NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Nichelle Calhoun, Communications Specialist
ncalhoun@elcmdm.org
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Tel: 305.646.7220 ext. 324 | Fax: 786.433.3227

Nationally-Celebrated Literacy Expert Phyllis C. Hunter to Headline Annual Children First Conference

Conference brings together families and education experts to optimize learning success

Miami, FL (August 6, 2015) – The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is proud to announce that two education heavy-hitters, Phyllis C. Hunter, noted author and President of Phyllis C. Hunter Consulting, Inc., and Tobeka G. Green, the President and CEO of the National Black Child Development Institute, will be the keynote and endnote speakers for the second annual Children First Conference on Saturday September 19, 2015 at Ronald W. Reagan High School in Doral. The theme, Literacy is a Family Affair, will highlight the integral role that families play in developing and encouraging literacy, and early education. The conference will present best practices and cutting-edge research within the field.

Phyllis C. Hunter, a nationally renowned expert at the forefront of literacy, will be delivering the keynote courtesy of Scholastic, the world’s largest publisher and distributor of children’s books. She is a heralded educator, and advisor that has served on the President’s Education Transition Team. She has received a host of international and national awards and has traveled throughout the nation providing on-site technical assistance in developing effective reading programs. A multi-faceted leader in education, she is a speech and language therapist, author, and motivational speaker. Hunter states, “Reading is a child’s civil right. Make it one of your parenting goals, one of your goals as a teacher to put books into the hands of kids.”

Tobeka G. Green, the President and CEO of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI), an organization that has been at the forefront of engaging leaders, policymakers, professionals, and parents around issues that directly impact children of color for more than 40 years, will deliver the endnote. Tobeka G. Green’s work includes: youth development, technology integration, family engagement, and data-driven decision-making. NBCDI recently launched Good for Me, a curriculum developed to improve the health and educational outcomes for young children through physical activity, nutrition and family engagement. At the conference, Green will be raising awareness of the initiative and its benefits to the community.

If last year’s sold out conference is any indication, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is expected to host over 900 conference attendees at Ronald W. Reagan Senior High School, 8600 NW 107th Avenue, Doral, FL 33178, a state-of-the-art-facility. There will be workshops on family literacy, quality learning environments, child development, curriculum, inclusion, family partnerships, community wellness and other nuanced approaches to literacy.
“Working together allows us to tap into our collective expertise, experience, and goal of ensuring school success for all children,” says President and CEO, Evelio Torres. “Collaboration is what makes this professional development experience so powerful.”

The conference is open to all Miami-Dade/Monroe early care and education, directors, providers, owners, and advocates. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available. For more information or to register, please visit: http://training.elcmdm.org.

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties have an opportunity to receive high-quality early education. The organization was established following the enactment of the 1999 School Readiness Act. The Early Learning Coalition supports the school readiness of more than 50,000 children ages birth to 12 years old through a variety of innovative prekindergarten and early learning programs, while also encouraging parental involvement in the quest for educational success. Through a community-based, collaborative approach, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is committed to promoting early learning, advocating for better public policies on behalf of children, and preparing every child for success in both school and life.

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If you would like more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact Nichelle Calhoun at 305-646-7220 ext. 324 or email ncalhoun@elcmdm.org.