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**MEDIA ALERT**

**WHAT:** Ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of a new Early Learning Center (ELC) on the southside of Indianapolis. The ELC will be operated by Early Learning Indiana and will add 80 new licensed childcare seats for infants to five-year-olds. Christel House has invested $5.5 million to convert Emmerich Manual High School into a community-serving campus for traditional age K-12 students and adults seeking a high school diploma. The ambitious $2 million ELC construction plan required extensive renovation to convert office space at Manual into rooms appropriate for infants, toddlers, and pre-k students. United Way of Central Indiana’s $1 million matching grant from its Capital Projects Fund helped make the project a reality.

**WHO:** Dr. Sarah Weimer, Executive Director, Christel House Indianapolis; Maureen Weber, President and CEO, Early Learning Indiana; Sara VanSlambrook, Chief Impact Officer, United Way of Central Indiana; Nancy McFerron, Advisor, The Glasscock Family Foundation; Fernando Falcon, Christel House Indianapolis Board Chair; Jamie VanDeWalle, Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) Chief Portfolio Officer; Bart Peterson, President and CEO, Christel House International

**WHEN:** Friday, June 3 at 3:00pm to 3:30pm

**WHERE:** Christel House at Manual campus – 2405 Madison Ave, Indianapolis, 46225

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be outside under a tent and accessible by entering the playground area located on the southside of the Manual campus. Tours of the new ELC will be available following the event.

**About Early Learning Indiana**

Early Learning Indiana is Indiana’s oldest and largest early childhood education nonprofit, providing leadership, advocacy and early childhood education services to continually improve the early learning landscape in Indiana. Today, Early Learning Indiana operates eight high-quality Day Early Learning centers, a network of premier community-based lab schools used to advance the science of early learning, train the next generation of teachers and leaders, and instill essential skills in the children we serve. Through regional and statewide programs, the organization enables early learning providers to build capacity, transform operations and improve learning outcomes. Learn more at EarlyLearningIndiana.org.

**About Christel House Indianapolis**

Christel House Indianapolis is a network of public charter schools supported by Christel House International. Christel House Academy South opened in 2002 and was Indiana’s first charter school to receive the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform’s designation as a “School to Watch” and was recognized nationally as one of 10 MetLife Foundation–NASSP “Breakthrough Schools.” For more information, please visit [www.chindy.org](http://www.chschools.org).