



Photograph by John Rosenow

Early Childhood Leaders' Magazine Since 1978

Dear Reader,

Launching *Exchange* in the spring of 1978, we focused our efforts on the professional development of center directors. We observed that while there are many elements that go into creating a high-quality environment for children and families, the skills of the director are critical. It takes a knowledgeable and talented leader

to secure all these elements and organize them effectively. As M.-A. Lucas has observed, "Directors need to be both strong instructional leaders and managers of field operations."

We created what was then called *Child Care Information Exchange* as the place where directors could share their ideas on supervision, evaluation, advocacy, working with parents, design, enrollment building, creativity, curriculum development, and all of their other varied responsibilities. We wanted to craft a place where directors could feel connected, share their challenges, and celebrate their work.

Our subscriber base grew quickly; at the time, outside of administrative seminars led by Gwen Morgan at Wheelock College, Joe Perreault and Nancy Travis at Save the Children, and Colleen Mendel at Western Kentucky University's Training and Technical Assistance Services, and Richard Goldman's Masters in Child Care Administration program at Nova University (all initiatives *Exchange* was involved with), there were few, if any, professional development resources for directors.

Over the next 37 years we broadened our definition of leadership to include leaders in the classroom, the family child care community, school-age settings, and in training, research, and advocacy. This broader view is reflected in the diversity of roles played by the powerful emerging leaders highlighted in this issue. And, *Exchange* has expanded its reach to early childhood leaders around the world.

With this issue, we are proud to highlight the first phase of the Exchange Leadership Initiative, the culmination of our search to identify emerging leaders in our field. More searches to come — see page 54!

Looking ahead, *Exchange* is committed to continuing to connect, support, and celebrate leaders in the global early childhood community.

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