

**1986-2011: 25 years**  
**of growing our future!**



**Early  
Childhood  
Education &  
Assistance  
Program**



Washington State Department of Early Learning



**October 6, 2011**  
**Washington State Capitol,**  
**Columbia Room**  
**5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

## **A brief history of ECEAP**

In 1985, the state Legislature founded our comprehensive pre-kindergarten program, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), to support the healthy development and future success of low-income three- and four-year-olds. Recommended by the Washington Business Roundtable and shepherded into existence by former Governor Booth Gardner, Washington had one of the first state-funded pre-kindergarten programs in the nation.

Now serving more than 9,000 children each year in 260 locations statewide, ECEAP provides high-quality pre-school education, family support, parent involvement, and health and nutrition services. This comprehensive “whole-child” approach is based on well researched programs that actually save states money by reducing special education and criminal justice costs, and increasing high school graduation rates and future employment prospects.

## This evening's program

5:30 p.m. ....	Refreshments, slide show
<b>Governor Christine Gregoire</b> .....	Greetings
6:30 p.m. ....	Speakers
<b>Dr. Bette Hyde</b> , DEL Director.....	Welcome
<b>Rep. Jeannie Darnielle</b> .....	First state ECEAP manager
<b>Joyce Kilmer</b> ECEAP Administrator .....	Acknowledgements
<b>Premiere of ECEAP video</b>	
<b>Garrison Kurtz</b> President, Dovetailing LLC .....	Former ECEAP director
<b>Judy McConathy</b> Head Start teacher .....	Former ECEAP parent
<b>Melissa Estrada</b> 2010 Forks High School valedictorian.....	ECEAP graduate



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