**HighScope Research Symposium: “Closing the Opportunity Gap: Research and Community Efforts to Promote Children's Language-Rich Environment” -** Monday May 9th, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. For more information: <http://highscope.org/researchsymposium>

**Opening Address**: Investing Early in Early Education to Assure Reading Success

**Ralph Smith**, *Senior Vice President, Annie E. Casey Foundation and Managing Director of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Washington, DC*

**Research Panel Discussion**: What is the significance of word gap research? What research is finding and why this is so important.

**Richard Lower, MA** | *Director, Office of Preschool and Out-of-School Time Learning; Office of Great Start, Michigan Department of Education; Lansing, MI*

**Judith Carta, PhD** | *Senior Scientist, Professor, University of Kansas; Co-Director, Bridging the Word Gap Research Network; Kansas City, KS*

**Joshua Cramer, EdD** | *Senior Director, Family Engagement Initiatives, National Center for Families Learning; Louisville, KY*

**Stephen Hannon, PhD** | *President, LENA Foundation; Boulder, CO*

**Fred Morrison, PhD** | *Professor, School of Education; Professor, Department of Psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, MI*

**Community Panel Discussion:** Challenges and successes in community efforts to close the opportunity gap—voices from the field.

**Sandra Tang, PhD** | *Research Investigator, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research,University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, MI*

**Courtney Hawkins, LMSW** | *Executive Director, Providence Talks, RI*

**Teresa Holtrop, MD, FAAP** | *Medical Director, Wayne Children’s Healthcare Access Program;*

*President-Elect, Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Detroit, MI*

**Casey Wardynski, PhD** | *Superintendent, Huntsville City Schools; Huntsville, AL*

**Pam Weaver, M.A.** *| Program Coordinator, Early Childhood Community Initiatives, Development Centers, Inc.; Detroit, MI*

**JaNel Jamerson** | *Director, Flint and Genessee County Literacy Network; Flint, MI*

**Discussion Topic:** Connecting the Dots Through Grade-Level Reading

**Video Message** from **Catherine Snow, PhD**, *Patricia Albjerg Graham Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education; Cambridge, MA*

**Reflection Topic**: Looking back on the day and how we can move forward.

**Nicole de Beaufort** | *President, Early Works, LLC; Detroit MI*

**Annemarie Harris** | *Principal, Little Ideas, LLC; Detroit MI*