



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PASCO AND HERNANDO COUNTIES WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM MANAGER DR. MARY HARPER



The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc., is pleased to welcome Mary Harper, Ph.D, as its Program Manager. Currently, Dr. Harper is a Professor of Early Childhood Education at St. Petersburg College. Previously she served as an Administrator for Early Childhood Programs with Hillsborough County Schools and has also served as Curriculum Specialist with the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County.

Dr. Harper's entire professional career has been concentrated on Early Learning. She joins the Coalition with a history of collegial and community collaborations focused at promoting quality early childhood education and superior outcomes for children. Collaborations include but are not limited to University of South Florida's Florida Mental Health Institute, Florida Department of Education's Office of Early Learning, Children's Campaign, Pasco County Head Start and Early Head Start Programs, Pinellas Counties Head Start Programs, and the Florida Association for the Education of Young Children.

In welcoming her appointment, James J. Farrelly, Executive Director of the Coalition noted that, "Dr. Mary Harper brings with her the promise of ever lofty goals and growth for both staff and providers. She is a very welcome addition to our over-achieving staff."

Dr. Harper joins the Coalition on May 1, 2015 after completing her teaching semester at St. Petersburg College.

Dr. Harper noted that, "This is an amazing opportunity to serve the youngest and most treasured citizens of Pasco and Hernando Counties. The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties has placed an emphasis on promoting positive outcomes for young children by building lasting and systemic relationships with the early care and education community throughout both counties."

For more information about the Coalition and its services, please 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. 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. The non-profit serves over 9,000 children between infancy and eight years old, working with more than 300 providers in the counties.

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