MEDIA ALERT

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June 16, 2014

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EARLY LEARNING COALITION PROVIDES E-READERS TO HERNANDO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. delivered 24 e-readers, cases, and 1,200 e-books to the Hernando County Public Library System.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is pleased to announce the provision of 24 e-readers to the Hernando County Public Library System. The 24 e-readers are Kindle Fire HDX and also came with cases. Each Kindle is loaded with 50 e-books containing children's favorite stories and were delivered to the Spring Hill Branch on June 16, 2014.

The Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. collaborated with the library systems on a community improvement project in both Hernando and Pasco Counties. Community-at-Large Board Member Ms. Jean Rags, was the driving force behind this collaboration with the library. Ms. Rags stated, "Our effort was to get technology into the hands of children." The Kindles will be spread across all Hernando County libraries with each having access to 6 complete Kindles.

Coalition Executive Director, James J. Farrelly stated, "The Early Learning Coalition is thrilled to partner with our libraries, since our joint mission is literacy. I look forward to visiting our libraries and observing children using this great resource!"

The Kindles, cases, and e-books which contain children's favorites such as *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, *Junie B. Jones*, and *Amelia Bedelia* to name a few, are valued at $12,000 and will be available for children to utilize during the children's reading programs and while visiting the Hernando County Libraries with their parents/guardians.

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

About the Coalition

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is one of 30 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 subsidized child care for low-to-moderate income working families. 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 9,000 children between infancy and eight years old, working with more than 300 providers in the counties.