



**Stephanie Fanjul**  
**President**  
**The North Carolina Partnership For Children, Inc.**  
**Friday, October 14 2011 Conference Keynote**

Stephanie Fanjul is the President of The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC), the organization that leads Smart Start and is the home of the National Technical Assistance Center. In this role, Fanjul is responsible for operations of NCPC and for providing oversight and technical assistance for 77 local Smart Start partnerships statewide. Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally recognized and award-winning early childhood initiative designed to ensure that every child in NC will arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start's National Technical Assistance Center, funded by national foundations, provides leadership on early childhood issues and provides technical assistance and support to other states in sharing Smart Start's lessons learned.

In 2009, Fanjul was elected President of the Governing Board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The Governing Board works to raise the quality of early care and education for all young children and ensures that the association is well managed in pursuit of this mission.

Previously, Fanjul served as Director of the North Carolina Division of Child Development in the state's Department of Health and Human Services from 1994 to 2000. During those seven years she worked with advocacy groups, community organizations and multiple partners to improve the quality and availability of child care in NC. Her strong leadership and creative approach resulted in several initiatives that distinguish NC from other states. Fanjul was instrumental in the creation of Smart Start, the design and implementation of the rated license for child care, the expansion of the child care subsidy system, and major efforts to improve and support the child care workforce.

Fanjul also served as Deputy Commissioner in the Child Care Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC. Most recently she served as the Director of Student Achievement for the National Education Association (NEA) from 2001 to 2006. In that role, she led the NEA's efforts to close the achievement gaps that exist between different groups of children. Fanjul utilized her knowledge of early childhood and her commitment to equity for all children to help teachers across the country identify strategies that would work to close the achievement gaps. In 2009 she was appointed by the Governor to the Joint Legislative Task Force on the Consolidation of Early Childhood Education and Care.

Fanjul lives in Raleigh with her husband Dean Debnam. She is the mother of five daughters and has four grandchildren including a set of twins.