

**Dr. Gail Joseph**  
**Washington State Transition Summit 2011**

Dr. Gail Joseph: I'm Gail Joseph. I'm here at the University of Washington; I'm on faculty with the educational psychology area, as well as early childhood and family studies. I also happen to work with the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning. And it is my great pleasure to welcome all of you here on behalf of the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning, of which you'll learn a little bit more about in a few moments. So we are just, again, delighted to have you here. We know some people drove long distances; some people took plane rides here.

You know, we happen to be having this on the day of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Washington -- the last football game that will be played in that stadium. [Laughter] So, we have a lot of things that were going on. It -- it's just thrilling to have you all here. I just can't understate that enough. It's just amazing -- or overstate that.

So, we're here to talk really about fostering early learning collaboration and improving school readiness for all of the children that we're working with in Washington State. And so, I know that you all have probably given up things that you normally do on Saturdays to be here, and so I just appreciate and just want to acknowledge the sacrifice that you've made to be here on behalf of young children.

So I want to say just kind of broadly who is here today, because we have some different groups. So, we have 10 regional teams from across the state who are coming together, that represent early learning providers. So early care and education providers, family home child care providers, center-based child care, Head Start, ECEAP programs, and elementary schools that are engaged in the WaKIDS process this year are here. So, we have principals; we have superintendents; we have lots of kindergarten teachers, preschool teachers. So those are making up these amazing regional teams.

In addition, we have some great representation from the early childhood leadership development course that's here at the University of Washington. They're here, I think, over there, observing. [Applause] They're going to spend the morning with us, watching.

We have two national centers here: so the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning, as well as the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement. They will introduce themselves as they come up here. We have Dana Ziembra from OSPI here, who can talk a lot about WaKIDS. We have Bob Hamilton from Department of Early Learning here; as well as Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer, who's the Head Start state collab. officer for Washington State. We have representatives from Thrive by Five here. They'll introduce themselves when they come up. We also have Dr. Nancy Hutchins from -- the regional administrator from Administration for Children and Families in Region X.

So we really feel like we're pulling together all of the players to make this work, and that when we leave here today, we'll have some beginnings of plans and we'll have all of the people who have resources in order to put those plans into action for you all. So, that is a broad overview of who is here today.

I'm going to give you just one quick overview of the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning for those of you who are unaware of our resource. We are actually based here at the University of Washington. And I would say our overarching goal is to collaborate with early educators and trainers to make lasting impacts for young children. So we really are -- we're a resource center.

We are funded for five years; we're just starting in year two. We serve all of Head Start programs across the country and in territories. And we are really just developing evidence-based resources that can be used to support school readiness for all children. So even though we're funded from the Office of Head Start, we want to make sure that we are sharing our resources for all early learning providers.

We have a leadership team. Again, we're based here at the University of Washington. Dr. Susan Sandall is our director, and Randi Shapiro, who's here today, is our executive director of the center; and we just thank them so much for putting the resources together that are in your bags to help make this happen. Again, I'm Gail Joseph.

But we have some other collaborating universities. These are just a few of them -- the big ones: University of Virginia with Bob Pianta, Bridget Hamre, and Jennifer LoCasale-Crouch, who you will hear from later today. And we also partner with Vanderbilt University and many other universities across the country.

We have four goals that we try and reach in the National Center for Quality Teaching and Learning. So, the first one is to identify the research-based practices that support school readiness. So, we've launched and are just finishing a major literature review. In fact, Danielle is here, who's been leading that review. So researchers from across the country have been looking and saying, "What are -- in the last 10 years, what's the evidence say about teaching early math? What about social studies? What about social-emotional development? What are those research-based practices that really support positive child outcomes?"

And from that major review, we will be developing many, many, many practical resources for you to use in your programs to say this is what we know works to support these positive outcomes and help achieve school readiness. We are moving those into everyday practice by making sure that they get into trainings. We're using all kinds of web-based resources. We're making these things called 15-minute in-services; lots of materials that you can access through our website, and I'll give you that by the end of the day.

The other thing that we're working on is higher education opportunities for early learning providers who are working to get their AAs and their bachelor's degrees and beyond, including perhaps degrees in early childhood leadership. So, we're doing a lot of work in that area.

And then, finally, our fourth goal, which is really the most relevant for us being here today, is a goal that we have called "Sustain the gain." So how do we both support and increase and improve the positive outcomes that children gain in their early learning programs? And then how do we sustain those as they move into their local elementary programs?

And we know that it takes at least two -- it certainly takes more than two, but at least two to transition. And so, it's important that we have these conversations between early learning providers and local elementary schools; and that is one of the reasons that we're having these "Transition Summits," as we're calling them, across the country. And we decided to make Washington State our very first one that we are experimenting with, so you are all here helping us put this into place.