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For Immediate Release

Teton County Board of Commissioners Proclaim April 8 – 12, 2019, as the *Week of the Young Child*

Tuesday, April 9, 2019, Jackson, WY – Teton County Commissioners adopted a resolution to proclaim April 8 – 12, 2019 as the *Week of the Young Child* today, signing-on to statewide and national efforts to promote education, awareness, and investment in policies and programs designed to improve the quality of life for young children and their parents in the Teton County community while also raising the profile of childhood educators. Many groups were present to witness the adoption of the resolution including: Jackson Hole Discovery Preschool, Teton Tiny Tots, Children’s Learning Center, Teton Literacy Center, Sweet Peas Babies, Growing Great Families, parents and caregivers from the community.

“This resolution and its proposed actions are intended to show the Board’s support for prioritizing and investing in early childhood programs, policies, and systems that will set our youngest residents and their families up for success over the long term and recognize the valuable role that early childhood educators play in Teton County,” said Commissioner Natalia D. Macker, Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. “The research illustrates that this type of investment pays dividends for the entire community. Unfortunately, Wyoming is one of only 4 states in the nation that doesn’t invest in pre-K at the state level. With this effort we hope to take positive steps to enhance the successful work already underway in Teton County while accessing resources available through a broader network of partners.”

In addition to local partners and organizations, the State of Wyoming is recognizing these important efforts and investments through a similar, formal declaration from Governor Mark Gordon’s office.

The resolution and proclamation include provisions to work with the Town of Jackson and other local partners and stakeholders to create an Early Learners Committee that will be charged with creating a plan with measurable outcomes to implement, shift and enhance evidence-based approaches that promote a comprehensive and equitable continuum of care that begins before birth and spans into adulthood, with specific recommendations for children under three and their parents and families.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is a partner of the National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers (NCIT), which has resources available to support these efforts nationwide. Teton County plans to utilize these resources and expertise in local efforts.

More information on the programs and support from NACo and NCIT can be found [here](#).

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