Dear Supporters,

This year was like no one could have predicted, and yet the staff, students, and partners of the Office of Child Development brought all of their creativity and passion to supporting children & families to this ever-changing world. This year we learned how to work remotely with new technologies and safe-guards. We taught virtual courses and professional development with grace and compassion for each other as we discovered new ways to build relationships and learn while far apart.

We faced a global health pandemic with a commitment to problem-solving. Our community had all of the support we could provide for their physical, mental, and emotional needs. Ideas ranged from new virtual wellness activities from our HealthyCHILD team, to toddler dance parties on Facetime with our Early Head Start families. In fact, the HealthyCHILD team won an award for being a Pitt Partnership of Distinction, in recognition of their mutually-beneficial relationships with local schools.

This was a year of new challenges and a year of rising to face them. We learned that there are new challenges we will need to grapple with, but when we come together as a community, we can find new ways to thrive.

Shannon Wearless
Director, Office of Child Development
By the Numbers

7,000
Each year, our office reaches more than 7,000 children and families

6
Our office includes 6 different divisions,

$7,407,024
We received generous grant and contract funding this year

12
Each month featured a new professional social justice learning opportunity

2,000+
Total books collected to date as part of our annual book drive,

10
Students were part of this year’s Student Fellow Cohort

86
This year’s book list featured 86 titles
Michelle King

Michelle King is a learner first and foremost. A teacher. An instigator. A former teacher in Mt. Lebanon and at the Environmental Charter School, Michelle consults with the Office on all things social justice.

Erika Gold Kestenberg

Erika supports the Office by connecting both personally and professionally around growing our knowledge, understanding and capacity for diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice work.

Felicia Savage Friedman

For over 30 years Felicia has transformed lives with embodied antiracist organizing through Raja Yoga. Standing firm on the belief that we are all bound and dehumanized by systems of oppression, she envisions a humankind where we have dismantled these systems of oppression and humanely rebuilt new systems together.
Advisory Board

Chairperson: Kevin Kearns
Professor and Director of the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh

Board Members: University of Pittsburgh

Kenyon R. Bonner
Vice Provost for Student Affairs

Mario C. Browne
Director, Office of Health Sciences Diversity, Schools of the Health Sciences

Judy Cameron
Professor of Psychiatry Neuroscience, Obstetrics-Gynecology Reproductive Sciences, Clinical and Translational Science, and Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

Valerie Kinloch
Renée and Richard Goldman Dean, School of Education

Charles Perfetti
Distinguished University Professor of Psychology Director, Learning Research and Development Center

Kenneth P. Service
formerly Vice Chancellor for Communications

Daniel Shaw
Director, Pitt Parents and Children Laboratory, Professor, Department of Psychology

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formerly Senior Program Director, Children Youth & Families Program, The Heinz Endowments

Kristy Trautmann
Executive Director, FISA Foundation

Michael Yonas
Senior Program Officer for Social Innovation, Research and Special Initiatives, The Pittsburgh Foundation

Board Members: Community Organizations

Miya Asato
Program Director, Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Residency Program, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Marc Cherna
Director, Allegheny County Department of Human Services

Rosamaria Cristello
Executive Director and Co-Founder, Latino Community Center

Patrick Dowd
Executive Director, Allies for Children

Gisele Fetterman
Second Lady of Pennsylvania, and Founder, Bradford Freestore, Co-founder, 412 Food Rescue

Nancy Hubley
Director, Education Law Center, Pittsburgh

Barbara Johnson
Senior Director of Race and Gender Equity, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh

Robert Nelkin
Formerly President and Chief Professional Officer, United Way of Allegheny County

K. Chase Patterson
Chief Executive Officer Urban Academy

Kannu Sahni
Director of Community Affairs, Allegheny Health Network

Tim Smith
Pastor and Director of Center of Life in Hazelwood

Diamonte Walker
Deputy Executive Director at Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

Dannai Wilson
Program Manager, Allegheny County Health Department Maternal and Child Health Services
Student Fellows

This year marked the official launch of our Student Fellows program. For years, students have been a key part of our work, contributing valuable research to each department. But often, they were relegated solely to their division. This initiative was launched in the spirit of collaboration, with a goal of having students learn from and with our staff, Pitt faculty, and each other.

