

**IN FOCUS: MOVING FORWARD - THE ROLE OF PRE-K IN EDUCATION REFORM****February 21, 2007****Speaker Bios****ELIZABETH BURMASTER***State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Wisconsin*

In 2001, Elizabeth "Libby" Burmaster was elected by the people of Wisconsin to the constitutional office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 2005, she was re-elected to that position. She came into the office with 25 years of experience as a public school teacher and administrator at every level. In the state of Wisconsin, Libby serves on the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board, and the statewide PK-16 Leadership Council.

At the national level, she is President of the Council of Chief State School Officers, and is chair of the ESEA Reauthorization Task Force. She also serves on the Education Commission of the States, is past chair of the National Center for Learning and Citizenship, and serves on the National Board of Advisors for Pre-K Now.

As state superintendent, she has inspired the state of Wisconsin with "The New Wisconsin Promise," a pledge to provide a quality education for every child in the state.

**MARC TUCKER***Vice-Chairman and Staff Director, New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce  
President, National Center on Education and the Economy*

Marc Tucker is President of the National Center on Education and the Economy, a leader in the movement for standards-based school reform in the United States. Mr. Tucker authored the 1986 Carnegie Report, *A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century*, which called for a restructuring of America's schools based on standards; created the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; created the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce and co-authored its report, *America's Choice: high skills or low wages!*, which called for a new high school leaving certificate based on standards; was instrumental in creating the National Skill Standards Board and served as the chairman of its committee on standards and assessment policy; and, with Lauren Resnick, created the New Standards consortium, which pioneered the development of performance standards in the United States and created a set of examinations matched to the standards. With Ray Marshall, Mr. Tucker co-authored *Thinking for a Living: Education and the Wealth of Nations*, selected by Business Week as one of the 10 best business books of 1992; with Judy Codding, co-authored *Standards for Our Schools: How to Set Them, Measure Them, and Reach Them*, published in 1998; and with Judy Codding, co-edited *The Principal Challenge*, published in 2002.

**SHARON LYNN KAGAN***Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Early Childhood and Family Policy  
Co-Director of the National Center for Children and Families  
Associate Dean for Policy at Teachers College, Columbia University  
Professor Adjunct at Yale University's Child Study Center*

Scholar, pioneer, leader, and advocate, Dr. Kagan has helped shaped early childhood practice and policies in the United States and in countries throughout the world. Author of over 200 articles and 12 books, Kagan's research focuses on the institutions that impact child and family life. She consults with numerous international, federal and state agencies, congress, governors, and legislatures, is a member of 40 national boards and panels, and is Past President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and



Family Support America. She is currently working around the globe with UNICEF to establish early learning standards in Armenia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Ghana, Jordan, Mongolia, Paraguay, Turkmenistan, and Viet Nam. She is the only woman in the history of American Education to receive its three most prestigious awards: the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the 2005 James Bryant Conant Award for Lifetime Service to Education from the Education Commission of the States (ECS), and the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education.