

## Miriam Elena Calderón

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### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### State of Oregon, Salem, OR

July 2017 – present

##### Early Learning System Director

- Appointed by the Governor to lead the state's Early Learning Division; provide vision and leadership that advances the goal of a unified system of early learning services.
- Direct a Governor-appointed statewide early learning policy board to design and implement the state's early learning system plan, Raise Up Oregon.
- Manage an agency of 200+ staff with an annual budget of \$800 million in combined federal and state funds.
- Lead efforts to implement a historic expansion of state early learning programs – 8000 new early childhood slots for children birth through kindergarten age.
- Coordinate state's response to COVID-19 in child care, including standing up Emergency Child Care facilities statewide and overseeing distribution of nearly \$80 million in direct financial assistance to over 3000 child care providers.

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#### Bainum Family Foundation, Bethesda, MD

December 2015 – July 2017

##### Senior Advisor, Early Learning

- Advised the foundation's President and Chief Strategy Office on the design of a new \$15 million dollar investment in early childhood in the District of Columbia. After one year as an advisor, I transitioned to serve as the Foundation's inaugural Senior Director for Early Learning in order to oversee implementation of the new strategy.
- Recruited and supervised an internal early learning team, established a portfolio of grants to community-based partners organizations to advance the foundation's comprehensive Birth to Three agenda for birth in DC.
- Accomplishments included creation of a Birth-to-Three Policy Alliance that brought together grassroots organizations to develop a shared agenda to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers in the District. The Alliance's work culminated in the passage of the Birth-To-Three for All Act of 2018, and an increase in over 500 Early Head Start and Child Care slots in wards 7 and 8 of DC.

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#### Early Childhood Consultant, Silver Spring, MD

February 2013 – March 2016

- Established a sole proprietorship early learning consulting business spanning work in areas related to organizational development, early learning policy and strategy at local and state level.
- Selected accomplishments –
  - Advisor to the District of Columbia, Office of the Mayor on a new child care facilities investment and creation of a new infant and toddler child care and Early Head Start expansion strategy.
  - Collaborated on the development of a new early learning strategic plan – A Running Start – for the city of Philadelphia.
  - Collaborated on the development of a new early learning strategic plan for Montgomery County Maryland.

- Assisted Tools of the Mind, an early childhood professional development and curriculum non-profit on an organizational restructuring plan and securing seed money from philanthropy for a new research and development arm of the organization.
- Advised the BUILD Initiative, a national organization focused on supporting states and communities on early learning systems work on policy and program practice issues related to emergent bilingual children. Also, serves a founding faculty member for a new racial equity leadership fellowship.

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**Domestic Policy Council, White House, Washington, DC**

*Senior Policy Advisor, Early Learning*

*April 2012- February 2013*

**Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC**

*Senior Policy Advisor, Early Learning*

*August 2011- April 2012*

- Assigned from the Department of Health and Human (HHS) Services to the Executive Office of the President to advise on early childhood education policy. Portfolio includes birth to age eight policies across both departments (Education and HHS), and development of preschool policy.
- Advisor on interdepartmental work on early learning policy, including the current Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge competition, and coordination of federal technical assistance activities
- Liaison for the agency to the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement team with the goal of increasing collaboration among the agencies regarding the impact of immigration enforcement on child and family well-being.

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**District of Columbia Public Schools, Washington, DC**

*Director, Early Childhood Education*

*August 2009 – August 2011*

- Led the reform of early education programming at DCPS, serving more than 5,000 children ages three to five in 80+ schools
- Responsible for \$11 million budget for the Office of Early Childhood Education, including federal Head Start grant
- Reorganized the Office of Early Education central office staff and grew the team to 80+ full time employees
- Designed and implemented the Head Start School-wide Model, an initiative designed to blend Head Start and local prekindergarten funds to improve quality in Title 1 schools through the expansion of comprehensive services and family engagement;
- Led efforts to add an additional 700 new preschool slots in Title 1 schools

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**Teaching Strategies Inc., Bethesda, MD**

*Consultant, Latino Strategy*

*December 2008 – July 2009*

- Established and served as first chair of Latino Advisory Committee responsible for reviewing and revising content related to English language learners for a national curriculum and assessment system
- Advised on new products and initiatives that were responsive to needs of Latino and English language learner populations, including GOLD formative assessment

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**First Focus, Campaign for Children Washington, DC**

*Vice President, Early Childhood Policy*

*April 2009 – August 2009*

- Established early childhood education and child rights and immigrant children's policy portfolio for the organization.

