



EARLY LEARNING UPDATE

PALM BEACH AND PENSACOLA SUMMITS FOCUS ON EARLY LEARNING BUSINESS IMPACT

JUNE 2014

The link between early learning and business drew attention from state and regional business executives in Palm Beach and Pensacola in May.

The Florida Chamber Foundation held a day-long Six Pillar Summit in Palm Beach highlighting the importance of early education when it comes to ensuring a qualified workforce for Florida in 2030. OEL Executive Director Shan Goff and **Palm Beach County Early Learning Coalition** CEO Warren Eldridge participated in panels. Watch a [clip](#) from the second panel.

In late May in Pensacola, more than 65 community and business leaders, educators and community volunteers attended a summit presented by the **ELC of Escambia County** and learned about the child care industry and how it is making big contributions to the county's economy. Read more details in an article in the [Pensacola News Journal](#).

2014-15 EARLY LEARNING BUDGET—GOVERNOR MAKES IT OFFICIAL

Governor Rick Scott signed his [It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget](#) in early June. For early learning, the budget provides \$396.1 million for the VPK Program and increases funding by \$54 per student, and \$555.5 million for the School Readiness Program, including an increase of \$3 million to further expand school readiness services. The budget also includes \$10.5 million for an early learning performance pilot program to award child care providers and instructors for improving quality. Budget highlights are available in a [2014 Session Summary](#).



In Palm Beach for the summit, DEO Chief of Staff Chad Poppell and OEL ED Shan Goff toured a Boynton Beach early learning center.

JUST THE FACTS

Nearly 358,000 children in Florida have participated in VPK or school readiness programs through April of this fiscal year. Find details about state, coalition and program participation in OEL's online [Fact Book](#).

N-E-W-S EARLY LEARNING COALITION HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH, EAST, WEST AND SOUTH FLORIDA

Throughout April, Spanish-speaking news station Univision 23, featured the **Miami-Dade/Monroe ELC** in a campaign called *Accion por Los Ninos* (Action for Our Children) to raise awareness among parents on their role as their child's first teacher. The show fea-



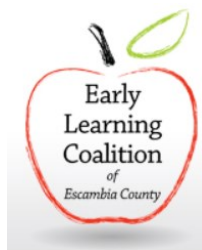
tured interviews with call center team members **Paloma Lopez-Barcena** and **Sandra Ampudia** (interview begins at 19:40 mark).



The **ELC of Marion County** held an open house Mon., June 16, to introduce the community to their brand new offices funded by grants from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development and the Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

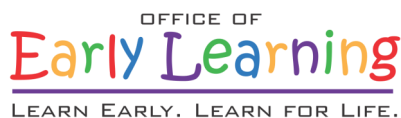


The **ELC of Orange County** is getting ready for its 4th annual The First Five Years Gala at Disney's Showplace Pavilion at Epcot Saturday, June 21.



On June 14, the **ELC of Escambia** sponsored two workshops where more than 50 attendees got to learn effective ways to use music, drama and dance to engage children in active learning experiences that

support STEM skills for children ages 6 months to 5 from the world-famous Wolf Trap Institute Learning Through the Arts. The energetic workshops — *Count Me In!* and *Baby Books, Toddler Tales: Math Experiences for our Youngest Learners* — align with national standards and curricula.



Governor Rick Scott recently appointed OEL Executive Director Shan Goff to the Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers. She fills a vacant seat and is appointed for a term beginning May 27, 2014, and ending January 1, 2017.

THE GOVERNOR'S CORNER by Governor Rick Scott

We recently reached a great victory when the *It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget* was signed into law. With the support of Florida's public servants, our state has experienced incredible growth over the past three years. Unemployment is down to 6.2 percent and Florida's private sector has created more than 600,400 jobs since December 2010. All across the state, Floridians are finding more opportunities to work and provide for their families. Investments in this budget will help Florida maintain our positive economic momentum as our state continues to add jobs and opportunities for families.

Budget highlights include investments in job growth, cancer research, children and seniors, individuals with disabilities, state infrastructure, veterans and their families, our state's natural treasures, and historic funding for K-12 education, state colleges and universities. These investments in Florida's future will help our great state continue on a path toward prosperity and opportunity for generations to come.

