

History in Wisconsin: Who Was Missing and Why Is This Important?

Resource:

[In Brief: Learning from the New Round of PDG B-5 Systems-Building Grants](#)

Presenter Short Bios and Resources

Presenter Bios and Contact Information



Michele Mackey | mmackey@kidsforward.org

President & CEO, Kids Forward

Since 2010, Michele has served as a Senior Fellow/Consultant at COWS, a national think-and-do tank. Previously, Michele served as Managing Director of the Andon Group, LLC, an organizational development, innovation management, and evaluation consultancy. Their policy work in Wisconsin began at the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups' Elder Law Center and later as project manager for the 12-county \$5M Department of Labor WIRED initiative.

Michele is a member of the California Bar and had early careers in intellectual property litigation and financial crimes investigation. They hold a B.S., B.A., and J.D. degrees from the University of Notre Dame, and an M.S. degree in Criminology & Management Information Systems from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Ruth Schmidt | ruschmidt@wisconsinearlychildhood.org

Executive Director, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

Ruth Schmidt is a respected early care and education leader on the local, state, and national levels and a champion for advancing policy that recognizes child care as a public good worthy of long-term public financing. She joined Wisconsin Early Childhood Association in 2002, bringing with her extensive executive leadership experiences and connections across a variety of sectors. Ruth works to maintain and grow WECA's relationships with the early childhood community, economic and workforce development, local governments, philanthropy, community partners, and policymakers. This continues to advance the vision of a transformed system of care in Wisconsin that supports the early childhood workforce, young children, families, and liveable communities.



Daithi Wolfe | dwolfe@kidsforward.org

Senior Policy Analyst, Kids Forward

David “Daithi (DAH-hee)” works to improve nutrition and increase physical activity in child care settings (kind of like Farm to Table for preschoolers) and also to elevate the voices of impacted communities to better inform child care policies and spending. Daithi co-chairs Healthy Early, an award-winning state-wide coalition that promotes healthy eating, gardening, active play, and outdoor learning. One of our mottos is “Growing Happy, Healthy Kids!” He was also recently chair of the WI Agriculture Secretary’s Farm to School Advisory Council. Before becoming an ECE advocate, Daithi was a public elementary school teacher for 16 years in Madison. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan in his native Ann Arbor, with a B.A. in American Culture. He enjoys fighting for social justice, playing music, and running as avocations.

- **Resources**

- [Parent and Caregiver Equity Advisory Cabinet: Parent Members](#)
- [2023 Parent/Caregiver Equity Advisory Cabinet: Past, Present, and Future](#)



Toshiba Adams, Ph.D. | sankofaconsultingmke@gmail.com

Professor of Child Development, Milwaukee Area Technical College

Dr. Toshiba Adams serves as a professor of Child Development at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and an adjunct professor of Education Policy at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In these positions, she develops curriculum; offers instruction in multiple modalities; and creates engaging and inclusive learning spaces under the guidance of culturally responsive pedagogy. Dr. Adams is also the founder/director of a non-profit organization, Sankofa Consulting & Training, that aims to transform student and workforce experiences for the early education sector through research and professional development.

- **Resources**

- [Study Overview & Findings: Advancing Equity in Wisconsin’s Early Education Workforce - A Narrative Inquiry that Centers the Lived Experiences of Black and Brown Professionals in the Field](#)
- [Executive Summary: Advancing Equity in Wisconsin’s Early Education Workforce - A Narrative Inquiry that Centers the Lived Experiences of Black and Brown Professionals in the Field](#)
- [Progress Report: Advancing Equity Steering Committee](#)
- [Advancing Equity Qualitative Research Toolkit](#)