

**Infant Development Association of California  
Southern California Regional Conference**

**Effective Collaboration: Together We Are Unstoppable**



**Session Description  
Saturday, March 4, 2017  
10:15 am - Noon**

**Policy Issues Facing Families in America Today: Raising of America**

The Raising of America seeks to encourage a national conversation that links early child relationships and environments to their impact on the biology of young children, and how these in turn influence adult outcomes as well as the future of the nation. The series was created in the context of a national public engagement campaign, with partners across the nation at the national, state and local levels committed to using the series to generate dialogue about what we can—and should—do to make a strong start the birthright of every infant in the United States.

Conversations to Educate & Inform:

- ◆ Raise awareness about the importance of safe, stable and nurturing early child experiences and environments.
- ◆ Recognize that existing social inequities enhance or constrain how families are able to provide for their young children depending on where they fall on the socioeconomic pyramid.
- ◆ Connect the future prosperity of the nation to the health and well-being of our youngest generation.
- ◆ Demonstrate that it doesn't have to be this way, that we as a society can make different policy choices.

**Fran Chasen, Early Childhood Consultant, IDA Policy Committee**

Fran is an Early Childhood Consultant who focuses on system change in the area of early intervention services for families and children with special needs. She is currently Public Policy Liaison for the Infant Development Association of California and serves in Public Policy leadership positions in other early childhood association. She works successfully in collaboration with parents and other community groups to develop and implement legislation benefiting young children. She has directed community early intervention services, high-risk infant, child care, Head Start, Resource and Referral, and Alternative Payment programs and Health Clinics.

**Michelle Soltero, Infant/Toddler Specialist, WestEd**

Michelle Soltero is a Program Associate II for WestEd's Center for Child and Family Studies, where she has worked for 17 years. Michelle currently works as an Infant/Toddler Specialist, PITC Partners for Quality. (continues to page 2)

She served as President of the California Association for the Education of Young Children from 2001–2003 and governing board member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) from 2004–2008. Soltero has presented at conferences of NAEYC and the California Association for the Education of Young Children, as well as at local conferences.

Michelle received a BS in child development from the State University of San Diego and an MA in early childhood education from Pacific Oaks College.