



*A Community of Learners*

## **Informational Memo - Preschool Kindergarten Summit 2019**

TO: School Board  
Superintendent Kocanda

FROM: Maureen Chertow Miller, *Director of Technology*

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### **Overview & Background**

In February of 2016, the Alliance for Early Childhood partnered with local early childhood organizations and school districts to launch the Inaugural Preschool Kindergarten Summit. The idea for the Summit came from The Winnetka Public Schools, offering a high-quality professional development experience for early childhood educators. Early childhood professional programming lags in relation to K-12 opportunities, yet holds the greatest opportunity to enact long-lasting impact.

The 2019 Summit provided another successful professional learning experience for over 200 early childhood educators. This year's theme, "The Neuroscience of Early Childhood: What? How? and Why?" tied brain research to best practice.

The summit's continual success is due to the nationally recognized leaders coming to speak and provide inspiration at the annual event. The programming for the 2019 summit included two new, and well-received, additions:

- An expert panel -moderated by Dr. Trisha Kocanda
- Breakout Sessions for small groups of educators to debrief and collaboratively plan with colleagues prior to leaving for the day.

## Summit Programming History

Year	Theme	Keynote	Program Link
2019	The Neuroscience of Early Childhood: What? How? and Why?	Dr. Robert Zarr	<a href="#">2019 Agenda</a>
2018	Fostering Creativity	Gever Tulley	<a href="#">2018 Agenda</a>
2017	Cultivating the Whole Child: Building Strong Social Emotional Foundations in Today's World	Erika Christakis, MPH, MA, M.Ed.	<a href="#">2017 Agenda</a>
2016	Play in the Early Years	Diane Levin, Ph. D.	<a href="#">2016 Agenda</a>

## Next Steps

The Summit Planning committee will review feedback and begin planning next year's event.