



PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY – January 2023

1. **Building Update** – Bob and I have compiled all the building deficiencies into one report that has been submitted to the attorneys for response. Our hope is to have a response soon to our negotiation items or a decision on the termination of the lease. As soon as we hear more, we will update you on this issue.
2. **Legislative Planning** –
 - a. Claudia and I will be visiting members next week in order to get a sponsor to submit the appropriations request for an expansion of Help Me Grow. We have two options for expansion – an increase to the capacity of current affiliates and a statewide expansion of the program. We will also be discussing the importance of the TEACH Program with the chair of the corresponding appropriations subcommittee during these visits.
 - b. I have been asked to present an overview of historical policy development of Florida's early learning system at a House Education Quality Subcommittee meeting next month. I will let you know the date and time as soon as it is released.
3. **Relationship Highlights** –
 - a. The *American Rescue Plan Act* Spending Plan was revised through a stakeholder group and is awaiting approval from the Legislature this month. For this revised plan, DEL requested an estimate for TEACH expansion. Our proposal included an increase of \$1.7 million to increase the number of scholars we can take as well as introduce new models. I will let you know once this has been approved or revised.
 - b. The ELC of Orange contract should be executed next week to implement Incentive\$ in their county in the amount of \$1,500,000. This will start February 2023.
 - c. We are working with the ELC of Broward to increase contract by \$400,000. Additionally, we are meeting next week to discuss the development of a workforce registry for their county.
 - d. Arkansas AEYC has increased their SaaS contract by almost \$10,000 on top of the \$115,000 they originally committed to.
4. **Recent/Upcoming Events**
 - a. 2/2/23 – Dana Trabulsy and I will be sitting on panel for the Broward ELC to discuss the current state of the early learning field.
 - b. 2/8/23 – The Florida Afterschool Network is hosting their summit in Orlando. This will bring together many stakeholders and policymakers to discuss best practices and issues within out-of-school-time programs.
 - c. 3/26/23-3/31/23 – Children's Week is occurring. We hope you will participate in the events of this week as we highlight the importance of protecting Florida's children.

Project Updates

- a. We completed the first draft of the statewide workforce study for DEL and are awaiting its release to the public. We are continuing to work on an executive summary of this report highlighting the most significant and impactful findings.
- b. The CLASS team has completed almost 1000 assessments across the state to date.
- c. There are around 2000 active scholars in the TEACH program as of today.
- d. HMG just procured a new affiliate, The Children's Home Society, to cover the Pinellas County community. They are already supporting this new team to get the program up and running in their area.
- e. Children's Week has surpassed its partnership goals for this year and has also connected some key legislative leaders to the events. Just a reminder, it is the week of our March board meeting. We would love to have you all in town to join us for this event! It is going to be a wonderful week