



### **NAECR Policy Fellows Program**

The NAECR Policy Fellows Program involves a series of informal conversations between First Five Nebraska and NAECR early childhood researchers at the University of Nebraska.

#### **Objectives**

- To educate NU early childhood researchers on policy (local, state, federal) processes, impacts, and relationships to research.
- To provide the Nebraska policy community with insight into the University of Nebraska's latest early childhood research.
- To create meaningful, bi-directional connections and collaborations between the research and policy communities in order to develop a policy-relevant research agenda and enrich early childhood experiences.

#### **Participants**

NAECR will select up to four early childhood researchers to participate in the program. They will be selected based upon their research activities and its potential implications for policy, as well as their interest in the program and their willingness to make a commitment to attend program events.

Participants will be recruited via an application process at the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester, with the list of participants finalized by September 2021.

First Five Nebraska will participate in the conversations and provide insight into policy process, impact, and the relationship between policy and research.

All participants will be expected to:

- Attend a total of four conversations over the academic year, each approximately 2 hours in length (TBD virtual or in-person formats);
- Participate in a session (e.g., panel, networking session, presentation) at the Summit on Research in Early Childhood on April 13, 2022;
- Engage in and contribute to an active, ongoing, and supportive dialogue about the connections between policy and research; and
- Provide feedback on the Policy Fellows program.

#### **Timeline:**

The program will run from September 2021 to May 2022.

<b>Conversation 1</b> October 2021 First Five Nebraska Office - Lincoln	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Overview of the state policy process</li><li>• How can researchers engage with the policy process?</li></ul>
<b>Conversation 2</b> November 2021 Location TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy Fellows' research presentations (approx. 30 minutes each)</li></ul>

<b>Conversation 3</b> January 2022 Location TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connecting research and policy</li> <li>• Overview of current state legislative activity (i.e., what early childhood bills are being introduced, what is the current legislative focus, are there opportunities to testify and/or attend hearings)</li> <li>• How can researchers collaborate with First Five to effectively present their data to engage a policy audience?</li> <li>• Homework: Watch one legislative session</li> </ul>
<b>Conversation 4</b> March 2022 Location TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connecting research and policy</li> <li>• Follow up discussion related to legislative session(s)</li> <li>• How can First Five and the Policy Fellows continue to collaborate in the short and long term?</li> <li>• What funding and publication opportunities exist for collaborative work?</li> </ul>
<b>Session Participation</b> April 13, 2022 Nebraska Innovation Campus - Lincoln	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summit on Research in Early Childhood - First Five Nebraska and NAECR participants will take part in an event (e.g., panel, networking session) during the Summit</li> </ul>

**Evaluation and Sustainability:**

NAECR will actively seek feedback from program participants and First Five Nebraska to evaluate program progress, successes, and challenges.