



## HHS Announces National Centers



The **National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning** has been awarded to the University of Washington Harding Center in collaboration with the University of Virginia, Vanderbilt University, Iowa State University, University of South Florida, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

*This team of collaborators includes early learning experts in the fields of early care and education, early childhood special education, and early intervention who bring a broad range of expertise, knowledge, and understanding of educational practices with demonstrated effectiveness in promoting teaching that produces the best possible outcomes for young children, evidence-based curricula, and professional development. The Center will ensure staff access to a professional development system that provides individualized support and development including the establishment of a “Head Start University” concept that will engage nationally recognized leaders in the field to develop comprehensive, research-based college courses that can be offered for credit on-line or in person.*

The **National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement** has been awarded to Brazelton Touchpoints Center (BTC) at Children’s Hospital of Boston and the Harvard Graduate School of Education Family Research Project (HFRP) with their partners Save the Children, the National PTA, and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

*These partners bring a unique blend of deep experience in Head Start as well as significant capacity in parent, family, and community partnerships in the broader context of early childhood and public education programs for children birth through age eight. BTC has been the headquarters for the National Touchpoints Site Network that facilitates the development and dissemination of evidence-based, strength-based, culturally informed developmental approaches for children and families. HFRP’s expertise and experience in the dialogue on parent engagement in educational settings will be a significant asset to this Center. The collective knowledge and experience of these organizations and their leadership uniquely position them to collaborate with OHS to build a Center of excellence and effectiveness.*

The **National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness** has been awarded to Bank Street College of Education in partnership with the Educational Development Center (EDC):

*Bank Street College of Education and EDC, both leaders in the field of early childhood education, have made culture and language an integral part of their mission. Bank Street College has been a leader in teacher preparation and a pioneer in improving classroom quality while EDC brings experience with training and technical assistance approaches that successfully support cultural and linguistic responsiveness. Together, Bank Street and EDC, and their partner Colorin Colorado, form a consortium of highly qualified individuals who can enhance the quality of educational practice and ensure that linguistically and culturally diverse young children and their families receive optimal support.*

The **National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations** has been awarded to the Academy for Educational Development (AED) in partnership with the Training and Technical Assistance Services Department of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Western Kentucky University (WKU), and the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute (UMASS).

*The consortium of AED, WKU, and UMASS has extensive experience with the provision of training and technical assistance. AED, a large, national nonprofit, has close to 50 years of experience in implementing*



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*large, national projects and requires extensive fiscal training for all project managers and directors. UMASS has provided training and technical assistance and conducted research under contract to a large array of organizations since 1971. Training and technical assistance provided by WKU has been informed by its cadre of staff with advanced degrees in management and finance. Together, these organizations will create a dynamic Center that will provide programs with world-class management and fiscal operations support.*