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THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PASCO AND HERNANDO COUNTIES, INC. WELCOMES PLANNING PARTNERSHIP WITH BRAZELTON TOUCHPOINTS CENTER

The Brazelton Touchpoints Center, founded by T. Berry Brazelton, MD, and colleagues, is based at Boston Children's Hospital, a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital.



Mindy May, left, with Coalition Executive Director, Jim Farrelly, right

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. introduced Mindy May, the National Trainer and Project Director of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center-Boston Children's Hospital, to Pasco and Hernando Counties on Wednesday, May 25, 2016, as the first step in an anticipated multiyear support of the Coalition's efforts to confirm the importance of Early Childhood Education within our communities.

The multiyear approach, called "2017 and Beyond: Years of the Young Child in Pasco and Hernando Counties" will prepare the community for a pivotal transformation. The idea is to support a culture in which all residents understand the incredible importance of Early Education.

Jim Farrelly, Executive Director of the Early Learning Coalition, noted “Recent research indicates that a child’s brain is nearly 85% completely formed by the time the child reaches 4 years of age. Shouldn’t we maximize that development as a critical investment in the child’s and our communities’ future?”

The Brazelton Touchpoints Center will bring programs that will focus on instructing and supporting Coalition staff, parents/guardians, child care providers, community members, and other organizations that serve children. One common goal will be targeted — to create opportunities for very young children to become successful learners and in turn, successful adults.

“Anytime you are talking about working with a community or trying to create change in a community, you must understand who that community is, what is important to them, what it is made of,” says May. “This information helps you assess the strengths of the community and that’s where you want to start.”

Governor-appointed Board Chairman Dr. Steven Kanakis commented on the plan to partner with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, “My belief is that our association with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center will reshape the belief system of our community with regard to the importance of Early Education. Early Education is where the smart money is. Buy in from the entire community will ensure us immeasurable future prosperity.”

The Coalition looks forward to be pursuing a multiyear partnership with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center that will result in a long-term commitment to Early Childhood Education within our community.

For more information about the Brazelton Touchpoints Center and its services, visit www.brazeltontouchpoints.org.

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. 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 nonprofit serves over 13,000 children between infancy and twelve-years old, working with more than 400 providers in the counties.

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