



TO: Roger Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Carol Fichter and Melody Hobson

SUBJECT: Contract with Families and Work Institute

Proposed Board Action:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve a contract with Families and Work Institute for professional development services that include a Learning Facilitator Institute, training materials and technical assistance for delivery throughout the state's Early Learning Connection.

Background Information:

The Office of Early Childhood's Early Childhood Training Center has partnered since 2010 with the Building Bright Futures Early Childhood Services, made possible through a grant to NDE to carry out an array of professional development activities that support the skills of early childhood caregivers, teachers and others in readiness for school success initiatives. These activities have also been supportive of capacity building of the statewide system of early childhood professional development. One such opportunity will be available through a training of 30 trainers, located throughout the state, who will then have the skills and necessary multi-media materials to deliver a workshop series, Mind in the Making.

Mind in the Making: The Science of Early Learning, developed by Families and Work institute is a professional development and public awareness endeavor to share the science of early learning with the general public, families and professional who work with children and families. Mind in the Making is an 11-part, facilitated learning process designed to bridge the gap between research and teaching practice. It has been designed to complement Ellen Galinsky's highly acclaimed, best selling book, Mind in the Making. The 11 Mind in the Making Learning Modules for early childhood teachers is intended to add first-hand experience, using the best research on "minds in the making" - that is, on how young children learn best - to other early childhood education , training and professional development experiences.

This proposed training of trainers event will be conducted in six (6) days of training for thirty participants, conducted October 4, 5, 6 and November 16, 17, 18 2011.

Estimated Cost:

\$30, 000 (funding from the grant awarded to NDE by Building Bright Futures)

Supporting Documentation Included:

one-page information sheet, Mind in the Making

For Additional Information on this item:

contact Carol Fichter, carol.fichter@nebraska.org or 402 557 6880

website for Families and Work Institute's Mind in the Making

<http://familiesandwork.org/site/work/earlychildhood/MITM.Overview.090917.pdf>

MIND in the Making

Over the past decade, Families and Work Institute has created an unprecedented, collaborative effort to share the science of children’s learning with the general public, families and professionals who work with children and families. With the award winning production company, New Screen Concepts, we have filmed researchers “in action”—showing actual experiments, and presenting the science of children’s development in an accessible and inspiring way. To date, we have interviewed over 85 researchers and have more filming planned—giving us the most extensive library of research on children’s development and learning ever created.

By taking cutting-edge research and applying the principles of engaged learning to adult learning, we help adults understand how children learn, what they need to learn, and how adults can take simple, effective steps to promote this learning.

The campaign includes:

- *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*, a new book by Families and Work president Ellen Galinsky, published by Harper Collins in April, 2010;
- Network television appearances;
- Learning Modules for Teachers (in English and Spanish) that have been implemented in ten states¹;
- Seven Essential Skills Learning Modules (packaged with the *Mind in the Making* book, videos, a training guide, and pre-post evaluation);
- A series of web-based videos for families;
- DVDs of 40 important experiments in child development research—from the classics to the cutting edge;
- Practical “how-to” information for families; and
- Community mobilization efforts.

¹ AZ, FL, MA, NJ, NM, OH, OK, PA, RI, WV