

PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP BIOS

Shannon Christian



Shannon Christian serves as the Director of the Office of Child Care at HHS' Administration for Children and Families. She is a former Associate Commissioner of the former Child Care Bureau at ACF, where she advanced President Bush's Good Start, Grow Smart early childhood initiative, and shaped the office's research agenda to better support state policy and spending decisions.

Committed to effective prevention strategies, Shannon oversaw the launch of Illinois' home visiting program and was an active board member of Be Strong Families, a Chicago-based national nonprofit. Earlier in her career, Shannon was part of former Wisconsin Governor (and HHS secretary) Tommy Thompson's welfare reform team, serving as head of the planning section in the state Health & Social Services Department's Office of Policy and Budget, and as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Workforce Development.

Shannon has an MPP from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, a certificate in nonprofit management from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business, and an undergraduate degree in economics and international relations from California State University, Chico.

Chrisanne Gayl, senior director, policy and programs



Chrisanne Gayl is an education leader with more than fifteen years of policy experience at the federal, state, and local levels. Ms. Gayl recently served as a Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Education, where she was responsible for developing new policies and programs to expand high-quality learning opportunities and supportive services for the nation's children. She has also worked as the Director of Federal Programs for the National School Boards Association and as an education advisor to the governor of California. Ms. Gayl has testified in front of Congress and has authored numerous publications. She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University and received her undergraduate degree from Colby College in Waterville, Maine.