

MEG DEANE FRANKO

RECENT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER, GSSW, BUTLER INSTITUTE FOR FAMILIES 2012-Present

Research Associate Professor (2018-Present)

Director, Research and Evaluation (2016-Present)

Manage twenty-five person research and evaluation team dedicated to improving the effectiveness of programs, organizations, and systems that directly serve families and to demonstrating the impact of programs on child, youth, and family well-being. Serve as Principal Investigator on numerous projects, primarily related to early childhood systems. Sample list includes: Washington Department of Early Learning, Michigan Department of Education, LAUNCH Together, Denver Preschool Program, Tony Gramscas Youth Services. Respond to Requests for Proposals from federal, state, local, program, and philanthropic partners. Successfully awarded multi-year grants and contracts, most recently totaling approximately \$1M annually.

Senior Research Associate (2012-2015)

Lead evaluation projects related to children and families and the systems that support them. Recent projects have included the cross-site evaluations of the Mile High United Way Social Innovation Fund Early Literacy Initiative, the Buell School Transitions Initiative, and LAUNCH Together (a statewide early childhood mental health initiative). Develop and execute evaluation designs, manage project scopes and budgets, conduct analyses, write reports, and supervise research staff.

- Collaborate with clients and other project partners on development of evaluation design.
- Develop tools for data collection, including development of database elements, interview and site visit protocols, and surveys, as needed.
- Collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data using appropriate analytical approaches and related computer applications, such as SPSS and Atlas-ti.
- Write reports that communicate results to clients, research participants, and other stakeholders.
- Provide technical assistance to programs on evaluation and program implementation issues.
- Assist programs in identifying implementation drivers and barriers to improve fidelity of early childhood program implementation.
- Manage all project details, including scopes, budgets, and staffing.
- Oversee the work of research associates and assistants.
- Develop project proposals and participate in related contracting processes.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD 2008-2012

Senior Consultant, Evaluation

Evaluated the effectiveness of Colorado's thirty Early Childhood Councils by determining appropriate research questions, collecting and analyzing data, and communicating results to stakeholders and decision makers.

- Developed and managed evaluation efforts to document the impact of local collaborative partnerships on early childhood systems and related child and family outcomes.
- Collected and analyzed primary and secondary data related to the thirty Early Childhood Councils across the state.

- Communicated the results of complex data analyses in forms that are broadly understandable and compelling to stakeholders and decision makers.
- Managed the work of external consultants that support the evaluation efforts of the Early Childhood Councils.
- Developed the capacity of thirty local Early Childhood Council coordinators to collect data and conduct local evaluation efforts through the provision of technical assistance and training.
- Collaborated across state agencies to coordinate policy and initiative efforts with Colorado Department of Human Services.

THE FRANKO GROUP, LTD.

2007-2009

Principal/Founder

Owned and operated an evaluation consulting firm that worked with non-profit and public organizations to help them achieve their missions through policy & program research, project management, group facilitation and stakeholder communications. Particular expertise and experience with early childhood programs and policies.

- Collected and analyzed data for clients on specific program and policy questions.
- Conducted surveys, interviews and focus groups.
- Wrote reports related to analysis and research findings.
- Facilitated meetings, retreats and other group processes.
- Made presentations to stakeholders and decision makers.
- Managed day-to-day fiscal and marketing operations of small business.

Partial client list: The Piton Foundation; University of Denver-Morgridge College of Education; Colorado Department of Education; Qualistar Early Learning; Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council; Larimer County Early Childhood Council, Colorado Department of Human Services, Routt County, Clayton Early Learning

DENVER EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL (Denver Public Schools)

2005-2007

Director

Managed coalition of early childhood stakeholders in Denver to create collaborative partnerships that benefit children.

- Oversaw the work of staff to ensure that organizational and program goals were met.
- Managed all board/council activities and communications.
- Coordinated six committees that supported the mission and goals of the full council.
- Developed relationships with funders and wrote grant proposals that raised over \$600,000 per year.
- Created and managed a budget of nearly \$700,000.
- Formed partnerships with early childhood, health, mental health and family engagement stakeholders to strengthen effectiveness of Denver's early childhood system.
- Guided strategic planning activities to establish a successful vision for the Council.
- Implemented organizational goals to create a coordinated early childhood system for Denver and to improve the quality of early childhood programs in the city.

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DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2003-2005

Substitute Teacher (2005)

Taught elementary classes on a substitute basis. Followed lesson plans and managed classrooms in absence of permanent teacher.

