



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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ELC News Alert

Issue 2
February/March 2011

President's Message



Dear Friends,

Black History Month was created to commemorate the struggles, achievements, and milestones of African Americans in our country's history. While this month-long occasion is intended to identify and celebrate the contributions of African Americans, it also serves to inspire learning for those of *all* ages and ethnicities. I hope you will use these next four weeks to use the lessons from our nation's past to help us create a more harmonious future. One way in which we can fully realize this is by helping ensure that each and every child receives the high-quality early care and education they deserve. Let us continue playing our part by making this dream a reality.

I remain at your service,

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

Important Announcements

Celebrate Black History Month

February is Black History Month. The Father of Black History, Carter G. Woodson, Ph.D., was an African-American historian, author, and journalist who wanted to celebrate the achievements and contributions of African-Americans. In 1926, he chose the month of February to commemorate black history because it was the birth-month of both former President Abraham Lincoln and former slave and



Monday, Feb. 7
8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Joint Provider
Services & Monroe
Advisory Committees
Friday, Feb. 11
1:00 p.m.
St. James Children's
Center, Islamorada

Program & Strategy
Tuesday, Feb. 22
3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Board Strategic
Planning Retreat
Saturday, Feb. 26
8:30 a.m.
United Way of Miami-
Dade, Miami

Finance
Wednesday, March 2
8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board
Monday, March 7
8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Program & Strategy
Tuesday, March 29
3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Finance
Wednesday, March 30
8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

For a complete
list of upcoming
Coalition
meetings and
events,
please visit our
website at
www.elcmdm.org

Contact us

abolitionist leader, Frederick Douglass. Woodson also co-founded what is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

Listed below are some webpages with Black History Month activities and learning opportunities in which parents and caregivers may participate with their young children:

<http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/black-history.htm>

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/black-history-month/holidays/32871.html>

<http://www.suite101.com/content/black-history-preschool-plans-a44342>

*Pictured to the right is the August 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington, DC.

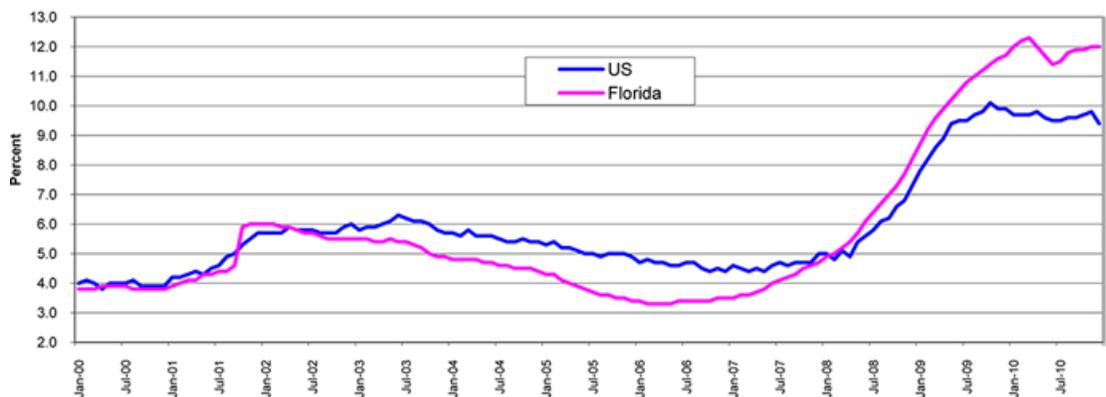
Congratulations to Camp Carnival, the Winner of our 2010 Holiday Donation Drive!

In December of 2010, the ELC participated in a holiday donation drive for Lotus House, a unique resource center and residential facility serving homeless women and infants in Overtown. As an extra incentive we pledged to give over 300 books for young children ages zero to five to the provider that donated the most baby items. We wish to gratefully acknowledge Camp Carnival for their generosity.

AWI Releases Unemployment Figures for December 2010

AWI reports that the State's seasonally adjusted unemployment figure for December of last year is 12.0 percent, the same rate as the month before it, November of 2010. While the percentage has not changed, Cynthia Lorenzo, Director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation, says that December was the sixth consecutive month of job gains, a positive sign for the State.

United States and Florida Unemployment Rates (seasonally adjusted)



Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For more information on Florida's unemployment rates, please visit
http://www.floridajobs.org/publications/news_rel/LMS%20Release%2001-21-11.pdf.

