



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PASCO AND HERNANDO COUNTIES, INC. NAMED FINALIST IN TAMPA BAY BUSINESS JOURNAL'S 2016 NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

The awards recognize distinguished nonprofit organizations in the Bay area whose efforts help a range of social, civic and healthy causes.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is a finalist along with other high-achieving nonprofit organizations within the Tampa Bay area. The Coalition hopes to be acknowledged as the *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* 2016 Nonprofit of the Year on Thursday, June, 9, 2016, at an award ceremony held at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo.

The Coalition is honored to be one of thirty-one nonprofit organizations nominated for this prestigious award. Additionally, the Coalition is one of six organizations chosen for the Education category and is thrilled to stand alongside some of our community's greatest nonprofit organizations such as *Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation Inc.*, *Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County Inc.*; *Easter Seals Florida Inc.*; *Hope Youth Ranch Inc.*; and *United Way Suncoast*.

It has been quite an exciting year for the Coalition, being honored by WEDU Public Television with the *Be More Humble Award* and named a finalist for their *Be More Unstoppable-Nonprofit of the Year Award* in February. While grateful for being honored for such achievements, the Coalition owes these successes to its dedicated Board of Directors, a committed staff, numerous passionate early educators, and our community for their endless support.

For more information about the *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* Nonprofit of the Year Awards, including a list of winners, please visit the website at <http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/news>.

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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