

College of Education

- WHEREAS, All young children deserve quality early learning environments that support them as capable and competent lifelong learners; and
- WHEREAS, Nurturing parenting, quality and accessible childcare, and early education programs build strong brains during the critical years from birth to age 5; and
- WHEREAS, Investments in babies and young children has profound impacts on creating a strong and vibrant community; and
- WHEREAS, First Things First, Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children in northern Arizona and other community organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Week of the Young Child; and
- WHEREAS, These organizations are working to improve equitable early learning opportunities, including early literacy programs, that can provide a foundation of learning for children in northern Arizona; and
- WHEREAS, Early childhood educators and others who make a difference in the lives of young children deserve thanks and recognition; and
- WHEREAS, Public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to the future of Arizona's young children, families, and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Ramona Mellott, PhD**, do hereby proclaim April 2-8, 2022 as the Week of the Young Child at **Northern Arizona University's College of Education** and encourage all citizens to support and invest in early childhood education in our community.

Ramona Mellott