

CATHERINE ATKIN

Community Partners - Workers Advocacy Project

Co-Founded with Michael Schmitz

1994 Global Fellow



PERSONAL BIO

Catherine is the founder of The Early Learning Lab and brings a decade of early childhood leadership and more than two decades of legal and policy experience to her work at The Lab. Catherine leads a collective mission to address the complex challenge of identifying and scaling effective early learning solutions. She directs a cross-disciplinary team who supports our innovation work in local communities and guides the team to widely share best practices. Catherine collaborates with thought-leaders, researchers, and policymakers in California and across the nation to uncover and share what works.

As a senior fellow at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Catherine brought the concept of early learning social innovation to fruition through the founding of The Early Learning Lab. Prior to that, she founded Early Edge California where she led the passing of legislation to institute the state's first transitional kindergarten program, a new grade in California, as well as the passage of legislation creating an early education quality rating and improvement system.

Catherine graduated from Stanford University, holds a law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from UCLA.

Issue area

Poverty Alleviation Economic Development

Organization/Fellow Location

Oakland, United States

Impact Location

North America

United States

Organization Structure

Nonprofit

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