



MEDIA ALERT

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April 10, 2012

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EARLY LEARNING COALITION CHOSEN TO PRESENT AT STATEWIDE PRE-K CONFERENCE

Two (2) Inclusion Specialists from the **Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.** were chosen to speak at the statewide Pre-K Conference on May 9 and 10 at the Orlando Marriott in Lake Mary.

Inclusion Specialists **Anne McHugh** and **Damaris Conner** will join with Coalition Board Member Teresa Suarez, representing the School Board of Pasco County, to present a breakout session entitled “Best Practices for Pre-Kindergarten: Use of data to support the transition of children with developmental delays to Kindergarten.”

McHugh, Conner and Suarez will present in collaboration on the Florida Program-Wide Positive Behavior Support Project (PW-PBS) and Pyramid Model Training, including: Second Step; Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool for the Preschool Classroom; Coaching; and Positive Solutions for Families.

Funded by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, PW-PBS focuses on supporting young children’s social-emotional development and addressing challenging behavior.

For more information about these collaborations and trainings, visit <http://education.ucf.edu/tats/>.

For more information about the Coalition and its services, visit www.phelc.org.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is one of 31 Early Learning Coalitions in Florida. It works to ensure that programs and services are available to assist families with young children during their formative years. Florida’s Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program is for all children who are four-years old on or before September 1st. School Readiness provides assistance for low-to-moderate income working families by paying a portion of the childcare costs on a sliding fee schedule. Starting as separate organizations in 2000, Pasco and Hernando counties joined forces to form the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties in 2005. The non-profit serves over nine thousand children between infancy and five years old, working with over 300 providers in the counties.

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