



SHERRY M. CLEARY

Sherry M. Cleary is the Executive Director of the New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute. The Institute is a unique public/private partnership that brings together City and State agencies, a consortium of private funders, and the nation's largest urban university (City University of New York - CUNY) to create a center that coordinates the establishment of a workforce system that will insure funding, standards and competencies, career development resources, qualifications and credentials, training, and program quality assurance for individuals who work with young children throughout New York.

Sherry leads the work of a dynamic, intelligent, and passionate team dedicated to building essential systems to insure a highly effective early childhood workforce for the state of New York, to guarantee that young children have access to excellence. Some hallmarks of the vision and leadership that Sherry has brought to New York include contributing to the development of the state's competency-based Core Body of Knowledge, Early Learning Guidelines, the NYS Trainer Credential, ASPIRE – NYS' workforce registry, and the implementation of New York's quality rating and improvement system, QUALITYstarsNY. Recently, the Institute was asked to coordinate the New York City Early Childhood Research Network. Sherry co-chairs the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council, for the state of New York. She is also the President of the New York State Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NYSAECTE) and has served on the Board of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators. Sherry was named to Mayor de Blasio's 6-member Early Childhood Working Group, initially charged with building the model to be used for a Universal Pre-kindergarten implementation in New York City.

For the 14 years prior to her return to New York, Sherry was at the University of Pittsburgh where she was the Director of the University Child Development Center, the founder and Executive Director of the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood Education, and a faculty member in the School of Education, teaching a full time load of courses in early childhood education on the graduate level. She continues to act in an advisory capacity in matters that deal with young children, parenting, work/family balance issues, curriculum, teacher development, research, administration, and program development, throughout the community. Prior to re-locating to New York City, Sherry served on the Boards of Directors of the Pittsburgh Children's Museum; the PLEA organization, serving autistic children; and the Three Rivers Community Foundation. She was on the Community College of Allegheny College Advisory Board for the Department of Child and Family Studies and the past-Chair. She is the past-President of the National Coalition of Campus Children's Centers and the past-President of the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children which serves a 10-county region. In the past, Ms. Cleary was the co-chair of the University of Pittsburgh Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns.

Ms. Cleary has worked in the field of early childhood education first as a classroom teacher and then in administration for 40 years. She has been a lecturer and held the positions of Assistant and Associate Professor, over 36 years in departments of Education, Human Services, and Early Childhood at four institutions of higher education before coming to the City University of New York. Her experience has been culturally diverse in that she has been deeply committed to urban settings as well as rural American Indian reservation settings. As an educational administrator at a community college in Buffalo, NY Ms. Cleary also was afforded the opportunity to work with other critical issues such as academic standards, financial aid, Middle States accreditation, recruitment and retention, and other areas integral to the quality of a post-secondary education, with a special focus on non-traditional students.