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## Invest in US Campaign Highlights District's Early Learning Successes at Event Featuring Senior Administration Officials

WASHINGTON – This morning at Powell Bilingual Elementary School in Northwest D.C., senior administration officials celebrated the first anniversary of the Invest in US campaign – launched at the White House Summit on Early Childhood Education in December 2014. Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama, John King, Senior Advisor Delegated Duties of Deputy Secretary of Education, and Roberto Rodriguez, Deputy Assistant to the President for Education, delivered remarks on the president's commitment to investing in quality early childhood education, and the incredible achievements made over the last year through the Invest in US campaign in Washington, DC.

"The District of Columbia is showing the nation what's possible when you invest in voluntary, universal high-quality preschool for all 3- and 4-year olds," **said John King, Senior Advisor Delegated Duties of Deputy Secretary of Education.** "The research is clear about the powerful impact of quality preschool programs on children's learning and development. All children—including infants and toddlers— deserve the opportunity for a strong start and a foundation for success."

"We know we get the biggest bang for our buck when education begins early – saving costs down the line, boosting graduation rates, reducing teen pregnancy, and reducing violent crime," **said Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama.** "Locally, we are incredibly proud of the progress D.C. has made over the past few years in expanding access to early childhood education. This city has become a model for how to achieve positive results, and we're looking forward to even more progress through Invest in US over the coming years."

Other speakers included Brian Pick, Chief of Teaching and Learning for DC Public Schools, and Katherine Bradley, President, CityBridge Foundation.

Their remarks were followed by a panel discussion featuring local business, philanthropic and education leaders who have made, or are benefitting from, commitments through Invest in US. Panelists included:

- Kris Perry, Executive Director, First Five Years Fund (Moderator)
- Lesli Rotenberg – General Manager, Children's Programming, PBS
- Arvind Manocha – President and CEO, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts
- Anne Gunsteens – Executive Director, The Marriott Foundation
- Dr. Matthew Biel – Division Chief, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
- Rozita Green – Chief Strategy Officer, Bainum Family Foundation

More information about the speakers and their Invest in US commitments is online [here](#), and a video of the event will be available online soon at [YouTube.com/investinus](https://www.youtube.com/investinus).



***About Invest in US***

*Invest in US is a challenge to business leaders, philanthropists, advocates, public officials and the public to build a better nation through high-quality early childhood programs for children from birth to age five. When we invest in them, we invest in us.*

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