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Yale renames child center to honor Zigler

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NEW HAVEN — Edward Zigler, widely regarded as the father of Head Start, was recognized Monday as the Yale Center in Child Development Social Policy was named in his honor.

The Bush Center was renamed the Edward Zigler Center during ceremonies at the 230 S. Frontage Road facility.

Guest speakers included U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd; U.S. Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro; U.S. Rep. John Larson; New Haven Mayor John DeStefano Jr.; former U.S. Surgeon General Julius B. Richmond; state Education Commissioner Betty Sternberg; and Tim Shriver, chairman of the International Special Olympics.

The Zigler Center is one of the nation's oldest centers for child and family policy research.

The new name honors its founder, Edward Zigler, the Sterling professor emeritus of psychology at Yale.

Zigler planned or carried out Head Start, Early Head Start, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the innovative Schools of the 21st Century.

Zigler founded the center in 1978 with funding from the Bush Foundation of Minnesota.

The center works to improve the lives of America's children and families by bringing the results of empirical research on child development into the policy arena.

Walter S. Gilliam, assistant professor at the Yale Child Study Center, has been named director of the Zigler Center. Matia Finn-Stevenson will remain as associate director, and Sandra Bishop-Josef as assistant director.

Zigler will serve as director emeritus.