

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Since its inception in 1999, the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County has worked to promote future academic success for the children of this community. This focus is embodied in the Coalition's framework, our mission, vision, and purpose. And this focus drives our continued commitment to an economically healthy Orange County that begins in part with high-quality early learning care and programs.

The 2010-2011 fiscal year was one of great challenge, but also of critical importance. We weathered transitions in senior leadership, endured the challenges of limited resources, posed difficult questions to ourselves with regard to measuring our impact. As a result, we continue our efforts to produce an integrated, high-quality, seamless service delivery system into the next fiscal year with great anticipation and excitement. We are focused, energized and dedicated to ensuring that all Orange County children develop the skills necessary to enter school ready to learn.

We don't do this work alone. Community partners, business leaders, corporations, foundations and policy makers everywhere support us, encourage us and inspire us. These allies give us hope that our charge of combining public and private resources to create an early learning system that Orange County can be proud of is within our grasp.

As a founding member of the Coalition's Board of Directors, never have I been more proud of this organization or more certain of the value that we bring to this community. Since 1999, we have carefully crafted and implemented a variety of programs for children, their parents, and child care providers. These programs and services enhance the quality of services available to the children of Orange County and increase the numbers of children who indeed enter school ready to learn.

We are proud of our accomplishments during the 2010-2011 fiscal year as we worked to strengthen the quality and availability of early care and learning programs in Orange County. Yet we are humbled by the work still to be done.

From this website, we hope that you will gain a stronger appreciation for the importance of early learning and will join us with a renewed commitment to a mission that embraces a bright and positive future for all Orange County children.

Richard Morrison, Chairman
Early Learning Coalition of Orange County
Regional Vice President, Florida Hospital