

Bios of Presenters for ACT Early Childhood Symposium – October, 12, 2019

Jamilah R. Jor'dan, PhD

Deputy Director, Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Jamilah R. Jor'dan, PhD., serves as the deputy director of the Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD). In this role, she supports the development and implementation of early childhood policy across multiple state agencies. Prior to this position, Dr. Jor'dan served as the interim dean of the College of Education and tenured professor in the Department of Early Childhood and Bilingual Education at Chicago State University.

Dr. Jor'dan has over 30 years of experience in the field of early care and education and has served in various leadership and service positions. She has served as a Head Start assistant executive director, as the accreditation project director and interim executive director of the Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children. Dr. Jor'dan was president of the Partnership for Quality Child Care, a \$16 million-dollar public/private partnership that supported a city-wide accreditation facilitation initiative in Chicago that helped both center-based and family child-care providers. Chicago achieved national recognition for the largest number of early childhood programs serving children and families in lower income communities that attained accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Madelyn James

Early Childhood Consultant

Madelyn James, M.S. in Early Childhood Education serves as a consultant for the Austin Childcare Provider's Network on the early childhood initiative of the Austin Quality of Life plan. She previously worked for eight years as a Director of Early Childhood advocacy and Community Engagement initiatives for a Chicago non-profit and led the organization's Birth to Eight initiative. She served on the Illinois Attendance Commission and proposed Illinois sponsor an Early Childhood Absenteeism law. Madelyn has had over 25 years of experience in early childhood. She has served children and families as a preschool and Head Start educator, a Regional Director of STARNET, a reading coach, a CLASS validator, Lekotek Director of Early Childhood initiatives, co-chair of the Illinois Early Childhood Math Advisory Board, an adjunct teacher at Kendall College and Truman City College.

Mary Gambol Lane

Program Director of Child Development Program

Mary currently is the Program Director of the Child Development Program at Malcolm X College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago. Mary completed her PhD coursework in Bilingual Education and Linguistic Diversity at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This is also where she earned her BS and her Master of Education. Mary began working with children in 1996. She has worked in various early childhood educational roles including infant, toddler and preschool swim instructor, early literacy tutor, childbirth educator, doula, parenting instructor, and kindergarten, first, and second grade teacher. In addition to teaching courses at Malcolm X College, she is developing a series of online caregiving classes for parents of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.