Dr. C. Cybele Raver is the Vice Provost for Research and Faculty Affairs at NYU. Prior to joining the Provost’s Office, she served as inaugural director of NYU’s Institute of Human Development and Social Change. As a behavioral social scientist trained in psychology and public policy, Dr. Raver played a key role in fostering interdisciplinary research at NYU through the IHDSC.

Dr. Raver’s own program of research focuses on early learning and development in the contexts of poverty and policy. She also examines the mechanisms that support children’s cognitive and emotional outcomes in the context of early educational intervention. Dr. Raver and her research team currently conduct the CSRP, a federally funded longitudinal study of the short- and long-term impacts of preschool intervention for low-income children in Chicago. Dr. Raver also serves as a co-investigator on several other large educational evaluation studies. Dr. Raver’s research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation as well as by private foundations such as the Spencer, McCormick-Tribune...
and MacArthur Foundations. In addition to her work at NYU, Dr. Raver regularly advises local and federal government agencies and foundations on promoting healthy development and learning among children from birth to third grade.

Christina A. Samuels
Staff Writer, Education Week

Christina A. Samuels has worked at Education Week since 2004, covering early-childhood education and special education. She came to Education Week after a stint at The Washington Post as a reporter covering Prince William County, Va. schools. She also worked as a general assignment reporter at the Miami Herald. Samuels is a graduate of Florida A&M University in Tallahassee. She was also a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan in 2009-10, and participated in the Education Policy Fellowship Program, sponsored by the Institute for Educational Leadership, in 2011-12.

Emmalie Dropkin
Director of Policy, Data and Research, National Head Start Association

Emmalie Dropkin is the Director of Policy, Data and Research at the National Head Start Association, where she leads the Center on Policy, Data and Research and NHSA’s work on topics ranging from two-generation efforts in Head Start to measuring program outcomes to recommendations on Head Start policy. Prior to joining NHSA in 2011, Dropkin taught elementary and middle school special education in the Baltimore City Public Schools. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Amherst College, a master’s from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland and a Certificate of Mind, Brain and Teaching from the Johns Hopkins University School of Education.

Eboni Howard
Managing Researcher, AIR

Eboni Howard is an early childhood specialist at AIR who oversees AIR’s early childhood practice area. She has more 20 years of experience conducting child and family research, as well as program administration and management. She has provided research or consultation services to federal, state and local organizations.

Dr. Howard is currently the director of two projects related to the professional development of teachers in Head Start programs for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation. She is also a senior advisor for Massachusetts's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant Study: Validation of Educator Competency, and is the early childhood alliance lead for the U.S. Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences, Regional Educational Laboratories-Midwest. A few of the organizations she has provided consulting services to include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Council of Chief State School Officers and Chicago Public Schools.

Dr. Howard has presented extensively on early childhood topics and has served on a number of advisory boards, including the Illinois’s Early Learning Council and First 5 LA Research Advisory Committee. She also served on the National Research Council’s Committee on Developmental Outcomes and Assessments for Young Children that published Early Childhood Assessment: Why, What and How.