

Early Education Commission

A community leadership collaborative supporting the United Way's goal of ensuring children are ready for school



United Way of
Metropolitan Atlanta

Background on the Speaker

February 23, 2009 Meeting

W. Steven Barnett, Ph.D.
Director, National Institute for Early Education Research



W. Steven Barnett is a Board of Governors Professor and Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University. NIEER supports early childhood education initiatives by providing objective, nonpartisan information based on research.

The goal of NIEER is to produce and communicate the knowledge base required to ensure that every American child can receive a good education at ages three and four. The Institute seeks to provide policy makers with timely information addressing the practical problems they face. The Institute offers independent research-based advice and technical assistance to four primary groups: policy makers, journalists, researchers, and educators. NIEER was established at Rutgers University's Graduate School of Education with a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Dr. Barnett's research includes numerous studies of the economics of early care and education including costs and benefits, the long-term effects of preschool programs on children's learning and development, and the distribution of educational opportunities.

Dr. Barnett earned his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Michigan. He has authored or co-authored over 160 publications including 14 books. His best known works include original benefit-cost analyses of the Perry Preschool and Abecedarian programs and the series of *State Preschool Yearbooks* providing annual state-by-state analyses of progress in public pre-K.