



a summit on the economic impact of early care & learning

# BUILDING SOLUTIONS & CREATING OPPORTUNITY

**OCT 28** | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
**2025** | MARRIOTT  
ANCHORAGE  
DOWNTOWN

Find all your Summit materials here:



[threadalaska.org/summit](https://threadalaska.org/summit)

#threadSummit25

# WELCOME

Welcome to **thread's** 6th Summit on the Economic Impact of Early Care & Learning: Building Solutions & Creating Opportunity. You are a part of the solution for quality child care—thank you for being here.

Today, we invite you to listen, engage, and be inspired by what is possible to create opportunity for Alaska's children through partnership, innovation, and commitment to positive change.

## Thank you to our sponsors.

### VISIONARY



Child Care Resource and Referral Grant  
Physical Activity and Nutrition Unit  
Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth-5, grant number 90TP0012

### CHAMPION



### BUILDER



### HELPER



# AGENDA

**8:00 AM** REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST | **8:30 AM** SUMMIT BEGINS

## WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

*thread* BOARD PRESIDENT



*Dr. Kevin Berry*

Economics Professor and  
Department Chair,  
University of Alaska Anchorage

*thread* BOARD MEMBER



*Monica Garcia-Itchoak*

Executive Director,  
Chugach Museum

OPENING REMARKS



*The Honorable  
Scott Kawasaki*

Alaska State Senate

EMCEE



*Jonathan King*

Founder & CEO,  
Halcyon Consulting

## SESSION 1: HOW ARE THE CHILDREN? HOW ARE THE EDUCATORS?

### *Setting the Stage for Opportunity*

Hear the latest data on how children and early educators are doing and why their well-being is the foundation for building lasting solutions.



PRESENTER

*Dr. Walter Gilliam*

Executive Director,  
Buffett Early Childhood Institute

## SESSION 2: MEETING ALASKA'S CHILD CARE CHALLENGE

### *Child Care Works for Families, Businesses & Alaska's Future*

Learn about the ongoing child care crisis in Alaska through data and powerful video storytelling. Hear what **thread** is doing to lead change.



PRESENTER

*Stephanie Berglund*

CEO, **thread**

Find speaker bios and presentation materials at [threadalaska.org/summit](https://threadalaska.org/summit).

# AGENDA

## SESSION 3: STATE LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

### *What Alaska's Leaders Are Doing to Address Child Care Challenges*

Get updates on the Governor's Child Care Task Force recommendations, recent legislation, and how state-level actions are creating opportunity for child care.

MODERATOR



*Stephanie Berglund*  
CEO,  
**thread**

PRESENTER



*Kati Capozzi*  
President & CEO,  
Alaska Chamber of Commerce

PRESENTER



*The Honorable  
Julie Coulombe*  
Alaska State House of  
Representatives

PRESENTER



*Jon Papendieck*  
Senior Analyst,  
Agnew::Beck

PRESENTER



*Leah Van Kirk*  
Health Care Policy Advisor,  
State of Alaska Department  
of Health

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## LUNCH BREAK

### SESSION 4: CHILD CARE BEYOND ALASKA

#### *National Trends & Transformative Ideas from Across the U.S.*

Learn about efforts advancing child care, including inspiring policies and innovations from across the country.



PRESENTER

*Anne Hedgepeth,*

SVP, Policy and Research,  
Child Care Aware of America

### SESSION 5: CHILD CARE IS ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

#### *Pathways to Building a Stronger Child Care System*

Hear how leading economists, labor experts, and policy analysts are identifying persistent barriers in child care and the strategies we can use to overcome them to better meet the needs of today's families and businesses.

MODERATOR

*thread* Board President



*Dr. Kevin Berry*

Economics Professor and  
Department Chair,  
University of Alaska Anchorage

PRESENTER



*Dr. Theresa Hawley*

Executive Director,  
Center for Early Learning  
Funding Equity,  
Northern Illinois University

PRESENTER



*Anne Hedgepeth*

SVP, Policy and Research,  
Child Care Aware of America



## COFFEE BREAK

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# AGENDA

## SESSION 6: SOLUTIONS THAT SHINE – PART 1

### *Creative Community Approaches to Child Care*

Discover bright spots and local solutions across Alaska and beyond that are growing and strengthening child care.

MODERATOR

*thread* Board Treasurer



*Olivia Foster*

Registered Nurse,  
Alaska Native Medical  
Center

PRESENTER



*Nicole Barcliff*

Senior Policy Director,  
Local Initiatives Support  
Corporation

PRESENTER



*Krystal Hoke*

Internal Project Manager,  
Girdwood Workforce  
Childcare Project

PRESENTER



*Ali Knabe*

Interim Chief of Staff,  
University of Alaska  
Fairbanks

PRESENTER



*Rachel Roy*

Executive Director,  
Sitka Chamber of  
Commerce

PRESENTER



*Dr. Austin Quinn-  
Davidson*

Interim Executive Director,  
Anchorage Child Care &  
Early Education Fund

PRESENTER



*The Honorable Jessica  
Vega Pederson*

Chair, Multnomah County  
Oregon

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## SESSION 7: SOLUTIONS THAT SHINE – PART 2

### *Creative Sector Approaches to Child Care*

Hear how targeted action in business, policy, and the early childhood workforce sector is building child care solutions and driving real change.

MODERATOR  
*thread* Board Vice President



*Robert Barr*  
Deputy City Manager,  
City and Borough of Juneau

PRESENTER



*Mark Burgess*  
President/CEO,  
Credit Union 1

PRESENTER



*Heather Hicks*  
Executive Director of  
Statewide Services,  
Signals Centers, Tennessee

PRESENTER



*Tess Olympia*  
Success Coordinator,  
Southeast Childhood Collective

PRESENTER



*Grace Reef*  
Founder & President,  
Early Learning Policy  
Group, LLC

PRESENTER



*Deb Trowbridge*  
Head Start Director,  
Kawerak, Inc

## CLOSING SESSION: BE THE CHANGE FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN

### *Turning Insight into Action*

Stay involved, build solutions, and be part of creating opportunities for child care in Alaska!



EMCEE  
*Jonathan King*  
Founder & CEO,  
Halcyon Consulting

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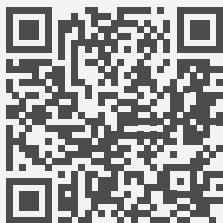


thread connecting  
early care & education  
to alaska

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

*Celebrating 40 Years of Connecting  
Alaska's Families and Communities  
to Quality Early Care & Education*

**thread** proudly celebrates 40 years of serving Alaska's children, families, and early educators. From our beginnings in a small office in 1985 to becoming Alaska's leading statewide resource for early care and learning, **thread** has been the "common thread" connecting families to quality child care, supporting early educators, and strengthening communities. As we honor four decades of impact, we look ahead with renewed commitment to ensuring every Alaskan child has the opportunity to thrive.



**FEEDBACK IS FUEL FOR GROWTH**

What was your Summit experience like? Take our survey!

Please take a few minutes to tell us what you enjoyed and what we can do to improve. Scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit [threadalaska.org/summit](https://threadalaska.org/summit) to take our short survey.