

**Dr. Jacqueline Jones, Department of Education in DC
is Attending Gesell's LEAD Conference**

New Haven, CT (September 15, 2010) – The Gesell Institute of Human Development just formally announced that Dr. Jacqueline Jones, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Early Learning from the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., will be attending their LEAD (Learn, Educate, Advocate, Do!) Conference next month. Jones will be presenting the afternoon keynote speech on October 15, 2010 at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale. Dr. Jones, former Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Early Childhood Education within the New Jersey State Department of Education, was appointed to her position by U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, last year.

In her keynote speech, Dr. Jones will address the Department of Education's work to bridge the gap between preschool and Kindergarten. She will also discuss the importance of research-based developmental programs for children age three through eight in driving school reform. "Implementation of high-quality early learning programs that prepare children for success can only be accomplished when teachers and administrators have a strong understanding of the unique aspects of child development for our young learners age 3 to Grade 3," states Jones, in regards to her anticipation for the conference. Gesell Institute's Executive Director, Marcy Guddemi, agrees and wants to promote education reform in early childhood to help prevent problems and issues later in life. Helping to create life-long learners is the key. "This conference will give New Haven, Connecticut and the nation the opportunity to hear from the field's best researchers, practitioners, and leaders regarding ideas and practices that produce higher test scores and other valuable skills and characteristics *the right way*," claims Dr. Guddemi.

Immediately following her keynote speech, Dr. Jones will be participating on the Institute's Policy panel, *Bottom Up, Top Down: What we can do to bring about change for children*. U.S. Representative, the Honorable Rosa DeLauro will also be joining Jones on this panel,

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which seeks to educate conference attendees about how governmental agencies and local institutions understand child development and early learning. Dr. Jones will be discussing the Education Department's perspective on early learning and the emerging policies that reflect that perspective. Additionally, the Policy panel's discussion will explore how leaders in education can find a partnership role with policymakers in the evolution of early childhood policies that respect the developmental learning profiles of all children, especially those at risk or with a disability.

Prior to joining the NJ Department of Education, Dr. Jones worked for 15 years in the Research Division at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ. As a Senior Research Scientist and the Director of Early Childhood Research and Development, her work focused on the study of assessment in early childhood, specifically the development of classroom-based strategies to document young children's science and literacy learning. Being particularly interested in the development of effective early childhood assessment systems for school districts and states, the Institute realized she would be an effective panel member.

Dr. Jones has served on a number of national advisory committees, including the National Head Start Research Advisory Committee. The founder of Head Start, Edward Zigler, will also be participating in the Gesell's LEAD Conference, and he will be receiving an honorary award at Gesell Institute's 60th Anniversary Celebration Banquet on October 14, 2010.

Gesell Institute of Human Development is an independent non-profit organization associated with how children grow and learn since 1950. The work of Arnold Gesell, PhD, MD, (1888-1961), founding Director of the Yale Child Study Center in 1911 and the Institute's namesake, had a profound influence on the field of child development. Based on Gesell's pioneering work documenting infant and child growth and development during the first half of the century, Gesell programs and publications help parents and educators understand the ages and stages of childhood. Professional development and parent workshops cover a broad range of topics regarding child behavior, healthy growth and development, and positive learning outcomes. For additional information and resources, visit www.gesellinstitute.org. For conference details and registration, visit www.gesellinstitute.org/events. Follow Gesell Institute on Twitter and Facebook.

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