kenney Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health
- Michele M. Mazzocco, Ph.D.
  Office of Senator Jeff Bingaman
- Kathleen Dwyer, Ph.D.
  Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
- Glenetta Hudson Harris, Ph.D.
  Office of Head Start and Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families
• 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