*Source: AWI press release, January 21, 2011 - Florida's December Employment Figures Released.

The United States Education Dashboard

The U.S. Department of Education launched a new website, the *United States Education Dashboard*, to provide convenient and transparent access to key national and state education data. This information highlights progress being made throughout the nation in every level of the education system and encourages communities to engage in a

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2555 Ponce de Leon
Blvd., 5th Floor
Coral Gables,
FL 33134
305.646.7220
305.447.1608 (fax)

Monroe
1100 Simonton
Street, Suite 1-204
Key West,
FL 33040
305.296.5557
305.296.5588 (fax)

www.elcmdm.org

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conversation about their schools and improving educational results. To review the country's progress, please visit <http://dashboard.ed.gov/>.

Save the Date

Join Authors Lynne Katz and Judge Cindy Lederman as they Discuss their New Book, Effectively Navigate the Child Welfare System with Child-Centered Practices for the Courtroom and Community

Attend the book-signing and discussion with Authors Lynne Katz and Judge Cindy Lederman: Thursday, February 10, 2011; 6:00 p.m.

Books & Books
265 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables
305-442-4408

Effectively Navigate the Child Welfare System with Child-Centered Practices for the Courtroom and Community addresses the most effective ways to work through the court-system, enhance child-parent relationships, and plan interventions for vulnerable young children and their families. For additional details and to view the flyer, please visit <http://www.elcmdm.org/downloads/events/BooksBooksflyer.pdf>.

Celebrate Children's Week with the ELC and Miami Children's Museum

Children's Week Celebration

When: March 18, 2011

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Miami Children's Museum - 980 Macarthur Causeway, Miami 33132

Special Guests/Participants: The City of Miami Fire-Rescue Department and Todo Frio Ice Cream will be participating this year. Event flyer is forthcoming!



www.childrensmovementflorida.org.

Children's Movement of Florida

The Children's Movement of Florida is a statewide, citizen-led, non-partisan campaign with the objective of educating political, business and civic leaders - and all parents in Florida - about the urgent need to improve the way we care for our children, making the well-being and education of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens, Florida's highest priority. To learn more about the movement, please visit

Team Member Spotlight

Natalia Delgado has worked as the Coalition's Quality Assurance monitor for the past year and eight months. In her position she monitors a variety of contracts funded by the Agency for Workforce Innovation, The Children's Trust and the Department of Children and Families, creating tools that monitor the duties of the contractor or subcontractor as stated in the statement of work and performance standards. The results are used to determine compliance. Natalia also helps ensure that all required timeframes are met and documentation is supplied for the ELC audits conducted by the various funding agencies.



"The Quality Assurance unit ensures that our contractors and subcontractors are operating

at the highest level possible and thus providing the best services to our community. I take pride in being able to make a difference, and giving our children a chance to achieve educational success. They are our future," Natalia says.

Previously, Natalia was a career development counselor for a youth program funded by the South Florida Workforce at the Cuban American National Council. Three years prior to her tenure as a career counselor she worked as a case manager for S.A.B.E.R. (Spanish American Basic Education and Rehabilitation) and as a counselor for the Stay in School program at Coral Park Senior High School. Since 2007 Natalia has also been teaching criminal justice and business as a professor at Florida National College.

In her spare time Natalia enjoys spending time with family and friends. She is also very much interested in the arts and enjoys attending operas, plays, and visiting museums.

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

School Readiness (SR)

ELC Board Approves Two New Important Provider Policies

Two new important provider policies have been approved by the Coalition's Board. One policy requires that School Readiness providers in Miami-Dade County receiving federal and state funds must become licensed by July 1, 2010.

The other is the Child Safety and Licensing Policy which states that providers who have one Class I violation or two Class II violations within a twelve-month period will be notified of possible suspension from the School Readiness program. Both policies are implemented to ensure that only the highest quality care, education, and safety are provided for our children. To learn more details about each policy, please visit www.elcmdm.org.

Save the Date

Inclusion Programming Meeting

February 10, 2011

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) OR 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ELC Board Room

Inclusion Services program for all School Readiness children: Meet our new Inclusion partner Citrus Health Network and find out how they can help your children improve their scores on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) as well as their kindergarten readiness scores. Please RSVP early to kalonso@elcmdm.org or 305-646-7220, ext. 301, as there are limited spaces. Light refreshments will be provided.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

Download the Newly Revised VPK Provider Agreement and Forms 10 & 11

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) has revised VPK-Forms 10, 11, and the Provider Agreement. These forms will be used starting with the summer VPK applications and are

currently available on our website at <http://www.vpkhelp.org/policies-and-forms/forms.html>.

