



# SELF

Strosacker Early Learning Fellows

*High quality early experiences are paramount to economic development and improved quality of life in Northwest Indiana.*

*Purdue University Northwest is leading the charge by convening trailblazers in our community who can change the landscape for children and families in Northwest Indiana.*



Center for Early Learning

The 2018 Strosacker Early Learning Fellows pledge our commitment to promote high quality early education as a key factor for community development and beyond. We are a cadre of leaders equipped with knowledge, tools and strategies who will advocate for children and families to promote economic development, strengthen the future work force and improve the quality of life in Northwest Indiana.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">13</h1> <p style="font-size: 18px; margin: 0;">Strosacker Early Learning Fellows</p>	<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">11</h1> <p style="font-size: 18px; margin: 0;">guest experts* <small>(see below for the organizations represented)</small></p>	<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">22</h1> <p style="font-size: 18px; margin: 0;">hours of learning</p>
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**CO-CHAIRS** Will Glaros | Linda Woloshansky  
**HONORARY CO-CHAIR** Chancellor Thomas L. Keon

### KEY CONCEPTS

- 1

“Investments [in early childhood programs] achieve a high return when they are high-quality, engage parents, start early, effectively scaled, and match the risk profile of the children served.”  
— Rob Grunewald
- 2

“The U.S. is an outlier and lags most developed nations in its level of investments on young children (though it is near the top in spending for elementary and secondary education and higher education). U.S. Ranks 30th of 31 countries tracked by OECD – spending 0.4% of GDP.”  
— Dr. Christina Weiland
- 3

“Early experience is the ‘smoking gun’ for both education success and long-term health. Things that happen early in life leave biological memories in your body.”  
— Dr. Geoffrey Nagle
- 4

“Indiana has a foundation for continued growth. Clear disproportionate challenges and barriers exist and critical issues are impacting Hoosier kids.”  
— Charlie Geier

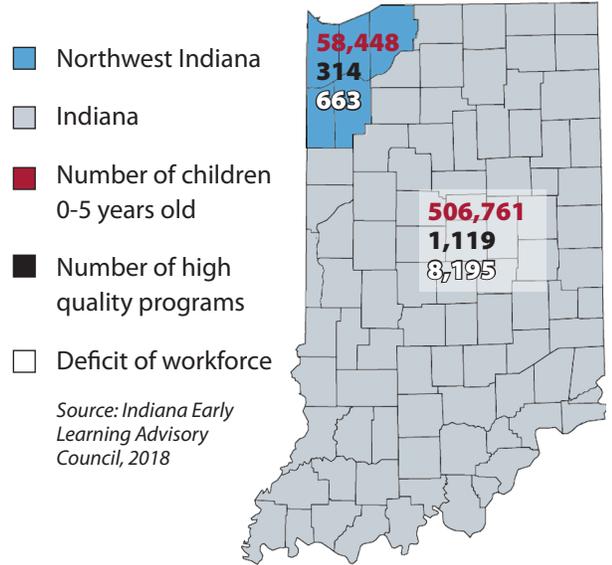
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...the futures of the region, the state and the union lie at the feet of early childhood educators. All great societies in history reach a liminal moment of advancement or decline. Ours is now and it presents itself as a challenge to leaders to infuse our educational initiatives to be on the proactive side, not the reactive one. The Strosacker Fellows are the first individuals in Northwest Indiana specifically charged with leading through proactive actions, associated with changing the educational paradigm.

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Harry J. VandeVelde III  
SELF Steering Committee

### BY THE NUMBERS



### ACTION ITEMS

- The 2018 Strosacker Early Learning Fellows agreed to enhance their learning and commitment to the pledge with these activities:
- Create and participate in the SELF Speakers Bureau
  - Create and sustain a social media presence to promote high quality early experience
  - Write an OpEd or Letter to the Editor for local news outlets
  - Host the screening of *Raising of America* and *No Small Matter*
  - Provide videotaped testimonial about SELF
  - Shadow a child care director
  - Convene an annual meeting of SELF and recruit Fellows for future classes

#### \* EXPERTS FROM

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis | Dow Corning Corporation | Early Learning Consulting Services |  
Gr8t Beginnings of Elkhart County | Muncie by 5 | Horizon Education Alliance | University of Michigan School of Education |  
Erikson Institute | First Midwest Bank | Indiana Youth Institute | ReadyNation

## SELF is made possible with support from

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Charles J. Strosacker Foundation

Chancellor Thomas L. Keon

Provost Ralph O. Mueller

Dean Elaine Carey, College of Humanities,  
Education and Social Sciences

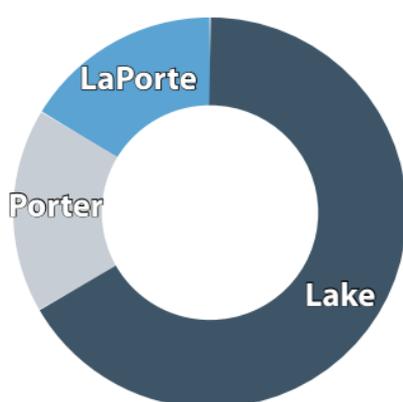
Director Anne E. Gregory,  
School of Education and Counseling

PNW Center for Early Learning

Bellaboo's Children's Museum

## 2018 Early Learning Fellows representing these communities

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- Crown Point, Gary, Griffith, Hammond, Highland, Merrillville, Munster, Schererville
- Chesterton, Valparaiso
- Michigan City, Westville

To learn more about SELF, please contact  
Dr. Mary Jane Eisenhauer  
at the PNW Center for Early Learning  
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