



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NOV. 5 GROUNDBREAKING SCHEDULED FOR OKLAHOMA CITY EDUCARE**

*State, city and school officials welcome an early-childhood education center serving at-risk children*

OKLAHOMA CITY – A collaboration of Oklahomans is bringing the innovative Educare education model to Oklahoma City. The school is scheduled to open in 2009, serving 200 at-risk children, prenatal to 5 years old with educational programs and developmental childcare.

Oklahoma City Educare is the sixth of its kind in the nation and second in the state. It is also the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified Educare facility in the nation.

**WHO:** Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry; Kim Henry, first lady; Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett; Oklahoma City Public Schools Superintendent John Q. Porter; Bob Ross, chairman of Oklahoma City Educare and CEO of Inasmuch Foundation; Ray Bitsche, executive director of Sunbeam Family Services; Cliff Hudson, chairman and CEO of Sonic Industries, Inc. and chairman of Oklahoma City Public Schools; George Kaiser, Tulsa Educare; Jim Sconzo, Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City; Dan Pedersen, president of the Buffett Early Childhood Fund

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. Nov. 5

**WHERE:** Oklahoma City Educare  
Byers Avenue and SE Grand Boulevard, Oklahoma City

**About Educare**

Founded by the Ounce of Prevention Fund in Chicago in 2000, Educare Centers are committed to helping young children grow up safe, healthy and eager to learn. Through a consortium of partners, Educare supporters create, provide and promote the highest quality outcome-based learning environments for families and their children (ages prenatal to five years) who are at-risk for school failure. Educare principles and practices are based on continual research and implementation within the field of early childhood education. The success of the children who enter this program will demonstrate the societal and economic value of investing in the earliest years in order to prevent the need for costly interventions later.

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