



Lincoln



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Medical Center

Appointment of Dr. Samuel Meisels as founding executive director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute: What Others Are Saying

“When it comes to early childhood, there is much great work already being done within the university and elsewhere across Nebraska. Starting the new Institute with an esteemed leader like Sam Meisels takes all of this work to the next level. Sam will help to make Nebraska *the* place other states look toward as they work to ensure that more young children are being born healthy, thriving by 3, ready for school by 5, achieving by third grade, graduating high school, and heading toward college and a good career.”

--Jessie Rasmussen, president, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

“Sam Meisels is a true visionary in the field of early childhood education. He blends exceptionally strong leadership skills with passion, dedication and drive. He has both the experience to do what is necessary to establish the Buffett Early Childhood Institute, and the foresight to move this initiative in new and exciting directions. Together and with Sam at the helm, we will create exceptional opportunities for young children.”

--Susan Sheridan, George Holmes University Professor and Willa Cather Emeritus Professor of Educational Psychology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; director, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools; and director, National Center for Research on Rural Education

“I couldn’t be happier about the selection of Dr. Sam Meisels as the founding executive director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. He is exactly the right person to lead the development of the Institute. Dr. Meisels is a remarkably collaborative professional of international stature with the expertise and experience to make the Buffett Institute a true guiding beacon in Nebraska, the nation and beyond. And above all, Dr. Meisels is interested in the well-being of children and families. He will engage all the campuses in an enthusiastic and creative fashion and I see tremendous potential in his leadership for forging important connections among our campus here in Kearney, the other NU campuses, government agencies and communities across the state of Nebraska.”

--Charlie Bicak, senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, University of Nebraska at Kearney

“Dr. Sam Meisels brings the leadership and expertise required to move forward the University of Nebraska Buffett Early Childhood Institute’s agenda for success. His track record in advancing the individual, family and community dimensions of early childhood will help foster the collaboration needed to enhance children’s developmental and educational outcomes. Under his leadership, the Institute will not only benefit children in Nebraska, but promises to become a resource and a model for the nation.”

--Ayman El-Mohandes, dean, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center

“The University of Nebraska is poised to make tremendous contributions to the field of early childhood, and the appointment of Sam Meisels as the founding executive director of the Buffett Institute confirms that our opportunities are truly limitless. This news will generate extraordinary excitement among our faculty at UNO and across the university, and around the communities in which we serve. Dr. Meisels’ appointment sends a message that Nebraska is reaching for the top. We are honored to have him join the University of Nebraska.”

--Nancy Edick, dean, College of Education, University of Nebraska at Omaha