Our gathering in February 2020 (pictured below) gave students the opportunity to engage with faculty across seven different Pitt departments. Each faculty member does work in their own discipline to reach a goal we all share: helping all children and families thrive.

2019-20 Student Fellows

Sophie Caffrey
Taylor Crosby
Dana Duncombe
Kelley Gavel
Sara Kaempf
Denise Larosa
Katherine O’Hara
Meghan Orman
Yuan Xiao
Ashley Shafer

Special Thanks to Participating Pitt Faculty

Katrina Bartow
Jackie Burgette
Angela Caldwell
Melissa Libertus
Jerry Taylor
John Williams
Courtney Weikle-Mills
Whether through donating books, visiting families, or engaging with educators, our work touches each of Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods.
Partner Organizations

In order to help all children thrive, it is necessary to have buy-in from the entire community. That’s why the Office of Child Development is committed to partnering with a wide range of community organizations and funders to better serve the diverse population of Pittsburgh. For more than 30 years, we have bridged the gap between the University of Pittsburgh and the city’s early childhood community.

We’re grateful for each and every partnership that we have. Here is just a sampling of community partners.
Social Justice is a core tenet of our mission. It informs every aspect of our work, and we are committed to learning more about how we can best advocate for disrupting systemic injustices. Many of the challenges children and families face are rooted in historical oppression, and it’s incumbent on organizations like ours to take the time to learn what that really means.

We started this work in earnest in 2018 through workshops led by the P.R.I.D.E. Program. Today, we are meeting monthly to understand how social justice plays a role in our work every day. These are some of the earliest steps in our social justice journey, but we are committed to walking along side our fellow community members to disrupt these inequitable systems.

Here are just some of the ways we are furthering our social justice work at the Office of Child Development:

- **Think Tank Tuesdays:** Monthly gatherings, with topics including AAVE and Indigenous People. Guest speaker Dr. Kerry-Ann Escayg also joined a session this year.

- **Anti-Racist Raja Yoga:** Hosted by SJ consultant Felicia Savage Friedman (see above), these sessions were offered throughout the year.

- **Sharing Knowledge:** Staff-led sessions at Pitt Diversity Forum, Day of Racial Healing, and Early Childhood SJ&E Research Reading Group.
After the Tree of Life tragedy in 2018, our office sprang into action. Our team of early childhood experts began evaluating books that could help children both process of the trauma of the event and celebrate diversity. Thousands of books were donated, and Books for Change was born. This year, our team chose more than 40 books across different categories. Together, they represent a collection of books that help children celebrate diversity.

### 2019 Book List

Each book was reviewed and selected by a team of experts at the Pitt Office of Child Development to ensure it positively promoted equity. Learn more at ocd.pitt.edu/books.

#### Celebrating Abilities
- Don’t call me special: A First Look at Disability
- We’re All Wonders
- Baxter Turns Down His Buzz
- The Girl Who Thought in Pictures
- Hannah’s Down Syndrome Superpowers
- Since We’re Friends: An Autism Picture Book
- Just Ask
- Ian’s Walk: A Story About Autism
- Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah
- Thank You, Mr. Falker
- Mrs. Gorski, I Think I Have the Wiggle Fidgets
- Last to Finish: A Story about the Smartest Boy in Class
- If You’re So Smart, How Come You Can’t Spell Mississippi?

#### Gender
- Julián is a Mermaid
- Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story about Gender and Friendship
- All I Want To Be is Me
- Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music
- Might Mommies and their Amazing Jobs
- My Daddy the Amazing Nurse
- When Aidan Became A Brother
- One of a Kind, Like Me / Unico Como Yo
- Red: A Crayon’s Story
- The Girl with a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague
- Amazing Grace

#### Economic Status
- Those Shoes
- Mudd’s Fridge
- Papa’s Pasties
- Fly Away Home
- A Day’s Work

#### Standing Up for Social Justice
- Say Something
- Bein’ With You This Way
- I Walk with Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness The Day You Begin
- Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation
- Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story
- A Sweet Smell of Roses
- All Are Welcome
- The Day You Begin

