

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

April 30, 2021

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

Re: Pima Early Education Program

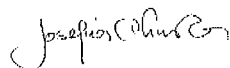
As members of the Board of Directors for the YWCA of Southern Arizona, we oversee the delivery of a variety of impactful community services that empower marginalized women and their children in Pima County through advancement of health and wellbeing, financial stability, entrepreneurship, leadership, job training, restorative justice, and, critically, access to educational resources. In our experience, there are a disproportionate number of children in Pima County, predominantly Latino, Native American and African American youth, who start life at distinct educational and developmental disadvantages solely because of their zip code, low-income status, and related lack of access to quality early childhood learning opportunities. This reality is unjust, unequitable, and a severe challenge to the future success of area children and, more broadly, our communities.

To counteract educational inequities and provide hope for a better tomorrow, YWCA of Southern Arizona is proud to lend our support to the Preschool Promise, a growing and diverse coalition of educators, business leaders, community organizations, parents, and concerned citizens who support the goal of making high-quality preschool available for all our children a reality. Together with our partners, YWCA seeks to generate funding to ensure that more of our children can attend a high-quality preschool of their choice. This coalition is committed to working tirelessly in partnership with Pima County for many years to come. The work of this coalition is possible in large part, because of your leadership and vision.

Your votes on February 16, 2021 directing County administration to include ten million dollars in the budget to fund scholarships for the coming 2022 fiscal year sent a clear signal to all stakeholders in our community that now is the time to step forward and contribute to the preschool promise scholarship program. Because of your leadership, cities and towns, state agencies, businesses, public school districts, philanthropic organizations and individuals throughout the county are now poised to dedicate valuable resources; money, facilities, outreach, and staff toward this community wide effort. Thanks to your determination and drive, we now have a more realistic path toward a future in which all our children are given the opportunity to succeed. Without a doubt, Pima County will be a better place because of it.

For this reason, you have our gratitude and support.

Sincerely,



Josefina Ahumada
Chair, YWCA of Southern Arizona

eliminating racism
empowering women
YWCA

YWCA Southern Arizona
525 N. Bonita Ave., Tucson, AZ, 85745
P 520.884.7810
ywcatucson.org

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