



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 1, 2016

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THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PASCO AND HERNANDO COUNTIES, INC. SEEKS SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS FOR FLORIDA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL EARLY LEARNING CONFERENCE

The 2016 Early Learning Conference is a daylong event-open to the public-offering early education trainings from local and regional presenters.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is once again hosting its largest and most popular training event, the **9th Annual Early Learning Conference, on October 15, 2016 at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School**. This year, the Coalition is joining with two (2) sister organizations in the United Kingdom to promote the importance of diversity in Early Childhood Education. As such, this will be Florida's first international Conference on Early Learning.

This year's theme is "Celebrate Diversity: Together We Make Our World Complete" and the Coalition is inviting local and regional agencies, businesses and organizations to serve as sponsors and/or exhibitors. Participating exhibitors and sponsors will be included in the conference program that will be distributed to both organizations, Child Care in Practice and the Early Years- the Organization for Young Children, both located in the largest city in Northern Ireland.

Over 900 participants from the greater Tampa Bay area come together to receive instructional and business strategies from renowned keynote speakers to enhance their professional skills and practical knowledge.

Participating exhibitors are offered a display booth and the opportunity to network with over 900 guests, including:

- Early educators
- Caregivers
- Mental health professionals
- Parents
- Child advocates
- Owners and directors of preschools
- Other community members

Exhibitors at the 2015 Conference included: Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC); Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI); Usborne Books and More; and Healthy Families Pasco-Hernando, among dozens of others.

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This year, the Coalition hopes to expand the exhibitor list and offer a broad range of information related to supporting families and enhancing diverse Early Learning environments.

The Conference focuses on early childhood development, providing innovative practices from fields of:

- Early education
- Child care
- Infant mental health
- Family involvement
- Business management
- Social work

The Conference is a daylong event. Both breakfast and lunch are provided to attendees. Conference attendees participate in four (4) breakout sessions. This year's conference features a variety of trainings such as: "Diversity and Social Justice in Early Childhood Settings"; "Equality is the Key to Ending Violence"; "Picky Eater or Disordered Feeder: Hot to Diversify Your Child's Diet"; "Vroom! Brain Building Activities for Families on the Go", among many other topics.

EXHIBITOR EVENT FEES*

- For-profit Agency Organization/Business:
If paid by Friday, August 19 (\$100 + Door Prize)
If paid by Friday, September 16 (\$200+Door Prize)
If paid by Friday, September 19 (\$300+Door Prize)
- Nonprofit Organization: (Door Prize)

*Interested exhibitors should contact Dina Crespo-Brambilla at d.crespo-brambilla@phelc.org, or call (352) 754-5068.

SPONSOR EVENT FEES*

- Friend of the Coalition: \$125
- Bronze Sponsor: \$200
- Silver Sponsor: \$350
- Gold Sponsor: \$500
- Platinum Sponsor: \$1,000

*Interested sponsors should contact Jak Jakubauskas at r.jakubauskas@phelc.org, or call (727) 233-8291. The application deadline is Friday, September 16.

GENERAL PUBLIC EVENT FEES*

- \$25 for Conference Registration
- CEU certificates are available for an additional cost of \$15

*Public registration is now open.

For more information about the Conference, visit www.phelc.org/annualconference9.php.

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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