

SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION FORUM

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Leading Education Experts Gather for Community Conversation at San Antonio Regional PK-12 Public Education Forum

Focus on importance of and long term impacts of high quality early childhood development

SAN ANTONIO — The 2018 San Antonio Regional PK-12 Public Education Forum is bringing together local, state and national leaders in early childhood education to discuss and better inform the community of the importance of investing in children to better prepare them for success later in life. The forum will take place at the Witte Museum, Mays Family Center on March 6.

Ninety percent of brain development occurs before age five, yet only five percent of public education funds are spent on early childhood education. To address the issue and provide insight on the topic will be keynote speaker Dr. Steven Barnett, founder and director of the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University.

“As community leaders and educators, we have an obligation and responsibility to help others with their education whenever, wherever and however we can,” said Mike Burke, founder of the San Antonio Regional PK-12 Public Education Forum. “The goal of the forum is to bring experts and leaders together to determine what is most effective and productive in educating our children. We should focus our energy to learn more about the challenges of the education system and to help provide possible solutions and financial support for improvements.”

In addition, local and state experts will begin a community conversation to review and discuss what our region is doing to provide high quality early childhood education and development of our children. Bob Rivard will serve as moderator. Confirmed panelists include:

- Dr. Sarah Baray, CEO - Pre-K 4 SA
- Dr. Alejandra Barraza, Principal - Carroll Early Childhood Education Center, SAISD
- Kelsey Clark, Principal – Boston Consulting Group, Dallas
- Dr. Cynthia Osbourne, Director – Center for Health & Social Policy, LBJ School of Public Affairs, UT Austin

“Research has shown that early childhood education contributes not only to the improved academic outcomes for students, but also to improved social and economic outcomes for communities,” Baray said. “At Pre-K 4 SA, we prepare 2,000 more children for kindergarten, and over the long-term we are on track to change the educational and workforce trajectory of San Antonio within one generation. San Antonio serves as a leader in municipal early childhood programs, and we are thrilled to be a part of this community conversation to continually improve curriculum, classroom strategies and professional learning for our teachers and our district partners.”

Exhibitors from a variety of education organizations will be on display from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The luncheon program and panel discussion will occur between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Presenting sponsors of the San Antonio Regional PK-12 Public Education Forum are The Rivard Report and San Antonio Clean Technology Forum. To learn more or purchase tickets, please visit www.sanantonioeducationforum.com.

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