



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Regional Director's Report

BACKGROUND: The Regional Director will report any updates since the last meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: The Regional Director is presenting this information to you for information purposes only.

May 2013

Director's Report

Gila Regional Partnership Council

General Updates

- I am sure that you share my mixed emotions with Rhian Evans Allvin moving on to accept the Executive Director position at the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This is one the most prestigious Early Childhood positions in the Nation. This confirms what we already know that Rhian is the best of the best. It also shows that what we are doing in Arizona is being recognized as cutting edge work. Take a moment to pat yourself on the back for a job well done. Rhian will be greatly missed by all, but the strength of the team and the foundation that she has built will carry us through.
- The Quality First Centers received additional temporary Child Care Scholarships in January for the remainder of the fiscal year. Centers report that this has allowed additional families to afford child care and parents are greatly appreciative of this assistance. An unofficial number is that 50 children are now receiving scholarships in the region.
- The Week of the Young Child activities were very successful. We had proclamations from the Gila County Board of Supervisors, City of Globe and Town of Payson. We also did the Hayden Health Fair (Estimated 150), Cobre Valley Health Fair (1,000-1200), STEM Fair (450), Kindergarten Roundup (200). I would like to thank Audrey Opitz for helping with three of the four events. Sharri Moody, Jennika and Audrey were a great help at the very busy Kindergarten Roundup. We had seed planting and name tag activities for the children. We also did seed planting and some math/science activities at the STEM Fair. Our grantees were also represented at each of these events.
- For the second year in a row we co-sponsored Earth Day Project with the Globe Lions Club. We ask our pre-kindergarten, Head Start, child care centers and child care homes to submit Earth Day projects that they have completed. We had submissions from Miami Head Start, Copper Rim Pre-k and Rhonda Avalos's child care home. Over 180 children participated in the three programs and everyone was a winner receiving a new book. Although it was very difficult to choose the best, Miami Head Start was clearly the most comprehensive and innovative. Kaplan School Supplies will award the winning classroom with a \$100 gift certificate. The focus of these project were to stress with the teachers, children and families the importance of starting STEM (Science, technology, engineering and math) early. The projects were displayed at the STEM Fair and Kindergarten Roundup. Many thanks to everyone that worked so hard on this project.

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Next Regular Meeting

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Friday, June 17, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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