DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

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Denver Preschool Program Releases 2011 Annual Evaluation Results

Denver Preschool Program Kids are Ready for Kindergarten

(DENVER) The Denver Preschool Program released its latest evaluation results today, which showed that Denver Preschool Program students are ready for kindergarten.

The annual evaluation findings indicate that students in the Denver Preschool Program make significant progress during their preschool year, above and beyond what would be expected based on normal development. These students improve during their preschool year, preparing them to be academically and socio-emotionally ready for kindergarten. Research shows that kids who are better prepared for kindergarten are more likely to be successful in school and later in life.

The Denver Preschool Program is non-profit organization established and supported by the entire Denver community that helps Denver families pay for high-quality preschool across the city and offers funding to local preschool programs to improve their quality. The typical DPP family receives between $254-$283 per month to help pay for the cost of a Denver preschool.

"We conduct an annual evaluation each year to see how we are doing," says Eileen Piper, CEO, Denver Preschool Program. "The evaluation shows that our commitment to quality education is truly impacting the Denver community and helping students succeed in their preschool year and beyond."

Thanks to the Denver Preschool Program there are more quality preschools and more children enrolled in quality preschools. The Denver Preschool Program offers tuition credits to nearly 6,000 students each year, 91% of whom were in enrolled in top-quality preschool classrooms last year.

The evaluation also shows that Denver Preschool Program parents understand the importance of preschool. Parents see preschool as important to a child's development, cognitive, social and emotional growth, and long-term success in school.

In fact, quality preschool appears to be more important to parents than the cost of preschool. Nearly four times as many parents selected a preschool based on the school's reputation of quality (29.3%) than based on the cost of tuition (7.4%), despite the fact that preschool in Denver costs, on average, more than $800 per month.

Clayton Early Learning Institute and Augenblick, Palaich and Associates conducted the 2011 annual evaluation of the Denver Preschool Program based on standardized assessments, DPP data, and research gathered from parents and preschool providers.

About Denver Preschool Program – *The Denver Preschool Program is a not-for-profit organization that benefits Denver kids, families, preschools and the community by helping families pay for high-quality preschool and funding local preschool programs to improve their quality. More than 250 preschools serving some 6,000 Denver Preschool Program children are currently participating in the program.*

Funding for the Denver Preschool Program comes from a portion of Denver City and County sales tax revenue thanks to Denver residents' approval of a ballot initiative in 2006. The Denver Preschool Program is available to all Denver children in the last year of preschool before kindergarten. For additional information on the program, visit www.denverpreschoolprogram.org.

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Attached: Highlights of the Denver Preschool Program's 2011 Annual Evaluation.

Full reports are available on our website.