



For Immediate Release

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PA BUSINESS LEADERS CONVENE TO TALK EARLY LEARNING

HARRISBURG, PA (April 25, 2017) Today the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission (ELIC) hosted the **9th Annual Economic Summit** bringing together more than 200 Pennsylvania business leaders, policy makers, and community leaders to examine the latest research and policy developments in early learning. This year's event, entitled **The Business of Early Learning**, explored why high quality childcare is so important for the workforce of today and tomorrow, the challenges of the childcare business model, and innovative business and policy solutions emerging from around the Commonwealth and the Country.

"Today's event brought together a broad cross section of Pennsylvania's early childhood stakeholders from the business community, policy makers, and research and policy experts to further our work about the importance of investing in early learning," said Pete Danchak, PA ELIC CoChair and President, PNC Bank, Northeast PA. "The Summit was a continuation of our ongoing work to strengthen the connection between quality early childhood investments and a strong economy across the Commonwealth."

PA Governor Tom Wolf opened the Summit and provided welcoming remarks to the gathered attendees. The Summit also featured a number of speakers and panelists who are recognized experts in the field of early learning including Michelle Kang, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Operational Strategy, Bright Horizons Family Solution; Jessie Rasmussen, President, Buffett Early Childhood Fund; and Shannon Rudisill, Executive Director, Early Childhood Funders' Collaborative.

"We are blessed to have an incredibly active Commission of business leaders committed to increasing public and private resources dedicated to quality early childhood. Today we had a robust discussion about the progress we have made in increasing investments in early learning, while also focusing on the challenges and opportunities before us to ensure that all PA children have access to high-quality learning opportunities." said ELIC Executive Director Carey Harris.

The Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission (ELIC) was created in September 2008 through Executive Order by the Governor. The purpose of the Commission is to raise awareness and support for increased public investments in educationally, economically, and scientifically sound early learning programs and practices.

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