



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Oklahoma Early Learning Advocates To Attend National Summit in Boston**

**Oklahoma City, June 30, 2011** -- Several Oklahoma early-learning advocates will be special guests at the 2011 National Business Leader Summit on Early Childhood Education to be held July 21-22 in Boston.

The Oklahoma attendees are members of Oklahoma Champions for Early Opportunities, or OKCEO, a statewide initiative of business and community leaders dedicated to promoting early childhood education as a tool for strengthening the economy. OKCEO is a joint effort of Oklahoma Business Roundtable, Smart Start Oklahoma and the Potts Family Foundation.

OKCEO members attending the summit include:

- Dr. Robert Block, president, American Pediatric Association
- Lisa John, education administrator, Chickasaw Nation
- Margie Marney, executive director, Potts Family Foundation
- Dr. Ramona Paul, former state schools assistant superintendent
- Pat Potts, president, Potts Family Foundation
- Ray Potts, president, Potts Exploration LLC
- Matt Robison, vice president of small business and workforce development, State Chamber
- Blake Wade, president, Oklahoma Business Roundtable

Also attending is Lawton city manager Larry Mitchell. He is going as a representative for Lawton Mayor and OKCEO member Fred Fitch.

Oklahoma delegation members will be moderators at several workshops at the summit.

The summit brings together businesspeople nationwide to discuss how early childhood education policies impact state economic recovery plans as well as new research revealing its importance for economic growth.

Speakers at the event include a host of government, business and education leaders. The summit is sponsored by the PEW Center on the States, Partnership for America's Economic Success (PAES), United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts Business Roundtable, Manufacturing Institute, Boston Business Journal and Citizen's Bank.

**About OKCEO:**

Oklahoma Champions for Early Opportunities (OKCEO) is an initiative of corporate or community leaders from across the state dedicated to promoting early childhood education and stressing its critical role in economic development. Its 36 members represent an array of corporations, nonprofit agencies and community organizations.

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***For more information:***

***Phil Bacharach, Bacharach Communications (405) 568-0348***

***Margie Marney, Potts Family Foundation (405) 286-6441***