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***GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF NEW EARLY
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH BOARD
Board Responsible for Implementing Prop 203 Initiatives***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano has announced her appointments to the newly created Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board: Nadine Basha, Rhian Evans Allvin, Jack Jewett, Vivian Juan-Saunders, Paul Luna, Gary Pasquinelli, The Honorable Cecil B. Patterson, Jr., Retired, Dr. Pam Powell and Dr. Gene Thompson. The nine-member board has been established as a result of the passing of Proposition 203, the First Things First initiative.

The Directors of the Department of Economic Security, Department of Health Services and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or a designee of their choice, will serve as non-voting ex-officio members.

Proposition 203 will fund quality early childhood health and education at the local level, building on the five-year plan adopted by the State School Readiness Board and supported by the Governor. The Board will oversee regional efforts to ensure children throughout the state start school healthy and ready to succeed, thereby strengthening K-12 education in Arizona.

“The passage of Prop. 203 and the creation of this diverse Board is an opportunity for Arizona to set an example nationally for ensuring all children begin their education on equal footing,” said Governor Napolitano. “Investing in health and education programs for children beginning at the earliest stages of development will lay the foundation for success throughout their lives.”

To best serve the interests of all citizens in Arizona, Board members were chosen to represent the state’s diversity. The appointees include five men, four women, four Democrats, four Republicans and one Independent from six counties. The Board members bring experience in early education, K-12 education, health care, juvenile justice, higher education, philanthropy, business and Tribal government. All positions will require Senate confirmation.

Basha has been an advocate for children throughout her career and was the driving force behind Proposition 203. She serves as Chair of the Governor’s State School Readiness Board and is the former Chair of the State Board of Education.

Evans Allvin brings to the board experience in philanthropy and child advocacy. She formerly served on the staff of the Arizona Community Foundation where she helped manage the Arizona Early Education Funds.

Jewett is senior vice president of public policy and a member of the senior leadership team for TMC Healthcare in Tucson, the leading health care delivery system in Southern Arizona. Jewett also served on the Arizona Board of Regents from 1998 to 2006 and was elected president in July 2002.

Juan-Saunders is the Chairwoman of the Tohono O'odham Nation and a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership.

Luna is the President of the newly formed Helios Foundation. Before taking the helm at Helios he was president of the Valley of the Sun United Way. He is a current member of the Governor's School Readiness Board and P-20 Council.

Pasquinelli is a businessman and the owner and president of Pasquinelli Produce Company in Yuma.

Patterson is a retired judge with the Arizona Court of Appeals and Maricopa County Superior Court and currently practices law. He is also Chair of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission.

Powell is an assistant professor at Northern Arizona University where her focus is on preparing future educational professionals. She has developed summer conferences in the College of Education for early childhood educators across the state, which have provided a venue for continued conversation regarding quality early learning environments.

Finally, Thompson holds superintendent certification in six states and serves as an educational consultant in the United States, South America and Asia.