



**Early Childhood Funders Meeting**  
**January 24, 2024 9:00 am - 12:00 noon**

**IN PERSON and ZOOM MEETING**

**9:00 – 9:20 am Meet, greet, eat! 9:20-12:00 Meeting**

**Tipping Point, Mills Building, 220 Montgomery, Suite 850, San Francisco**

**(easier access via 220 Bush Street)**

*If you are unable to attend in person, zoom info is below*

## A G E N D A

<b>Welcome/Introductions/making connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECF Leadership Team/All</li> </ul>	9:20–9:45
<b>A conversation: Strategies for creating a racially and linguistically diverse early childhood workforce</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview/scope of the problem</li> <li>From theory to practice</li> <li>A personal perspective</li> <li>Role of Funders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Lygia Stebbing, President and CEO, EDvance College</li> <li>Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson, Chief Innovation Officer, Vice-President of Early Childhood and full-time faculty at EDvance College</li> <li>Gigi Munoz, Workforce Development &amp; Success Director, Felton Institute</li> </ul>	9:45–10:50
<b>BRIEF BREAK</b>		10:50–11:00
<b>POLICY, PROGRAM and JOINT FUNDING IDEAS</b>  <u>Federal and State Policy updates</u>  <u>ECF projects/funding updates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Racial Equity learning sessions</li> <li>Members' profile</li> <li>Huddles (Leveraging investments)</li> <li>ECF funding</li> </ul> <u>Funding Partner Requests</u>  <u>Next meeting and topic</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next date: May 30 (note change of date from May 22)</li> <li>Topic: Emerging bilingual work</li> <li>Location: Sobrato Philanthropies, 350 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City</li> <li>Time: 10:00 am-1:30 pm (lunch will be served)</li> <li>Fall ECF meeting: October 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Care Law Center</li> <li>ECF Leadership Team</li> <li>More information in Progress Report</li> <li>All</li> <li>Leadership Team/All</li> </ul>	11:00–11:30  11:30–11:45  11:45–11:50  11:50–12:00

Foran ECF membership list, Racial Equity Framework, or other ECF materials please go to: [www.earlychildhoodfunders.org](http://www.earlychildhoodfunders.org).

Phone: 510.918.6381 ECF is a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86833426620?pwd=c1NiNXM3WHdjR29oYXFnekJVT2YvUT09>

Meeting ID: 868 3342 6620 Passcode: 357058

## Bios

**Dr. Lygia Stebbing** serves as the President and Founder of EDvance College. With an impressive career spanning over two decades, Dr. Stebbing has dedicated herself to creating and refining higher education programs that bolster the academic achievements and career advancement of the early childhood workforce. Her notable contributions include the design and implementation of innovative Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree pathways, strategically crafted to enhance educational accessibility and ensure vocational stability for early childhood educators. At the core of her work lies a profound commitment to honoring, preserving, and nurturing the cultural and linguistic connections between highly skilled educators and families, with the aim of supporting child development and early learning.

Throughout her career, Dr. Stebbing has tirelessly served the educational interests of both domestic and international communities. In the United States, she has played a pivotal role as an instructor at higher education institutions, where she developed and taught courses in early childhood education and child development with a strong focus on principles of social justice, community engagement, professionalism, and practical experience. Additionally, Dr. Stebbing has held a mayoral appointment for the Office of Early Care and Education Citizens Advisory Committee and serves as the Higher Education representative for San Francisco's QRIS Local Planning Consortia. On the international front, Dr. Stebbing's endeavors have included working with indigenous children in Oaxaca, Mexico, spearheading and leading a summer study abroad service-learning program in ECE within the Vrygrond Township of Cape Town, South Africa, and guiding an early childhood study tour through New Zealand. Dr. Stebbing's educational journey culminated in the completion of her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at San Francisco State University. Her doctoral research delved into the critical academic and programmatic supports required to maintain diversity within the early childhood workforce. In addition to her doctorate, Dr. Stebbing holds a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Delaware and an M.A. in Early Childhood Education from San Francisco State University. Dr. Stebbing's unwavering commitment remains steadfast in her quest to find solutions that ensure all early childhood educators have access to high-quality, accessible, and affordable education.

**Gigi Munoz's** life journey is a vivid and diverse tapestry, showcasing her resilience and determination. Born and raised in San Francisco, she faced the complexities of a challenging family life from an early age. In the midst of this turbulent environment, her mother's greatest aspiration for Gigi was to graduate high school, a goal she herself had not achieved. Determination became Gigi's guiding force, propelling her through the twists and turns of the education system. Hope in her journey somewhat began at a junior college and she steadily failed, fought and advanced in higher education. Her path unfolded from retail work to Early Care and Education classrooms and ultimately to non-profit endeavors as the Workforce Development & Success Director for Felton Institute (Children, Youth, Family & Transitional Age Youth), guiding current ECE educators in their next educational goal while providing equitable ECE pathways for Latinas attempting to enter the workforce. Along this trajectory, she earned both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree.

Currently, Gigi is in her second year of pursuing a doctoral degree, all the while grappling with imposter syndrome—a testament to her unwavering commitment to personal growth and knowledge. Throughout her life, Gigi has confronted the challenges and biases that accompany her identity as a Latina. Nevertheless, she remains resolute in her dedication to sharing the transformative power of personal narratives. She firmly believes that our individual stories create a colorful tapestry of unique and beautiful lives, each revealing the innate leadership within us all. Gigi's calling is fueled by her conviction that sharing her experiences can inspire others to unearth their inner strength, surmount adversity, and embrace the profound potential of education and resilience. Her story serves as a beacon of hope and empowerment for those she encounters.

**Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson** (she/her/ella) is the Vice-President of Early Childhood and a full-time faculty at EDvance College. She has more than 30 years of experience in early childhood education, workforce development, technical assistance, and research. Carola's work centers around advancing access, equity and quality education for all children, families, and educators. She is a leading expert on multilingualism, diversity, equity, early childhood programming, workforce development, and family engagement. Before joining EDvance, she was the Executive Director of Multilingual Education at the Institute for Racial Equity and Excellence and founder of the Language Justice Institute. As an associate professor at California State University Channel Islands, Carola helped prepare future early childhood educators to work in settings serving young children from infancy to third grade. Carola also worked as the principal investigator for the California Department of Education's Dual Language Learner Professional Development Grant and the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction's Early Initiatives Dual Language Learner Professional Development Grant. In 2020, she was appointed to the California Governor's Early Childhood Policy Council and continues to serve on numerous state and national advisory groups. Her work has been instrumental to advancing equity in the field of early childhood education.

Carola earned a Ph.D. in Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara, a M.S. in preschool-primary education, a B.A. in international studies and environmental planning, and a teaching credential from South America in early childhood education. Her doctoral research focused on dual language instruction in Head Start. She has worked as a bilingual teacher in toddler, preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1, 2, and 4. She also worked as the early learning/disabilities lead for the Migrant Head Start Project in Washington, D.C. Carola remains committed to working alongside her colleagues and students to establish a lasting tradition of excellence, empathy, and equity in early childhood education. She strongly believes that by fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion, educators can break down barriers and open doors to a world of possibilities for multilingual children, families, and communities. This conviction fuels her determination to help develop a community of educators, leaders, and change agents prioritizing equal access, fairness, and quality education for all children. For her, it is more than a job; it is a calling, a purpose, and a pledge to a greater cause.