

Faculty Biographies

Dr. Monica Barczak, Senior Advisor, Administration for Children and Families



Dr. Monica Barczak is on a one-year IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act) employee with the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) and Office of Community Services (OCS) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). She works on two-generation efforts to break the cycle of poverty, including the Rural IMPACT Demonstration initiative. She comes to ACF from CAP Tulsa, a community action agency in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which she joined in 2003 in the Public Policy Department. In 2007, she led the development of CAP Tulsa's Innovation Lab and became Director. Drawing on innovative approaches such as human-centered design and behavioral economics, the Lab cultivates and leads pilot and research projects to test new ways of working with children and families together. Before joining CAP Tulsa, Dr. Barczak worked for the City of Tulsa and taught political science for the University of California and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has been a member of the Tulsa Area Workforce Investment Board since 2009. She has a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She earned her master's degree and Ph.D. in political science at the University of California, Davis, where she studied Latin American politics.

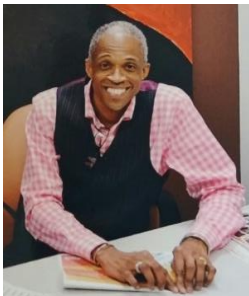
Dr. Todd Bartko, Senior Research Associate, James Bell Associates

**Available for Team Time*



Dr. Todd Bartko has over 20 years of experience in social science research and program administration. Dr. Bartko brings to James Bell Associates (JBA) his expertise in applied social science research, program evaluation, and advanced longitudinal data analytics. He has extensive knowledge and experience in the areas of mental health/psychosocial functioning of children, youth, and families; health services research; risk and resilience research; positive youth development; stress and coping models; and changes in family relationships. Dr. Bartko is currently working on outcome and cost studies for a project funded by Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Implementation, Cost, and Outcome Evaluation of a Two-Generation Strategy*, to provide integrated high-quality early childhood education to children and family economic supports and capacity building services to caregivers in four programs in geographically diverse areas. Prior to joining JBA, Dr. Bartko provided research and analytic services to academic and nonprofit clients and was formerly the Executive Director of the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on Successful Pathways through Middle Childhood. Dr. Bartko also worked as a researcher studying child and adolescent development at the University of Michigan. He holds a Ph.D. in human development and family studies from Penn State University.

Brian Bowers, Family Support Specialist and Transition Coach, Sheltering Arms Early Learning and Family Centers



Brian K. Bowers is currently a Family Support Specialist and Transition Coach for Sheltering Arms at Educare Dunbar Learning Campus, located in Atlanta, Georgia. The Dunbar Learning Campus is a pilot program that serves as the educational achievement link in the "Theory of Change" model for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The goal of the campus is to provide resources that empower families toward sustained success. Among his tasks, Mr. Bowers is charged with coordinating activities for both the Early Learning Center and Elementary School, using the partnership as a platform for broader change, inspiring high quality programs throughout the community, and bringing more effective

policies to the district and state, including a comprehensive approach to the first five years of life and learning. He brings to his current position over 20 years of hands on experience working with families and children. His successful transformative methods are rooted in the belief that we are all related by our human experience, believing that every person has the innate potential to become and be their best self.

Mr. Bowers holds a degree in social work from Tuskegee University, a Skilled Early Interventionist Certificate (SEIC) from Georgia State University, and a Strengths-based Family Workers (SFW) credential from Temple University. He is also a Certified Brazelton Touchpoints Center Trainer. A former debate champion and gifted orator, Mr. Bowers has a gift of gab, and an affinity for the power of the spoken word. He is passionate about Lifting Literacy in our schools and in our community. Mr. Bowers continues to cultivate relationships with families and children in the metropolitan Atlanta area and has been instrumental in bridging the gap between early learning and elementary education through innovative and relevant approaches to family engagement and school readiness, emphasizing the importance of intentional collaborations between the parent, child, community, and school.

Renee Fredericks, Director, Youth Education and Employment Services, Cook Inlet Tribal Council

**Available for Team Time*



Working to connect traditional Alaska Native crafts with the digital fabrication tools of today, Renee Fredericks directs the Youth Education and Employment Services department at Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) in Anchorage, Alaska. Under her leadership, CITC Fab Lab provides maker opportunities to Alaska Native and American Indian youth in partnership with the Anchorage School District and other youth organizations. Ms. Fredericks’s combined passion for preserving tradition while embracing opportunities led her to help launch the CITC Fab Lab and create its programs. Ms. Fredericks is committed to designing new hands-on approaches to help Alaska Native and American Indian students overcome academic disparities and increase skillsets for work available in the Alaskan economy and beyond.