Paraprofessional/Teaching Assistant (2003-2005)

Worked with classroom teachers to teach literacy and math skills to special education and early childhood students in urban school district.

EDUCATION**UNIVERSITY OF DENVER, Denver, CO**

2015

Morgridge College of Education

*PhD, Education Leadership and Policy***CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, Pittsburgh, PA**

1991

H. John Heinz III of Public Policy and Management

*Master of Science in Public Management and Policy, honors***KENYON COLLEGE, Gambier, OH**

1987

*Bachelor of Arts, cum laude***OTHER TRAINING**

- CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION *RESEARCH CONNECTIONS* WORKSHOP 2013
Coordinated Data Analysis: Maximizing Early Care and Education Data
- THE EVALUATOR'S INSTITUTE 2010
Outcome and Impact Assessment
- AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION 2008; 2010; 2014
Various professional development workshops
- LEADERSHIP STRATEGIES 2007
Effective Facilitation

ACTIVITIES/ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, Zero to Three 2018-Present
- Member, American Education Research Association 2017-Present
- Member, Education Committee, The Denver Foundation 2015-2017
- Member, American Evaluation Association 2008-Present
- Member/Co-Chair, Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences CSC 2008-2010
- Associate Board, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver 2007-2009

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SELECTED REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

- Franko, M.** (2018, October). *Bearing the cost of infant-toddler care: Effects on providers and families.* Poster session presented at the Zero to Three Conference, Denver, CO.
- Franko, M., Zhang, D., Hesbol, K.** (2018). The alignment of children's prekindergarten and kindergarten learning experiences: An examination of the 2009 Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey data. *Journal of Early Childhood Research. Vol. 16(3) 229–244.*
- Franko, M.** (2018, June). *Examining the impact of pre-k and kindergarten classroom alignment on school readiness outcomes.* Poster session presented at the National Conference on Early Childhood Research, Washington, D.C.
- Franko, M.** (2017, September). *Bearing the cost of early care and education in Colorado: An economic analysis.* Presentation at the University of Colorado Denver Education Policy Series, Denver, CO.
- Franko, M., Brodsky, A., Wacker, A., & Estrada, M.** (2017). *Bearing the cost of early care and education in Colorado: An economic analysis.* Denver: Butler Institute for Families, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver.
- Franko, M.** (2015). *Examining the impact of pre-k and kindergarten classroom alignment on school readiness outcomes.* Dissertation, University of Denver.
- Rienks, S., **Franko, M.,** and Estrada, M. (2015). *Tracking Progress in Early Care and Education: Program, Staff, and Family Measurement Tools.* National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement for the Office of Head Start, Boston, MA.
- Franko, M., Black-Thacker, B., and Richard, G.** (2014-15). *Measuring What Matters Institute.* Content development and national training delivery for National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement for the Office of Head Start, Boston, MA.
- Franko, M.** (2014). *School Readiness Literature Review.* The Piton Foundation, Denver.
- Franko, M.** (2014). *Colorado Early Childhood Systems Scan.* The Piton Foundation, Denver.
- Franko, M. and Stites, K.** (2014, March). *Mile High United Way Social Innovation Fund Early Literacy Initiative.* Presentation at the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference, Denver, CO.
- Franko, M. and Longworth-Reed, L.** (2013). *Mile High United Way Social Innovation Fund Early Literacy Initiative: Year 1 Report.* The Butler Institute for Families, Denver.
- Franko, M. and Longworth-Reed, L.** (2012). *Mile High United Way Social Innovation Fund Early Literacy Initiative: Interim Report.* The Butler Institute for Families, Denver.
- Franko, M.** (2011). *FY2010 Early Childhood Councils Annual Report.* Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Human Services, Denver.
- Franko, M.** (2011). *Colorado Early Childhood Councils by the Numbers.* Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Human Services, Denver.
- Franko, M. and Birchard, A.** (2009). *Routt County Early Care and Education Needs Assessment. First Impressions of Routt County,* Steamboat Springs.
- Franko, M.** (2009). *FY2008 Early Childhood Councils Annual Report.* Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Human Services, Denver.
- Franko, M.** (2008). *Effectiveness and Efficiency of the State of Colorado in Meeting the Needs of Early Childhood Councils: A Baseline Report,* Colorado Department of Education, Denver.
- Franko, M.** (2008). *Colorado Early Childhood Barriers and Waivers.* Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Human Services, Denver.
- Barry, M., Montagu, L., Buckley, P., with **Franko, M.** (contributor) (2008). *Early Childhood Systems Scan for Denver.* The Piton Foundation, Denver.