

**The Law and Policy of Universal Preschool**  
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Panelist Bio

**W. Steven Barnett**



W. Steven Barnett is Professor of Education Economics and Public Policy and Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University. His research includes studies of the economics of early care and education, including costs and benefits, the long term effects of preschool programs on children's learning and development, and the distribution of educational opportunities. Dr. Barnett earned his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Michigan. His recent publications include *The State of Preschool: 2005 State Preschool Yearbook*, the third in a series of annual reports profiling state-funded pre-kindergarten programs in the United States, and "Early Childhood Program Design and Economic Returns: Comparative Benefit-Cost Analysis of the Abecedarian Program and Policy Implications" with Leonard Masse for *Economics of Education Review* (in press).