



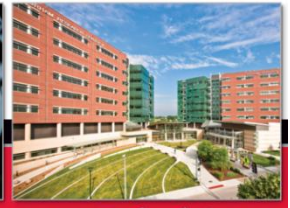
Lincoln



Omaha



Kearney



Medical Center

## What Others Are Saying

“After four decades of scientific advances and early childhood program development, we have rock-solid evidence that positive early experiences can strengthen brain architecture, and that significant adversity can damage brain circuits and undermine lifelong learning, behavior, and health. This investment by Susie Buffett and the University of Nebraska provides a golden opportunity to break down the silos in academia, policy, and programs and work across sectors to bring science and research to bear on the pressing needs of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.”

**Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D.**

*Director, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University  
Julius B. Richmond FAMRI Professor of Child Health and Development,  
Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Graduate School of Education  
Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital Boston*

“The Buffett Early Childhood Institute sets a new course for Nebraska and the nation. Susie Buffett’s vision and commitment are enormously encouraging to all of us who believe that all children deserve an equal chance to develop their potential. By raising to prominence the critical importance of a comprehensive approach to studying and educating children in the first eight years of life and preparing and supporting those who care for them, the new Institute will have a lasting impact for generations to come.”

**Samuel J. Meisels**

*President, Erikson Institute*

“This is a really big deal that means very good things for young children and families in Nebraska and across the country. With the building of new Educare schools and the Institute’s focus on the first eight years of learning, the new Institute moves Nebraska to the forefront of states doing innovative work in early childhood. And given the University’s involvement, the new Institute also serves as a model for how other public universities should be thinking about early education.”

**Harriet Meyer**

*Ounce of Prevention Fund*

“Early childhood education is an exciting field because it’s all about the future. Nebraskans talk about the importance of the ‘good life.’ If we want our citizenry to experience that good life, we have to start early. This institute will bring together the very best researchers, early childhood experts, families and community decision-makers, all of whom are dedicated to enhancing the lives of children and their families. And it will do it in innovative ways that will ultimately provide models of best practices for Nebraska, the country and the world.”

**Marjorie Kostelnik**

*Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

“Early childhood is a critical time, when children build a foundation from which they develop into successful adults. Good health, proper nutrition, early learning, strong families and many other factors combine to give children the best possible start in life. This founding gift for a university-wide institute focused on early childhood education and development provides a unique opportunity to marshal the resources of an entire university to serve the people of Nebraska and the country. I am very excited about this new institute and the work that it will do for children.”

**John Sparks, M.D.**

*Stokes-Shackleford professor of pediatrics  
Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Associate dean for pediatric affairs  
University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine*

“To ensure that all children have the strongest foundation for success, we must reduce disparities during the early years. High-quality early learning experiences can give all children the enriching introduction to school they deserve. The establishment of this institute will make this dream a reality in Nebraska.”

**Nancy Edick**

*Dean, College of Education  
University of Nebraska at Omaha*

“At UNK, we are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with our colleagues across our campuses to more effectively address the needs of young children and their families and provide all of Nebraska’s children with the right start. What children experience in their early years of development provides the foundation for all later development and learning. The formation of a university-wide institute on early childhood education and development will enable us to be comprehensive in our research efforts on issues impacting the early childhood field; competitive in securing funding for research and outreach; and collaborative in our outreach and public service to communities across Nebraska to improve outcomes for young children and families.”

**Dawn Mollenkopf**

*Associate professor, Department of Teacher Education  
University of Nebraska at Kearney*