Susan Golonka, Acting Director, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families



Susan Golonka is a nationally recognized expert on welfare reform, foster care, and related human service issues. Prior to joining ACF, Ms. Golonka served as the program director of the Economic, Human Services and Workforce Division at the National Governor’s Association (NGA). Ms. Golonka directed NGA’s policy analysis, research, and technical assistance efforts on welfare reform, low-income families, work supports service integration, and child welfare to help state policymakers and administrators develop and implement sound policies. She oversaw technical assistance to states through on-site consultations, intensive ongoing technical assistance, customized workshops, and policy academies. Ms. Golonka also managed the network of Governors’ Human Services Policy Advisors. She received her master’s degree in public administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia.

Sarah Griffen, Consultant, STEPS Two-Generation Initiative, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**Available for Team Time*



Sarah Griffen is a national consultant in two-generation strategies, workforce development, strategic planning and policy to support government, foundations, and organizations in establishing programs, improving systems, and building collaborations that impact low-income populations. She is currently co-managing the learning community for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's STEPS Two-Generation Initiative and managing the Connecticut Two-Generation Initiative's learning community. Ms. Griffen has provided technical assistance and management support to the national Working Families Success Network; for Rhode Island's Workforce Innovation Fund grant; and for a range of career pathways programs nationally. Ms. Griffen has national and state policy expertise in workforce, community development, and work supports for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Her private industry expertise is focused in health care and includes program development, workforce analysis, and establishing workforce strategies. Previously, Ms. Griffen was the founder of the Boston Health Care and Research Training Institute, an early stage career ladders project. Her other relevant work includes directing the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation's economic development strategy, including development and oversight of a family-based child care network.

Dr. Jeanette Hercik, Senior Vice President, ICF International

**Available for Team Time*



Dr. Jeanette Hercik is an expert in anti-poverty research, welfare and employment, community development, family supports and strengthening, and the reengineering of U.S. federal and state public sector systems. For more than 17 years, Dr. Hercik has managed a welfare-to-work portfolio of technical assistance and training and research and evaluation projects, including cross-agency initiatives such as addressing mental health and substance abuse, housing, transportation, child care, and issues specific to urban and rural populations. She manages the Self-Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse (SSRC) and oversees the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC) and the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families. Prior to joining ICF, Dr. Hercik directed the State of Michigan Department of Commerce Research and Evaluation Agency on jobs and the economy, with specific focus on plant closings, manufacturing modifications, and economic development in communities. Dr. Hercik has a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Charisse Johnson, Branch Chief, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families



Charisse Johnson's career in human services has spanned over 25 years as a social worker, supervisor, administrator, and policymaker. Currently, she is the Branch Chief for the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Discretionary Grant Program at OFA. She supervises the staff that monitors and provides technical assistance to the grantees. Ms. Johnson's first federal experience was in the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) where she served as a Program Specialist in the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN). Prior to joining the Children's Bureau, she served as the Section Chief for North Carolina's Child Welfare System, providing primary oversight for the state's child welfare and primary prevention of child abuse and neglect systems. Ms. Johnson worked in the private sector as the Deputy Director for WAGES, a community action agency, where she had oversight for Head Start and Early Head Start, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program, and a home visiting program. She is a graduate of East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, where she received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in social work.

Kim Keating, Senior Research Associate, James Bell Associates

**Available for Team Time*



Kim Keating has 23 years of experience in social science and evaluation research, with emphasis on child welfare initiatives, early childhood experience, infant-toddler mental health, trauma, and the socio-emotional well-being of young children. Ms. Keating is a Senior Research Associate and Technical Assistance (TA) Liaison with extensive experience working with diverse populations, including urban, tribal, and migrant/seasonal farm worker families. She currently is the Lead TA Liaison to the 2012 and 2013 Abandoned Infant Assistance grantees and Co-Liaison to the 2014 Grants to Address Trafficking in Child Welfare programs as part of James Bell

Associates' (JBA) *Technical Assistance on Evaluation for Children's Bureau Discretionary Grant Program* project. Ms. Keating recently served as a Lead Site Liaison to selected American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes for the *Study of Coordination of Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Child Welfare Services*. She also was a member of the JBA study team conducting the *Cross-Site Evaluation of the Family Connection Discretionary Grants* and provided TA to the 2012 Family-finding/Family Group Decision-making grantees. During her tenure at JBA, she was the Project Manager for the Children's Bureau's five-year *Cross-Site Evaluation of the Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program*. Key projects she has contributed to in the past include: *Adaptable Evaluation Training and Technical Assistance for Healthy Marriage, Promoting Responsible Fatherhood and Tribal/TANF Child Welfare Grantees*, and the evaluation "*Little Voices for Healthy Choices*" program for Head Start. Prior to her work for the Children's Bureau and OFA, she conducted research for the Office of Head Start and was the Project Manager for the annual Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data collection. Ms. Keating holds a master's degree in education with a focus on counseling and human development from George Mason University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Virginia.