#### Race
- Shades of Black: A Celebration of our Children
- Happy to be Nappy
- Whose Toes Are Those?
- Dream Big, Little One
- All of the Colors We Are
- Shades of People
- The Skin You Live In
- Happy in Our Skin
- The Colors of Us
- Follow the Drinking Gourd
- Hair Love
- The Other Side
- Happy to be Nappy

#### Family Structure/LGBTQIA
- Love Makes a Family
- Mommy, Mama, and Me
- Daddy, Papa, and Me
- We Are Family
- Stella Bings the Family
- And Tango Makes Three
- A Family Is a Family is a Family
- PROSE: the Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag
- This Day in June
- One Family

#### Ethnicity/Religion
- Global Baby Bedtimes
- Global Babies
- How Do You Say Good Night?
- Chicken Soup, Chickie Soup
- Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors
- Dreamers
- I’m New Here
- Someone New
- Family Pictures/Cuadros de Familia
- The Keeping Quilt
- The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family
- Where Are You From?
- Lailah’s Lunchbox
- The Name Jar
- Step on Stones: A Refugee Family’s Journey

#### Mental Wellness
- Baby Faces
- I’m Feeling Mad/Sad/Happy
- When Sadness is At Your Door
- Puppy Mind
- In My Heart
- The Worry Box
- Mind Bubbles
- The Lemonade Hurricane
- Yesterday I Had The Blues
- The Grouchies
- Some Days Are Lonely
- Be Happy
- Sometimes I’m Scared
- Stickley Makes a Mistake
2019 Caplan Internal Grant Winners

Exploring the Use of Children’s Literature to Support Race-Based Conversations in Early Childhood
Jenn Briggs – $25,000

Despite knowledge that young children notice and act on racial stereotypes, colorblindness, or claiming not to see racial differences, persists across early childhood settings. But adult silence about race does not keep children from noticing race and developing racial biases. In Dr. Briggs’s innovative project, she will investigate how children’s literature can provide critical scaffolding to parents and educators as an entry point into conversations about race. The project is a collaborative effort, with SOE faculty member Dr. Patricia Crawford, Pitt students, and Office of Child Development team members providing support.

Thank you to all of the applicants and to our reviewers. This year’s rigorous external review process featured new reviewers from our office’s advisory board and from The Division of Philanthropic & Alumni Engagement. We are deeply appreciative for their time and expert feedback as we can continue to strengthen our scholarship.

Shared Power and Inclusive Family Voice
Colleen Young - $19,942

There is a wealth of evidence that sharing power with families is an essential practice to lifting the well-being of children. Yet too often, the voices of families are not prioritized. So how do we best include families in decision making along with identifying and developing solutions in their own communities while providing full access to the power needed make choices and changes? And how does white supremacy culture influence the present reticence toward family inclusion? Colleen Young’s multidimensional project will address these important questions.

Black Language - Black Families; Literacy and Racial Pride
Aisha White – $28,844

The language spoken by most African Americans has often been called bad English. Dr. White’s project aims to flip that narrative and help Black families understand that this language, African American Vernacular English, is in fact a system of English with specific rules and structure. It is a highly developed practice that is connected to African American identity and culture, and something worth embracing and celebrating. Dr. White’s project includes collaboration with SOE faculty member Dr. Amanda Godley and Pittsburgh Public Schools teacher Lisa Pickett.
### Budget, 2019-20

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Dissemination

Invited Presentations


Cross, A.B. (2019, December). Education Workgroup Overview. Presentation to the Black Girls Equity Alliance All Workgroup Reconvening, Carlow University, Pittsburgh, PA.


INTER-AGENCY REPORTS


WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS


**COURSES TAUGHT**


**GRANTS**

Spear, C.F., NurturePA RCT Toddler Study Data Coordination, University of Pittsburgh. Learning Research and Development Center, (March 2020 – March 2021), $33,909.


CONTINUING PROJECTS

Spear, C.F., Evaluation of the KinderTek iPad Math Program, Institute for Education Sciences Subcontract (July 2017 - June 2021), $587,000 (Total Funding $3,299,986; University of Oregon).


Wanless, S.B., Evaluation of Place-Based Engagement through a Community Engagement Center, The Heinz Endowments, (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020), $90,000.