VPK Trainings - January 2011

Florida VPK Assessment Training - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

North Dade

St. John the Apostle School, 479 East 4 Street, Hialeah

Tuesday, February 8, 2011; Reference #1139

Tuesday, March 8, 2011; Reference #1142

South Dade

Miami-Dade College, 500 College Terrace, Bldg. G, Room 206, Homestead

Thursday, February 10, 2011; Reference #1148

Thursday, March 10, 2011; Reference #1150

Special Instructions: Participants must bring their Florida VPK Assessment Kits to participate in the training and receive the **FREE** 0.3 CEUs. The training begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. Anyone arriving at 5:45 p.m. or later will not be admitted--NO EXCEPTIONS. Thank you for your cooperation.

2008 VPK Standards Training - 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

North Dade

St. John the Apostle School, 479 East 4 Street, Hialeah

Tuesday, February 22, 2011; Reference #1140

Tuesday, March 22, 2011; Reference #1145

South Dade

Miami-Dade College, 500 College Terrace, Bldg. G, Room 206, Homestead

Thursday, February 24, 2011; Reference #1149

Thursday, March 24, 2011; Reference #1151

Special Instructions: Training begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. Anyone arriving at 5:45 p.m. or later will not be admitted--NO EXCEPTIONS. The course is \$10.00 and must be paid for at the time of registration. Please go to Step 4 when registering. VISA or MasterCard are accepted. Please note that cash and/or checks will not be accepted at the training, and there are NO REFUNDS. You will receive 0.3 CEUs for your attendance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Monroe County News Briefs

Save the Date

Joint Provider Services Committee & Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, February 11, 2011; 1:00 p.m.

St. James Children's Center, 87500 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada

Please join ELC Provider Services Committee board members, Monroe Advisory Committee board members, President and CEO Evelio Torres, ELC staff and our community partners as we discuss important information of interest and concern to our early care and education provider community. Provider participation is strongly encouraged in-person, via conference call or via videoconferencing. To participate via conference call, the call-in number is 1-888-813-8477, pass code 143130.

Monroe County Children's Movement Meeting

Friday, February 18, 2011; 9:00 a.m.

Wesley House Family Services, 1304 Truman Ave., Key West

Your input and participation is invited at the organizational meeting to discuss the next steps moving into the spring and additional strategies to keep Monroe County actively involved in the Children's Movement.

Pyramid Model Trainings Coming in March

The ELC's Monroe office and our partners, Wesley House and the Monroe County School District's Head Start and Child Find programs, will be sponsoring a 3-part series of Pyramid Model Trainings to continue the year-long focus on preventing and addressing challenging behaviors in the classroom. The series will be offered in the Upper, Middle and Lower Keys, dates and times to be announced. Topics will include: the importance of teaching social and emotional skills; developing friendship skills; enhancing emotional literacy; identifying feelings in self and others; controlling anger and impulse; and developing problem solving skills. The series will be free to providers and all materials will be provided.

Monroe County Child Passenger Safety Campaign

It is estimated that 4 out of 5 children's car seats are used improperly. The Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition has received a Department of Transportation grant to offer monthly child car seat installations and inspections for any parent/guardian in Monroe County. Certified child passenger safety technicians will be on hand to properly install car seats; inspect previously installed car seats; and educate parents on appropriate child passenger safety. Low-cost car seats may be available on an as-needed basis. The ELC is pleased to partner with this child passenger safety campaign to provide "Look Before You Lock" hang-tags for participants' rearview mirrors. For more information, please contact the Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition at 305-293-8424.

Upcoming dates and locations are as follows:

February 19	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Centennial Bank, 11290 Overseas Hwy., Marathon
March 26	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Publix, 101437 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo
April 16	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Centennial Bank, 2514 N. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West

Quality Counts

Save the Date

Join the QC Team for a Healthy Living Training

Healthy Living Trainings address ways to prevent obesity and live a healthier lifestyle. Sessions are presented in both English and Spanish and are a perfect opportunity to earn in-service credit hours. Breakfast will also be provided. For a schedule of session dates and to learn the list of training locations, please visit

<http://elcmdm.org/downloads/ObesityTrainingFeb2011.pdf>.

Early education. Lifelong success.