Denise Litz, Branch Chief, Division of Tribal TANF Management, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families



Denise Litz is the Branch Chief for the Division of Tribal TANF at OFA, where she has worked since January 2015. She is an enrolled member of the Tuscarora Nation, Beaver clan, and holds a bachelor's degree in human rehabilitative services and a master's degree in early childhood special education. Ms. Litz's federal career includes 11 years as a program specialist with the Office of Head Start in Region VIII (Denver) and two years as a program specialist with the Administration for Native Americans (Washington, DC).

Dr. Sharon McGroder, Program Director, Economic, Human Services, and Workforce Division, National Governor's Association

**Available for Team Time*



Dr. Sharon McGroder is a Program Director in the Economic, Human Services, and Workforce Division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center). She directs the NGA Center's human services-related work, focusing on family economic security; child welfare; two-generation state policy; juvenile justice; data, research, and evidence-informed policymaking; integrated data systems; and improving human services delivery systems. Dr. McGroder has 30 years of experience in policy, research, and evaluation pertaining to children, youth, and families and has held positions at Mathematica Policy Research, The Lewin Group, Child Trends, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She has co-authored book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals on issues pertaining to low-income children and families. Dr. McGroder received her Ph.D. in human development and family studies from Pennsylvania State University, and a master's degree in public policy analysis and bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Rochester.

Dr. Allison Metz, Director, National Implementation Research Network, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



Dr. Allison Metz is a developmental psychologist, Director of the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN), and Senior Scientist at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She specializes in the implementation, mainstreaming, and scaling of evidence to achieve social impact for children and families in a range of human service and education areas, with an emphasis on child welfare and early childhood service contexts. Dr. Metz's work focuses in several key areas including: the development of evidence-informed practice models; the use of effective implementation and scaling strategies to improve the application of evidence in service delivery systems; and the development of coaching, continuous quality improvement, and sustainability strategies. Dr. Metz currently directs several national initiatives to build the capacity of major philanthropies and intermediary organizations to support jurisdictions in using evidence to improve outcomes for children and families, including the Partnership to Build Implementation Capacity for Child Welfare with Casey Family Programs; the Healthy Places North Carolina Initiative with the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust; and the Effective Implementation of Early Childhood Evidence-Based Home Visiting Statewide. Dr. Metz received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the Catholic University of America.

Carol Mizoguchi, Family Assistance Program Specialist, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families



Carol Mizoguchi joined OFA as a Family Assistance Program Specialist in February of 2016. Prior to joining OFA, Ms. Mizoguchi worked for Casey Family Programs as the Director of Strategic Engagement & Initiatives where she worked directly with the CEO to influence national leaders, organizations, and key stakeholders to commit to strengthening government systems in order to increase their effectiveness in protecting children and families. She was also responsible for managing Casey's philanthropic partnerships. Ms. Mizoguchi has served as the Two-Gen Coordinator for The Center for Working Families, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia; a Community Service Administrator at King North for the Washington State Department of Social and Human Services; and the Director of Women's Program for Metro King County, among other positions serving children and families.

Ms. Mizoguchi has a master's degree in public administration from Seattle University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington with over 25 years of human services experience. In 1991, Ms. Mizoguchi and four of her dearest friends founded Sisters-In-Common (Sisters). Sisters is a nonprofit social service agency that was developed in response to a void in culturally competent intervention services for adolescent females of color in the juvenile justice system. Ms. Mizoguchi's community service includes: King County Women's Advisory Board – Board Member; National Black Church and Domestic Violence Institute – Board Member; African Women's Development Fund – Chair of Pacific Northwest Region; Gideon's Promise; and the Southeastern Council of Foundations – Board of Trustees.

Dr. Anne Mosle, Vice President and Executive Director, Ascend at the Aspen Institute

****Available for Team Time***



Dr. Anne Mosle is a vice president at the Aspen Institute and executive director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute. Ascend is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move vulnerable children and their parents towards educational success and economic security. Ascend has been a national leader in catalyzing a two-generation approach to breaking the cycle of poverty. Under Ms. Mosle's leadership, Ascend has launched a national values-based fellowship program and is investing \$1.5 million in promising programs and policy solutions. In all its work, Ascend engages the voices of families and diverse leaders. In 2014, Ascend launched a new two-generation learning network.

