



For Immediate Release

The Flagstaff Commission on Excellence in Education, United Way of Northern Arizona and the Arizona Community Foundation of Flagstaff have collaborated to form LAUNCH Flagstaff, an innovative and unique partnership aimed at improving cradle-to-career educational outcomes.

The Flagstaff Commission on Excellence in Education is a group of committed educators, citizens and organizations that have worked for the past three years to create the framework for LAUNCH Flagstaff using a collective impact model. The goal of LAUNCH Flagstaff is to explore the education and community engagement strategies necessary in creating a world-class education environment for students in Flagstaff.

The Arizona Community Foundation awarded a grant to LAUNCH Flagstaff that will make it possible to hire a director and continue developing the partnership with United Way of Northern Arizona serving as the partnership's "backbone organization", providing an office location and support services. In addition to the Arizona Community Foundation, the Wharton Foundation is also providing financial assistance for LAUNCH Flagstaff to become an affiliate of Strive Together, a national network supporting Cradle to Career Partnerships across the country.

"The Arizona Community Foundation of Flagstaff is very interested in the collective impact approach, which begins with a shared vision of education and measurements of success we can all rally around," said Nancy Bené, retired educator, community volunteer and member of the ACF of Flagstaff Board of Advisors. "By accomplishing this, we all become critical stakeholders in student success, which then benefits our local business and industry sectors."

LAUNCH Flagstaff is pleased to announce the release of its baseline report, LAUNCH Flagstaff/World-Class Education for All Flagstaff Children and Youth. The report provides a call to action for the entire community to become involved in preparing children for success. The report proposes the following goals which are key to creating a world-class educational environment:

- Increase the number children entering kindergarten ready for school.
- Increase the number of children reading at grade level by the end of third grade.
- Increase the number of eighth-grade students performing at grade level in math.
- Increase the number of students graduating from high school in four years.

- Increase the number of students entering college or technical training after high school.

LAUNCH

L- Learn

A- Advocate

U- Unite

N- Network

C- Contribute

H- Help

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