



January 29, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write to you in support of Brian Conly's application for recognition as an emerging leader in the field of Early Care and Education (ECE). As the Director of the Colorado Office of Early Childhood, I am looking forward to Brian joining our team in February 2015, in the role of Deputy Director, providing him the opportunity to continue to impact ECE systems across the state.

Brian's background and education are impressive and serve as a testament to his dedication to our field of Early Care and Education. Without recounting his resume, it is important to note his varied involvement in ECE from working with the Colorado Shared Services initiative, to the dissemination of the Pyramid Plus Model (a state-wide social emotional evidence-based program for young children), to being recognized as a 2009 Fellow in the Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program. Through these experiences, Brian has built meaningful relationships with colleagues in pursuit of the best outcomes for children and families and serves as an expert resource for ECE practitioners.

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood was formed in June 2012 to consolidate and better administer early childhood programs in Colorado. Bringing together programs from the Departments of Human Services, Public Health and Environment, and Health Care Policy and Financing, the Office is responsible for administering the state's Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant, the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program supported by the Child Care Development Block Grant, Head Start and Early Head Start, the state's child care licensing and administration program, and community and family support programs for early intervention, child maltreatment prevention, early childhood mental health, and home visiting.

By joining the Office of Early Childhood, Brian is poised to capitalize on his past to make a substantial impact on Colorado's ECE system, especially as we begin to implement the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System, continue to align programs to maximize resources and ensure sustainability, and look for new opportunities to improve the lives of children and families statewide.

I strongly believe Brian is an emerging leader in the field of ECE, and I look forward to working with him and supporting him in this role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Anne Snyder".

Mary Anne Snyder
Director, Office of Early Childhood
Colorado Department of Human Services

