

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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White House Highlights Angelica Vilaverde as a Head Start “Champion of Change”

WASHINGTON, DC – On Monday, June 18, the White House will honor Angelica Vilaverde as one of eleven individuals from Head Start programs across the country who have demonstrated a commitment to delivering on the promise of Head Start in their local communities. Over 45 years after its inception, Head Start continues to serve as a national laboratory for how we think about educating and caring for our youngest, most vulnerable children.

“Today’s Head Start Champions of Change have collectively shaped the lives of thousands of children and their families,” said Roberto Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education Policy. “Each day, these Champions work to innovate and forge new paths to deliver the support that our most vulnerable children and families need to reach their full potential and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. This work is essential in helping our country win the future.”

The Champions of Change program was created as a part of President Obama’s Winning the Future initiative. Each week, a different sector is highlighted and groups of Champions, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community leaders, are recognized for the work they are doing to serve and strengthen their communities.

To watch this event live, visit www.whitehouse.gov/live at 11:30 am ET on June 18th.

Angelica Vilaverde is an Early Head Start Center-based Teacher with Southwest Human Development Early Head Start and Head Start located at the Educare Arizona facility in Phoenix, Arizona. Angelica holds a Master's Degree in Infant-Family Practice from Arizona State University. Her expertise in infant/toddler development and mental health, combined with her longevity in practice as an Early Head Start teacher, has brought to her classroom an environment where children flourish due to her strong focus on parent-child relationships and parent and family engagement. Angelica, as an Early Head Start leader, is currently serving as a member of the 2012-2013 Early Head Start Data Sharing Workgroup, which will assist the field of infant-family practice with creating systems to sustain parent and family engagement in school readiness. The promising practices that Angelica is developing will be utilized in the field by other early childhood professionals that are seeking to engage families with infants and toddlers as full partners in preparing their child for future school success. Angelica is being recognized as a Champion of Change for her dedication to the children and families whom she serves.

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