STONE SOUP: GATHERING COMMUNITY, NOURISHING CHILDREN
7:30 – 9am, Friday, March 24, 2017
The Curtis, Denver, CO

TRANSFORMING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:
Supporting Professional Development and Career Pathways for Teachers & Staff

MILE HIGH EARLY LEARNING
Ensuring quality teachers in the classroom is the single greatest factor in supporting student success, starting with our youngest learners. For too long, the field has failed to recognize the critical importance of providing educational opportunities and professional development support for early education teachers and staff. Mile High Early Learning is leading efforts in Colorado to build and support career pathways across the community. In doing so, we are impacting two generations of success by providing opportunities for a predominately low income and minority workforce to grow and prosper and ensuring higher quality outcomes for students.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: DR. MEERA MANI
Director of the Children, Families and Communities Program, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Dr. Mani is a national leader in efforts to transform early childhood education through professional development activities for teachers. Under her direction, the Foundation has just launched a 10-year initiative focused on improving the quality of interactions or “brain-building moments” between children and their adult caregivers. Dr. Mani will discuss the critical importance of taking a two-generation approach by investing in early childhood educators, which supports the economic opportunity for the teacher and improves child outcomes.

PREVIOUSLY, as president of the Clayton Foundation, Dr. Mani focused on operating high-quality programs for children from birth to five-years-old and on providing education and professional development opportunities for the early childhood education workforce.

HONOREE: DR. STEPHEN M. JORDAN
President, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Since taking the helm in 2005, President Jordan has put MSU Denver on the path to becoming the preeminent public urban university in the nation. Throughout his many successful efforts to build the university, Dr. Jordan has brought a relentless focus on making MSU Denver a “university of opportunity” for many who have not had an opportunity for an education in the past. Among his many awards, Dr. Jordan has received the Latin American Educational Foundation’s 2014 Sol Trujillo National Lifetime Leadership Award, the Anti-Defamation League’s 2014 Civil Rights Award and was recognized by the Denver business community with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Award for his commitment to the values espoused by Dr. King. As he prepares to retire later in 2017, we will celebrate Dr. Jordan’s many contributions to creating opportunity for Denver students at this year’s Stone Soup breakfast.
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* information for invitations needed by February 7, 2017