Gloria Perez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Jeremiah Program

**Available for Team Time*



Gloria Perez is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jeremiah Program, a leading non-profit organization proven to help single mothers and their children break the cycle of generational poverty. Ms. Perez joined Jeremiah Program in 1998 following her role as executive director of Casa de Esperanza, a domestic violence agency in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She brings more than twenty years of management, supervision, and leadership experience to her position. Ms. Perez possesses experience in fundraising, strategic planning, and organizational excellence and is garnered as a leader and board member of community and non-profit organizations. As a Latina and native of San Antonio, Texas, Ms. Perez infuses her rich cultural background into her committed professional involvement as an advocate for women, families, and people of color. A graduate of Macalester College, Ms. Perez is a recipient of the Catharine Lealtald Service to Society Award and in 2008 she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. In 2009, she received the Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts Council of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, Citizen of the Year Award from the Minneapolis University Rotary Club, and the Unsung Hero Award from WomenVenture at their 2009 annual conference.

Blanca Regalado, Director of Programs, AVANCE, Inc.

**Available for Team Time*



Blanca Regalado believes in AVANCE's principles that education begins at birth and the impact parents have is essential to the child's development. To this end, she has dedicated more than 12 years to AVANCE parents and children as an Early Head Start Home Educator, Parent-Child Education Program Center Director and Parent Educator, and Coordinator of Parenting Services. Currently, she serves as Director of Program Services for AVANCE and is the Project Director for Fathers in Action.

Ms. Regalado earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics with a concentration in education from the University of Texas at San Antonio and her General Nonprofit Leadership Management Certification from Our Lake of the Lake University. She also spent time as a middle school teacher before joining AVANCE.

Lisa Washington-Thomas, Chief, Self-Sufficiency Branch, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families



Lisa Washington-Thomas is the Self-Sufficiency Branch Chief within OFA. She has experience in a wide array of social services programs, such as TANF, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Job Opportunities and Basic Skills, Emergency Assistance Group, the OFA Rapid Response Technical Assistance Contract, the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families, the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse and Community Planning Grants. Ms. Washington-Thomas earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University.

Constance Willis, Family Economic Success Program Manager, The Center for Working Families, Inc.



The Family Economic Success Program Manager for the Center for Working Families, Inc., Constance Willis began her career in the non-profit sector in 1996. Her twenty years of experience has aided women and women with children in promoting self-sufficiency and family stability. In her role, Ms. Willis manages the implementation and collaboration among partners, such as, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Two Generation initiative with Educare Sheltering Arms, Partners Advancing Childhood Education (PACE) Life Path, the Kellogg Foundation, Atlanta Housing Authority, and Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) grants to help sustain communities and boost economic development. Ms. Willis's passion has always been client advocacy and coaching in an effort to further economic positioning and promote self-sufficiency. That passion blossomed as she served as the Housing Coordinator for Mary Hall Freedom House. In this capacity she planned, designed and directed five housing programs for women that were battling addiction, homeless, and often separated from their children. Family reunification and housing were essential to the success of the client base.

A passion for women with children and family unification led Ms. Willis to the Partnership Against Domestic Violence, where she served as the Safe House Director. There, she furthered her advocacy for women with children by recognizing the need for more permanent housing for undocumented women, who were survivors of domestic abuse. Ms. Willis collaborated with a local church to provide long term housing for women and their children, at no cost, while they awaited U.S. Citizenship. She successfully coordinated services for Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing efforts within the safe house. She continues to expand her passion beyond women and children, with her role as the Family Economic Success Program Manager, by continuously seeking to drastically change the way families view vocational skills, education, and economic success.

Duane Yoder, President, Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.



Duane Yoder serves as President of the Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) located in Western Maryland. Mr. Yoder has served in that position since 1980. Previously he was employed in similar roles in Southern and Eastern Maryland. During his tenure as President, Garrett County Community Action has emerged as one of the most successful rural community development corporations in Maryland and is a state leader in implementing innovative early child education and family development strategies. GCCAC is participating in an Annie E Casey Foundation study to track outcomes for low income children and families in its 2Gen initiative. Mr. Yoder has spent his adult life working on anti-poverty issues. He received his bachelor's degree from Eastern Mennonite University and had done graduate work at the Universities of West Virginia and Maryland.