

June 15, 2009

## **TWO NAMED FELLOWS BY FRED ROGERS CENTER**

LATROBE, PA - Dr. Chip Donohue, director of distance learning at the Erikson Institute in Chicago, and Dr. Roberta Schomburg, professor of education and associate dean and director of the School of Education at Carlow University, Pittsburgh, have been named Fellows of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College.



Chip Donohue, Ph.D.



Roberta Schomburg, Ph.D.

As Fellows, they are part of the leadership team for the new initiative to develop the Fred Rogers Center Learning Network. This online community will operate as a multidimensional early learning support system for teachers, caregivers, and families. Along with Rogers Center senior staff, Drs. Donohue and Schomburg are heading up a national collaboration of experts in early childhood education, children's media, and new media and entertainment technology to establish the Learning Network. Grounded in the child-centered work of Fred Rogers, the Learning Network is being designed especially to reach underserved and under-resourced populations who are most in need of information and networking opportunities that address two key factors in social-emotional development, early learning, and school success -- early literacy, and media literacy.

"Chip's and Roberta's recognized leadership in the study and effective use of distance learning, new media, and other current technologies, combined with their track record of scholarly work in early childhood education, bring unique expertise to this important project," commented Max King, executive director. "We are very pleased to be working with them."

Dr. Donahue earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in political science and history, a master of science from Iowa State University in higher education, and a Ph.D. in early childhood education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He has previously worked in many areas of early childhood education including program development, instructional media, program evaluation, research and instruction. An active speaker and presenter, he is the author of numerous publications on the role of technology in early childhood education and trends in eLearning. The recipient of numerous honors and awards, he serves on several national advisory panels including the international advisory committee for the Science of Early Childhood Development and the editorial advisory board for the International Journal of Innovation in Education.

Dr. Schomburg earned a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education and Spanish at Macalester College, a master of education in early childhood education at Salem State College and a Ph.D. in child development at the University of Pittsburgh.

She is a member of the National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Education and its board of directors, Pennsylvania Early Learning Advisory Council, Pennsylvania State Board of Private Academic Schools, Pittsburgh Children's Museum and its board of directors, Community College of Allegheny County Advisory Board for Education, and the Advisory Board for Child and Youth Studies.

A frequent presenter at regional, state and national conferences, she is the author of numerous publications on early childhood professional development.

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