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**National Council of La Raza (NCLR), Washington, DC**

*Associate Director, Education and Children's Policy*

*April 2003 – December 2008*

- Oversaw NCLR's education and children's policy portfolio, including work on Head Start, school nutrition, early literacy, child care subsidy system, preschool access, federal education appropriations, English language learners
- Fundraised and managed \$5-10 million in grants supporting NCLR's education reform work
- Supervised administrative personnel and education policy team comprised of 5 full time employees
- Co-Chaired the Hispanic Education Coalition, a coalition made up of more than 20 national organizations working to enhance federal education policy for the Latinos, for two years
- Served as spokesperson for NCLR's children's policy work for television, print, and radio; interviews have included CNN, Arizona Republic, Philadelphia Inquirer, La Opinión, Chronicle of Higher Education, Education Week, CNN En Español, El Tiempo Latino, Dialogo Costa a Costa, Radio El Sol

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**Morrison Center, Portland, Oregon**

*Bilingual Mental Health Consultant, Head Start*

*November 2002 – April 2003*

- Provided home- and classroom-based mental health interventions for children with special needs, ages birth to five
- Developed and implemented individualized education plans in early childhood with a multidisciplinary team of service providers
- Provided consultation to Head Start teachers and other personnel on strategies for supporting English language learner and special needs children in the classroom

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**Office of Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz, Portland, Oregon**

*Commissioner's Legislative Assistant*

*November 2001 – November 2002*

- Represented the Commissioner and Multnomah County at community events focused on expanding Latino outreach and engagement activities
- Staffed the Coalition for Latino Education's efforts to reduce Latino high school drop out rates in Portland Public Schools
- Implemented a county-wide Latino gang violence prevention task force, comprised of law-enforcement, community-based organizations, and public officials

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**Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement, Portland, Oregon**

*Case Manager*

*January 1999 – November 2001*

- Conducted mental health observations and coordinated services in Head Start programs under the clinical supervision of the Morrison Center
- Taught life skills, citizenship, and classes in Spanish and English to prepare students for the GED
- Implemented and managed a youth violence reduction and mentoring program for Latino youth at risk of school failure, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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**The Christie School, Portland, Oregon**

*Residential Treatment Counselor*

*February 1997- July 1998*

- Assisted in design of agency's first group home for children in the child welfare system
- Co-facilitated anger management and life skills groups
- Worked with treatment team to address individual clients' treatment and discharge goals

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## **EDUCATION & SKILLS**

- Masters Social Work, Portland State University, June 2002
- Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, Social Welfare concentration, University of Delaware, June 1995
- Bilingual in English and Spanish and bicultural
- Strong oral and written communication skills in English and Spanish

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- *State Early Learning and Development Standards: How Responsive Are They to the Needs of Young Dual Language Learners?* Espinosa, L. and Calderon, M., BUILD Initiative, 2015
- *Buenos Principios: Latino Children in the Earliest Years of Life*, National Council of La Raza, 2007.
- *Head Start Reauthorization: Enhancing School Readiness for Hispanic Children*, National Council of La Raza, 2005.
- *Achieving a High-Quality Preschool Teacher Corps: A Focus on California*, National Council of La Raza, 2004.
- The role of the interpreter: Rethinking mental health services for mono-lingual Spanish-speaking clients in the new millennium, *Social Work Perspectives*, San Francisco State University, spring, 2002.

## **LEADERSHIP**

- Unidos, Oregon Latino leadership fellowship, class of 2019
- First annual Excellence in Early Learning Award by the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center, 2014
- Emerging Leaders in Early Childhood Policy Fellowship, Children's Defense Fund, 2005
- President's Award of Excellence in Academics & Community Service, Portland State University 2002.
- Gladys McCoy Scholar, Portland State University 2001.
- Steinberg Family Scholar, Portland State University 2001.