



MEDIA ADVISORY

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PRE4CLE TO HONOR 90 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS WHO DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL TO CLEVELAND'S CHILDREN

CLEVELAND, OHIO – During a ceremony tomorrow Tuesday, May 5, PRE4CLE will honor the first group of early childhood education centers, Head Start programs and Cleveland Metropolitan School District preschools that have chosen to be a part of Cleveland's preschool expansion initiative, which aims to provide high-quality preschool to all of Cleveland's three and four-year-old children.

In total, these providers can serve 4,378 children in 226 high-quality preschool classrooms across the city. These providers are private providers, Head Start programs, and Cleveland Metropolitan School District preschool classrooms. Over the past year, PRE4CLE has expanded the number of providers rated through Ohio's voluntary quality rating system called Step Up to Quality.

"We want to acknowledge the commitment these centers and schools have made to provide high-quality preschool to Cleveland's children by being some of the first organizations associated with PRE4CLE," said Katie Kelly, PRE4CLE director. "Through their participation in PRE4CLE, these providers play an important role in preparing Cleveland's children for academic success. The preschool years are a crucial window of time to show children how to be successful students and inspire their love of learning."

These partners will form an advisory group for PRE4CLE to help implement the strategies of the plan, including quality improvement in preschool classrooms, family engagement, and recruitment strategies to attract families to high-quality programs and work with them to ensure children make the most of their preschool experience.

Speakers will include: Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) CEO Eric Gordon, Starting Point Executive Director Billie Osborne-Fears, and The George Gund Foundation's Senior Program Officer Marcia Egbert, among others.

WHAT: PRE4CLE Celebration honoring first group of high-quality preschool providers to be part of the expansion plan to provide all of Cleveland's three and four-year-old children with opportunity to attend high-quality preschool.

WHO: Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric Gordon, Starting Point Executive Director Billie Osborne-Fears, and The George Gund Foundation's Senior Program Officer Marcia Egbert, among others.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Ceremony will take 30 minutes; media can conduct interviews afterward.)

WHERE: Cleveland Botanical Garden, 11030 East Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44106

About PRE4CLE: PRE4CLE is a plan to ensure all 3-and-4-year-old children in Cleveland have access to high-quality preschool. PRE4CLE is a major next step in implementing Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools and is led by the Cleveland Early Childhood Compact. For more information, visit www.pre4cle.org.

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