



## December Newsletter

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



SEPTEMBER 21ST - 22ND

### Save the Date

#### **2023 Early Learner South Dakota Summit September 21st - 22nd, 2023**

Please join us for our 2023 Early Learner South Dakota Annual Summit! The two day summit agenda will include valuable discussions on early childhood education in South Dakota, business solutions, sustainability updates, and networking opportunities.

Event location, schedule and lodging details to be announced.

[Reserve Tickets](#)

SAVE THE DATE

# CHILDREN'S DAY

## *at the Capitol*

**Empowering South Dakota  
Children and Families**

### **Children's Day at the Capitol**

**Save the date: January 11th, 2023**

Join ELSD and other advocates in the Rotunda at the Capitol building in Pierre.

We are happy to partner with Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment, the Afterschool Network and Children's Home Society of SD with this event.

For event agenda, and sponsorship opportunities, please click the 'more information' button below.

[More Information](#)

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### **The Success of our partnership with the Alliance for Early Success**

The Alliance for Early Success's mission is to create a powerful, diverse community that informs, accelerates, and amplifies early childhood policy allies' effectiveness in achieving state actions necessary for each and every youth child to thrive. Their vision is that every child in every state has what they need in the early years to realize their full potential for a lifetime.

This Alliance for Early Success granted Early Learner South Dakota (through SDAEYC) an operating grant for the last three years to elevate policy and advocacy efforts for early learners, child care providers, and families in SD. This grant has allowed ELSD to thrive and grow our efforts. We also have access to national allies that work directly with ELSD to make these efforts a reality. Some of these national organizations include:

1. Committee for Economic Development
2. Council for Strong America
3. Bipartisan Policy Center
4. Frontera Strategies (political strategy company)

5. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment
6. The Hunt Institute

Over the course of the next several newsletters, we will highlight our partners and talk about the amazing efforts we are working on together to strengthen the future of our youngest citizens in SD!

## Early Learner Community Updates

### Huron Head Start Center New Building

The Huron Head Start Center recently opened it's new building, offering space to expand to 60 slots. The new building includes four classrooms and a new kitchen and cafeteria area.

For availability questions and more information, please contact **Amy Everson at (605)352-1845.**

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### Early Learner South Dakota hosts first Official Business Collaborative meeting & attends discussion with Governor Kristi Noem



*Pictured: Early Learner South Dakota Director, Kayla Klein, speaking at the East River Business Collaborative meeting in Sioux Falls.*

Early Learner South Dakota Director, Kayla Klein spent time on the road visiting with many partners and hosting the first official Business Collaborative meeting in Sioux Falls. The first stop was Pierre to have a discussion with the Governor and other child care providers and advocates, then a chat with the Department of Social Services. Then it was on to Sioux Falls, with a visit with our partner CPCM, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and the Sioux Falls Child Care Collaborative. Finally, we ended the trip with our first Business Collaborative meeting. There were 63 economic development executives,

chambers, businesses, and providers in attendance.

## Upcoming West River Business Collaborative Meeting:

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM MST

**\*\*NEW LOCATION\*\***

**Western Dakota Tech College, Commons Room  
800 Mickelson Dr, Rapid City 57703**

### Directions

You will park in the main parking lot and use the door that is to the right of the Event Center entrance.

[Register](#)



**Meet our ELSD Team**



## Spotlight: Kevin Nelson

Kevin Nelson is an educational specialist with SDPB and comes from a family that has been in education for four generations. He has over thirty years of experience as a teacher, coach, and administrator in South Dakota schools.

Kevin has degrees from Northern State University and the University of South Dakota. He has been an active member of the School Administrators of South Dakota, serving as the president of SASD and the South Dakota Association of Elementary School Principals. In addition, he has served on numerous educational and community committees and serves as a track and field starter.

Kevin has been honored by TIE with the James Parry Technology Leadership Award, SASD with the Legislative Advocacy Award, and SDAESP as their South Dakota National Distinguished Principal. Kevin and his wife Dyan are proud parents of three wonderful children, Bailey, Sam, and Sydney.



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