

MISSOURI PANEL ON SCHOOL READINESS: FOCUS ON PRE-KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

Presenter Biographical Information

May 29

Paula Nickelson

See panel participant information.

Dr. Kathy Thornburg

Dr. Thornburg is currently serving as both the director of the Center for Family Policy and Research and co-director of the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment Disorders at the University of Missouri—Columbia. She is a member of the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood and serves on the executive committee. She has 40 years of teaching and administrative experience and has taught university students at the University of Kentucky and University of Missouri for 36 years. She serves on numerous state, regional, and national boards, councils, and commissions, including serving as President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children from 2000-2002. She has published over 100 research articles and book chapters, in journals such as Early Childhood Education Journal, Educational and Psychological Measurement, Early Childhood Research Quarterly, and Educational Research Quarterly, and serves as a consulting editor to several major professional journals. Her research focuses on public policy issues related to early childhood programs, teacher training, and school readiness.

May 30

Rob Grunewald

Rob Grunewald is an associate economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. He conducts regional economic research and co-authors the Minneapolis Fed's "Beige Book" report on current economic conditions. He regularly speaks to business, community and school groups about the Federal Reserve and the regional economy. He co-authored "*Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return*" (January 2003), an economic policy paper, which has been featured in the media, legislative hearings, and seminars throughout the United States. He is a passionate advocate of quality early care and education initiatives.