



NEWS RELEASE

News from Early Learning Coalition of Orange County

For more information, contact:
Stacey Reynolds-Carruth
(407) 259-2468 Direct (407) 697-0316 Cell
SReynolds@elcoc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Early Learning is a Priority!”

Early Learning Coalition of Orange County Helps Set Community Agenda

ORLANDO, Fla. (January 27, 2016) – The message was loud and clear at the breakfast event held by [Early Learning Coalition of Orange County](#)—*Destination Kindergarten: A 2,000 Day Journey* (the approximate days of a child’s life from birth to five).

“Early childhood education can impact everything from success in college to wage earnings as an adult. Studies show it can even impact criminal behavior. “We get it. You get it! But not everyone does. And not everyone can afford early childhood education”, said Orlando Sentinel columnist and event emcee, Scott Maxwell.

Hosted at the Winter Park Community Center, guests responded to the message by making donations to help Early Learning Coalition of Orange County launch its annual giving society in support of programs and initiatives to help young children. In an update to the board, Karen Willis, Chief Executive Officer, reported, “We received \$15,265 in cash and multi-year pledges. This equals \$239,202 in match contributions!

Event sponsors of *Destination Kindergarten: A 2,000 Day Journey* were: Herzing University, Molina Healthcare, UF-Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies; and our media partner Orlando Sentinel Media Group.

Destination Kindergarten is one of a few community events in which the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County will participate in celebration of the State of Florida’s *Children’s Week* and *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* Coalition volunteers and staff will host guest, *Celebrity Readers*, distribute books and educational supplies to some of its 750 early learning childhood providers. This weekend, January 29-30, the Coalition will also host a [literacy corner](#) at the *Zora Neale Hurston Festival* in historic Eatonville, FL where 1,000 books for children will be donated... all with the intent of raising awareness that *Early Learning* is a must and a priority for all children in Orange County.

###

Early Learning Coalition of Orange County

The vision of the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is to ensure that all Orange County children are fully prepared to enter school, ready to learn. The organization has worked since 2000 to provide leadership, guidance and support for School Readiness and VPK programs for children in Orange County. For additional information on the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County or its programs, please visit www.elcoc.org or call (407) 841-6607.

Ensuring all Orange County children enter school ready to learn.