

Center of Excellence, Catalyst for Change

Educare Arizona Anchor Funders Recognized for Leadership

Educare Arizona's four anchor funders were honored for their leadership in early childhood education and advocacy during the New Directions Institute's Seventh Annual Science of Early Learning Award Luncheon on May 6, 2010 at the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix. Dan Pedersen, president of the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, spoke on behalf of the honorees about Educare's mission to change lives and to address the early achievement gap "which frustrates us with 3rd and 4th grade reading and math scores, undermines us with high school dropout rates and, ultimately, if we don't respond soon, will defeat us as a productivity gap that affects the well-being of not just our individual communities, but our entire nation."

Dan described the network of donors supporting Educare from coast to coast as a "modern-day, early childhood Stonehenge, with each partner making deep vertical investments in early childhood in their home communities and, increasingly, working together horizontally across the country." He pointed to success stories in Educare states nationwide where attitudes and priorities have changed and significant public and private investments have followed.



John Whiteman, Jenny Miller, Denise Higgins and Dan Pedersen accepting the Science of Early Learning award on behalf of their foundations.

Dan expressed solidarity with Arizona in its fight to protect First Things First from the elimination threat on November's ballot, and promised that the resources of the Educare Network and the Birth to Five Policy Alliance will be available to help defend First Things First. He also called on Arizona's philanthropic community to rise to the challenge and complete the capital campaign, bringing Educare to Arizona.

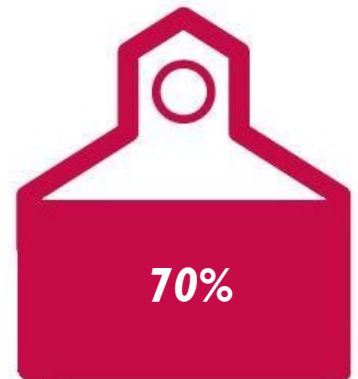


Balsz District Focus of Promise Neighborhood Planning Grant

ASU's Office of the Vice President for Education Partnerships has selected the Balsz School District as the focus area for its planning grant application to the US Department of Education's Promise Neighborhood initiative. This effort seeks to bring a comprehensive set of cradle-to-career services to distressed neighborhoods in order to improve educational outcomes. Says Balsz Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Smith, "Educare Arizona will play an integral role in the 'cradle' component of this project, as a model for the kind of high-quality early childhood education we want all children to have access to." The application for a one-year planning grant was submitted the US Department of Education in late June and grant award notices are expected in fall 2010. Future opportunities to be involved with Promise Neighborhoods will occur in 2011 when the Obama Administration plans to include \$200 million for funding of Promise Neighborhood initiatives.

Fundraising Update

As the Phoenix summer has heated up, so too has Educare Arizona's fundraising activity! During the past quarter, Educare has raised over one million dollars in capital and operational commitments and gifts, bringing the campaign to 70% of its goal. A few of our exciting new investors in early learning:



- **The Steele Foundation** has committed \$750,000 to the construction of Educare Arizona. A private foundation dedicated to supporting Arizona's children and families achieve success, the Steele Foundation was endowed by Horace and Ethel Steele in 1985 and now donates approximately \$3 million each year to various community causes. According to Steele Foundation President Marianne Cracchiolo Mago, Educare Arizona "will be a tangible reflection of the commitment Arizona has when it comes to advocating for early childhood education." She also cited the "tremendous amount of exposure and assistance" as among the many benefits that will come to Arizona as a result of joining the Bounce Learning Network.
- Educare Arizona has received a three-year, \$300,000 commitment from **Arizona Public Service** to support capital construction and innovative programming. APS is "excited about this partnership and looking forward to developing a lasting and impactful program that touches many lives in this state." APS has been a dedicated proponent of early learning and the role each of us can play in making the most of all of our valuable resources. A proud partner of the Steve Nash Foundation for some time, this new level of cooperation is illustrative of APS's leadership in making our communities sustainable places where we can grow health in children and families.
- This quarter, Educare Arizona also received support from the **Arizona Republic/12 News Season for Sharing**, the **National Basketball Association's Charity Challenge**, and an anonymous donor whose \$300,000 gift is earmarked toward the construction of Educare's integrative health center.
- Educare Arizona thanks these and its other investors for their support!



Groundbreaking update

Educare Arizona is on track to begin construction in September! Stay tuned for updates and information about a fall groundbreaking celebration.

Architectural Renderings

The architectural plans for the Educare Arizona building are nearing completion, in preparation for a fall 2010 groundbreaking. The building has been thoughtfully designed to support the programming that occurs inside, as well as communicate the lessons learned inside to educators statewide. The facility sends a message to families, policymakers, business leaders and others that children in poverty have value and that creating effective programming and resources for them is a worthy investment. The building is also being designed toward obtaining a LEED Silver certification to ensure a healthy environment for children and help teach children, families and the community about environmentally sustainable practices.

The building has been designed by RDG Planning & Design, the firm that has designed the majority of the Educare centers in the national network and has extensive knowledge of both early childhood education and health care architecture. Urban Earth Design will design the outdoor spaces to reflect southwestern landscape and create an outdoor learning environment. Sundt Construction serves as the construction manager for the project.

Aerial view with landscape concept plan



Front Entry



Interior Courtyard



View from Brunson-Lee

