

Join a community discussion

## **Shaping Early Childhood Education Policy in Connecticut**

**Monday, April 21st, 2008, from 7-8pm  
Terrace B, Mather Hall, Trinity College**

In Connecticut, both the executive branch (led by Republican Governor Jodi Rell) and the legislative branch (led by a Democratic majority in the Connecticut General Assembly) support a larger financial investment in early childhood education. Recent proposals have called for a multi-million dollar, five-year expansion to improve school readiness for all children. Read more background at CT's Early Childhood Research and Policy Council website <<http://www.ecpolicycouncil.org>>.

But key policy questions remain on how Connecticut should implement this expansion of early childhood education:

### **Targeted Programs or Universal Pre-K?**

Should Connecticut focus funding on low-income children in priority school districts, where the needs are greatest? Or should we adopt a universal pre-K approach, to improve quality and to build support among low-income and middle-class families?

### **Focus on Local Towns or Inter-district Integration?**

At present, early childhood education in Connecticut is largely segregated by income. Most publicly-funded centers (like Head Start) are located in poorer neighborhoods, while tuition-based private centers tend to be near more affluent families' homes and workplaces. Connecticut's current approach will continue this split, by allocating preschool grants to individual cities and towns. Should we create more interdistrict preschools to bridge the socioeconomic divide? Or would this approach slow down progress on the goal of providing preschool for all?

### **Special Guest Participants:**

Beth Bye, State Representative and Director of Early Childhood Education, CREC  
Harriet Feldlaufer, Early Childhood Education Bureau Chief, CT Dept of Education  
Elizabeth Rose, author of *The Promise of Preschool: From Head Start to Universal PreK*  
Carlota Schechter '73, St. Joseph College & CT Dept of Higher Education  
and others TBA

Hosted by Trinity College faculty members  
Jack Dougherty (Educational Studies) and Dina Anselmi (Psychology)

Open to the public  
please RSVP by phone 860-297-2471 or email <[jennifer.fichera@trincoll.edu](mailto:jennifer.fichera@trincoll.edu)>