



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

January 13, 2010

To the early learning and K-12 communities:

We are excited to announce a new partnership between the Department of Early Learning (DEL) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) that significantly strengthens our ability to work together in promoting smooth transitions from early learning into the K-12 system.

Beginning January 19, Kelli Bohanon will serve as the director of early learning for OSPI, as well as manager of the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) at DEL. We believe that by having Kelli in this liaison role, DEL and OSPI can work even more closely together on issues relating to kindergarten readiness and preschool-early elementary partnerships, while being fiscally considerate during this time of scarce resources. Her role with OSPI will build on the good work done previously by their former director of early learning, Mary Seaton, and will continue to build connections statewide between the early learning and K-3 communities, so that we're all working together to help children succeed in school. On the OSPI side, she will work closely with existing early learning staff to ensure smooth facilitation of state early learning projects including full-day kindergarten.

Kelli has spent her career working on behalf of children and families, and brings to this new role her experience both in the field as a teacher and working at the statewide policy level. She's been the HSSCO manager since 2007, serving as the state liaison and coordinator for the federal Head Start preschool program. She also has been instrumental in building our state Early Learning Advisory Council. Prior to her work at the HSSCO, Kelli spent nearly 10 years working for the Enterprise for Progress in the Community (EPIC) Head Start program in Yakima, where she began as a teacher for infants and toddlers with disabilities, as well as preschoolers, in a partnership between EPIC and the Yakima School District. From there, she was named EPIC's health and nutrition manager, then birth to 5 education curriculum manager.

Kelli earned her bachelor's degree in health education from Oklahoma State University, and a master's in education administration from Central Washington University. For the past two years, she's taught a course in social policy for young children and families at the University of Washington's College of Education, in the Department of Early Childhood and Family Studies. The most important children in her life are her nieces and nephews.

Please join us in welcoming Kelli to this new and unique role strengthening P-3 partnerships around our state. We know she will bring energy, experience, and, most importantly, a passion for helping children succeed in school and life, to the job.



Randy Dorn  
Superintendent of Public Instruction



Bette Hyde  
Director, Department of Early Learning