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PRESS RELEASE

***UNIFIED EFFORT AIMS TO ENSURE ALL CHILDREN IN ARKANSAS REACH THEIR POTENTIAL
Equity Leaders Action Network to reduce racial disparities in early childhood systems***

Little Rock, Arkansas
January 15, 2016

The Equity Leaders Action Network (ELAN) will advance racial equity in early childhood systems. The ELAN is a strategy of the [BUILD Initiative](#), which for years has promoted early childhood systems work that identifies and addresses the root causes of disparities and supports state remedies to address them. A focused effort across 20 states, the District of Columbia and Guam, including Little Rock, Arkansas, the ELAN is composed of 38 fellows with responsibility at the state or county level for early childhood systems. Over the next three years, ELAN fellows will work together to identify, address and take action on inequities based on race, ethnicity, language and culture in our early childhood state systems. Jackie Govan, an ELAN Fellow for the State of Arkansas, will seek to promote equity in the areas professional development, training, quality services for children and families, and influence state-level policy.

The ELAN project is a priority for the HSSCO, which strongly support the ongoing principles and commitments. Jackie Govan, Director of the HSSCO said, "As a State, when we talk about equity, we mean that race should not be a predictor of health status, education, birth outcomes or the community conditions for young children."

The state's vision of a comprehensive, racially equitable, high-quality early childhood system is one that ensures all children have an opportunity to develop and reach their full potential, without experiencing discrimination or bias. Jackie Govan, along with her state team, will take action to reduce disparities by the choices and decisions they make. We will all learn from each of these actions and share the learning, policies and practices throughout the early childhood field in Arkansas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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