



# MEDIA ALERT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PASCO AND HERNANDO COUNTIES, INC. NAMED FINALIST IN 2016 WEDU “BE MORE” PROGRAM

*The awards recognize nonprofit organizations who best serve the community.*

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is considered among top nonprofit organizations and individuals within the Tampa Bay region. The Early Learning Coalition hopes to win not one, but three awards: *Be More Humble*, *Be More Entertaining* and *Be More Unstoppable*.

The *Be More Humble Award* is driven by an online poll of the best area nonprofits in the WEDU viewing area.

The *Be More Entertaining Award* acknowledges the uniqueness and effectiveness of a special event. The Coalition was nominated for its largest family event, “Storybook Forest.” Over 3,500 families and community members came together on April 6, 2015 to rediscover the magic of reading and enjoy free food, free children’s entertainment, free activities and crafts, and a free book to take home. The event is developing in size each year and this March, the Coalition anticipates an even bigger crowd of literacy lovers.

Finally, the Coalition has been nominated for the *Be More Unstoppable-Nonprofit Organization of the Year Award (2015)*. This award is the most coveted and is determined through extensive research by an independent judging committee and given to an organization that, through a superior level of service, helps their community to “Be More.”

The Coalition was previously honored with the *Be More Humble Award* in late 2010 and 2012 and looks forward to visiting with some of the most inspiring nonprofit organizations in the Tampa Bay area at the 2016 awards luncheon on **Thursday, February 4, 2016** at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg.

Members of the public who would like to register to attend and support the Coalition should contact Audrey Stasko, Coalition Communications Specialist, at (727) 233-8291.

For more information about the WEDU Be More Awards, including a list of finalists, please visit the website at <http://www.wedu.org/bemore>.

For more information about the Coalition and its services, visit [www.phelc.org](http://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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