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## **Superintendent Cheryl Mango-Paget Gives Elevate PreK Classroom Ribbon Cutting Speech at Page, Arizona Opening**

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Coconino County Superintendent of Schools Cheryl Mango-Paget was pleased to partner with Page Unified School District, Coconino County Board of Supervisors, Candelen and the Wharton Foundation to prioritize funds to launch the Page Elevate PreK preschool classroom that will help fill the gap for children needing high-quality early learning.

Superintendent Mango-Paget had the honor of speaking at the ribbon cutting ceremony, which was held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. In her speech, Superintendent Mango-Paget stated that “There are currently 2 children for every preschool slot in Page, Arizona. This classroom will be a valuable asset to the Page community and make a difference in the lives of children.” She also thanked the many partners who made this project possible, especially Dr. Bryce Andersen and the Page Unified School District staff for opening their doors to launch the preschool. Additionally, Scott Petit of the Wharton Foundation was recognized for providing funds in support of the expansion of early childhood programs in Coconino County. Candelen was acknowledged as a great partner in their work to create access to early childhood programs in rural areas and for providing the support to make the Page Unified School District launch happen. Coconino County Board of Supervisors were recognized as the biggest funder of this project with allocated ARPA funds being designated for this project. Appreciation was expressed to the Board of Supervisors for their stalwart support of this project. Superintendent Cheryl Mango-Paget concluded her speech by thanking the parents and the Page community for their trust and support as the Elevate PreK Page preschool is launched.

Through collaboration of many community partners, Elevate PreK is an initiative whose mission is to improve quality early education and access to high quality early learning experiences for children. Elevate PreK offers a high quality, full day preschool for four-year old children at no cost to families. This program not only connects families to high quality preschool, but also connects them with other community resources. The Coconino County Superintendent of Schools and the Coconino County Board of Supervisors are happy to be a part of this initiative and help bring high quality preschool experiences to Page.

For more information, please contact Michelle Despain, program coordinator for the Coconino County Superintendent of Schools office, at 928-679-8070 or email – [mdespain@coconino.az.gov](mailto:mdespain@coconino.az.gov). ###