



PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY – March 27, 2023

1. **Early Childhood Policy Works Fellowship** – The fellowship is coming to a close. The fellows will participate in a graduation on March 29. We are so proud of their accomplishments and how much they soaked up in the process. After their graduation, we will be facilitating the Association of Early Learning Coalitions' fellowship program. We will begin that process in May 2023.
2. **Legislative Planning** – The first two budget offers came out from the House and Senate. The House moved TEACH nonrecurring to recurring and the Senate added \$2.6M to Help Me Grow. Claudia and I are working to advocate for both budgets to include these changes in their next offers. Additionally, TEACH statute has a proposed modification that the ELCs may reimburse the provider portion of the scholarship. We are okay with this language as it was amended to say “may” instead of “shall”.
3. **Relationship Highlights** –
 - a. The American Rescue Plan Act Budget amendment should be moving through legislative approval soon. We are hopeful that a TEACH expansion is included in the plan. We will update you as soon as we have confirmation.
 - b. The AEYCS of Iowa and Texas have contacted us to explore creating a relationship with us that would be similar to Arkansas. We are in the beginning conversations but seem promising.
 - c. Broward ELC has increased their contract by \$402,000 to accommodate the increased need for INCENTIVE\$ in their community.
 - d. Orange ELC has executed our contract to implement INCENTIVE\$ in their community. This contract is for \$1,500,000. We have already received over 300 applications for this community.
 - e. The assessment team has conducted over 1500 class assessments statewide as of February 2023
4. **Recent/Upcoming Events**
 - a. 3/26-3/31 – Children's Week
 - b. April 2023 – Launch of AELC Fellowship
 - c. April 2023 – Launch of Orange ELC INCENTIVE\$
 - d. April 18-19 – HMG Annual Meeting
 - e. April 25-28 – TEACH National Convening
5. **Staffing Updates**
 - a. We have added a grant writer/research scientist to our staff to help identify and run potential projects for the Forum. The intent is to diversify revenue streams so we can branch out beyond our normal scope. Dr. Tia Walton-Walker came from Florida State University's Autism Institute.
6. **Building Updates**
 - a. Due to the inability to reach a compromise with the landlord, Bob and I participated in an evidentiary hearing to request the termination of our lease. Through the subsequent negotiations, we signed a settlement agreement with the landlord to remedy the building issues. All contracts to address the renovations must be in place by 3/31. HVAC inspections have begun and a contract for window replacement should be in place by next week. Additionally, we contracted for a square footage estimate that will be adjusted in a follow-up amendment. The estimate showed the estimate of 15,590 square feet. We are currently paying for 18,368 square feet so this will hopefully be adjusted in the lease amendment.