

FYI

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The
Bessie Tartt Wilson
Initiative for Children INC.
research. advocacy. change.

Newsletter

December 2011

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BTWIC Continues to Work Toward Implementing Recommendations from 2010 *Blueprint*

The Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children continues to work to support the four recommendations from 2010's "Blueprint for Early Education Compensation Reform."

In late October, BTWIC brought together early educators, advocates, and business leaders to testify on behalf of the Early Educator's Earned Income Tax Credit, which would provide the field with an additional 15% tax credit annually. The bill is currently under review with the Joint Committee on Revenue and will be reported out in 2012. If you would like to support the proposed legislation, please email initiative@btwic.org for additional information.

In support of our education campaign on student loans and loan forgiveness for early educators, BTWIC has begun making state-wide trips to meet with early educators. While presenting student loan information, BTWIC also engages attendees in our Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign, providing information on two different

Voucher System Update

Are you a Center Director or Administrator concerned about the child care voucher system in Massachusetts? Fill out this 5 minute, one-page, confidential [survey](#) to let BTWIC know what voucher management is like for parents in your program.

BTWIC Starts Blogging!

On Friday, November 18, the Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children unveiled our new blog on early education, called [Conversations on Early Learning](#).

The blog will be updated weekly and will look at nationwide issues affecting early education and care, as well as providing timely updates on our activities.

The blog is written by Hanna Boyle, who has been with BTWIC as a Senior Researcher since the summer of 2010.

We hope you enjoy reading [Conversations on Early Learning](#)! We look forward to updating the blog in the near future to allow for direct commenting.

Statewide Early Childhood Summit Held in November

ways to support compensation in the early education field. BTWIC has already presented to teachers in Springfield, Randolph, Jamaica Plain, Lawrence, and various locations in Boston. To read more about the reach of this campaign, visit our new blog, [Conversations on Early Learning](#).

The Early Education Fund Task Force held its final meeting of the year in November with strong energy and commitment from members to continue moving forward in 2012. Items to be addressed in the new year include how to market the fund to engage potential funders as well as further work on the initiatives that would be supported by this permanent fund.

BTWIC continues to work with the Department of Early Education and Care on an initial "pricing" scheme for the early educator's career ladder. The career ladder was completed and vetted by the MA Board of Early Education and Care in May 2011.

The Boston Foundation Releases New Report on Community Colleges

On Friday, November 18, The Boston Foundation hosted a report release for "[The Case of Community Colleges: Aligning Higher Education and Workforce Needs in Massachusetts](#)," bringing together members of the higher education community, business leaders, government representatives, and community advocates for a look at reform in community college administration.

Multiple advocates and members of the education field were consulted in the creation of the report. BTWIC President Mary Reed is listed as the Early Education Stakeholder consulted on this work.

The program began with keynote Glenn DuBois, Chancellor of Virginia's community colleges and a graduate of North Shore Community College. Virginia has been lauded as using centralization of all 23 of its community colleges to leverage private funding and ease difficulties for students. Massachusetts currently has a system between complete centralization and autonomy.

A panel with Charles Desmond, Chairman, MA Board of Higher Education; Dan O'Connell, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership; Ira Rubenzahl, President, Springfield Technical Community College; Nancy Synder, President and CEO of Commonwealth Corporation; and Michael Thomas,

On Wednesday, November 16, co-sponsors Early Education for All, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the Boston Children's Museum came together to host early education advocates, pediatricians, and early education providers in a forum to discuss the state of the field.

The summit, held in Waltham at the Massachusetts Medical Society, focused on the science behind early education and brain development, and how it affects future learning and mental health.

For a full re-cap of the summit, please visit [Eye on Early Education](#), a blog from Strategies for Children.

Quick Links

[An Early Educator's Dilemma: Balancing Educational Aspirations and Student Loan Burden](#)

[Blueprint for Early Education Compensation Reform](#)

[Conversations on Early Learning \(a blog from BTWIC\)](#)

[Eye on Early Education \(a blog from Strategies for](#)

President and CEO of the New England Board of Higher Education, created a lively discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the existing state of community colleges in Massachusetts.

As noted in BTWIC's "[An Early Educator's Dilemma: Balancing Educational Aspirations and Student Loan Burden](#)," many early educators turn to community colleges to pursue higher education and many of these educators still find challenges in navigating the school system, particularly when dealing with financial aid.

Mary L. Reed Featured in the New Book *Boston, Inspirational Women*



Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children President Mary L. Reed is featured in the new book *Boston, Inspirational Women*, which was recently released by well-known Boston photographers Bill Brett and his daughter Kerry Brett.

Reed's portrait is among more than 125 black and white photographs of women who have distinguished themselves as exceptional leaders and human beings. Other notable women featured are Victoria Reggie Kennedy, Emily Rooney,

Angela Menino, Diane Patrick, Martha Coakley, Lydia Shire, and Drew Gilpin Faust.

"A tireless fund-raiser and advocate, Mary leads the Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children with passion and quiet confidence, always keeping her eye on the goal that one day all children, across all income levels, will have quality early care and education," reads the text accompanying Reed's portrait.

The book notes Reed's efforts to advance the work of her mother, Bessie, who founded Boston's first minority-owned day care center in Roxbury in 1946.

"In 2002 Mary started a nonprofit, named in her mother's honor, which focuses on early care and education for low-income families," the book notes. "A recipient of the national Purpose Prize, Mary left a successful career in human services to build on her mother's legacy."

[Children\)](#)

[Children's HealthWatch](#)

[Bill Brett Photography](#)

The book profiles more than 125 women with Boston ties that make the city the vibrant and interesting place it is. Those featured includes the first female ironworker to ever "top out" a Boston high-rise and some of the most important philanthropic women in the country.

BTWIC ON THE WEB



Overcrowding and Frequent Moves Undermine Children's Health

The newest policy brief from Children's HealthWatch focuses on housing insecurity and its negative effects on children as young as three years old.

The report, titled "[Overcrowding and Frequent Moves Undermine Children's Health](#)," notes that children who experience frequent moves or overcrowding (more than two individuals to a room) are more likely to experience mental health issues and behavioral concerns, as well as showing poor performance in school.

Housing insecurity is also linked to food insecurity, which can lead to low weight and developmental delays in young children.

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