



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FORUM GRADUATES- WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

University Graduates



Anita Bushnyakova, Contracts and Grants Specialist, received her Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on Financial Management from Florida State University. Way to go Anita!



Tomica King-Jackson, T.E.A.C.H. Counselor, recently graduated from Walden University with her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Studies with a concentration in Administration, Management, and Leadership. She doesn't march until July, but she is so excited to have made it!

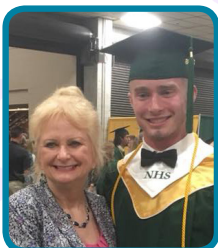
High School Graduates



Eric Shrewsbury, son of **Lisa Adams**, T.E.A.C.H. Assistant Director, graduated from North Florida Christian School in Tallahassee. He will attend Tallahassee Community College in the fall!



E.J. Shorter, son of **Kiki Peters**, WAGE\$ Coordinator, graduated from Lincoln High School in Tallahassee. He will attend Mesabi Range College in Minnesota!



Nicholas Wolfe, grandson of **Phyllis Kalifeh**, President and CEO, graduated from Lincoln High School, as well. He will attend the University of South Florida in the fall and plans to major in Biomedical Science!



Jonathan (Jon) Blanchet, grandson of **Kathy Moffett**, Registry Invoicing Specialist and Data Assistant, graduated from T.R. Robinson High School in Tampa. He is a certified auto mechanic and will begin employment at a Mercedes-Benz Dealership. In addition, Jon is also considering the Air Force National Guard!



Accomplishments!

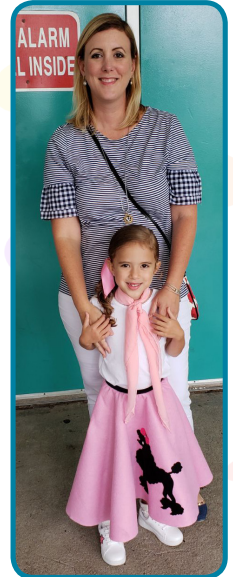


VPK Graduates



Hailey McEllhenney, daughter of **Melissa Clements**, Vice President and Chief Research Officer, graduated from VPK at Annsworth Academy in Tallahassee! She will join her big sister Brooke at Killearn Lakes Elementary School in the fall.

Isa Madriz, daughter of **Veronica Madriz**, Quality Improvement Specialist, graduated from VPK on May 19 in Miami! She danced with her friends to a 50's song and received her diploma.



The Forum's Tallahassee-based offices has some new faces! Please welcome the following employees to our Forum Family!



Amanda Gregory
T.E.A.C.H. Counselor



Ana Gamez
T.E.A.C.H. Administrative Specialist



Tomica King-Jackson
T.E.A.C.H. Counselor



Calvin Bryant
T.E.A.C.H. Assistant (part-time)



Kathryn (Kat) Brockett
T.E.A.C.H. Outreach Assistant (part-time)



Nadia Ruiz
T.E.A.C.H. Assistant (part-time)



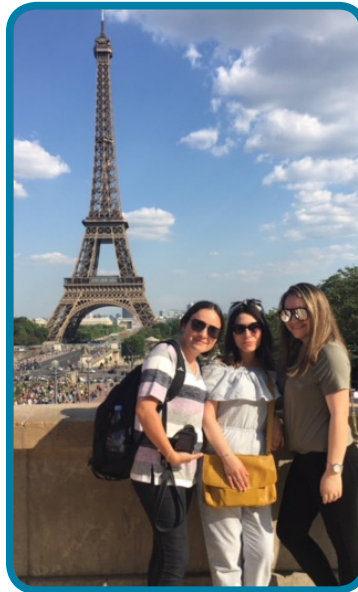
Events and Adventures!



On May 11, Tallahassee-based employees celebrated the upcoming arrival of baby James, son of **Laura Cain**, Registry Coordinator. This is Laura's first child and she is thrilled to become a new mom. Baby James will make his debut in July. Best wishes, Laura!



Sydney Roberts, daughter of **Lisa Roberts**, T.E.A.C.H. Outreach Coordinator, celebrated her First Communion at church on Saturday, May 5. All five of Sydney's grandparents were able to make the trip to Tallahassee. It was a special day for Sydney and Lisa's entire family.



Viviana Avila, Child Care Evaluation Services Specialist, traveled to France with her sister to visit one of her best friends from high school in Colombia! They enjoyed the museums, monuments, restaurants, a cruise through the Seine River, and other wonderful tourist activities in the cities of Rennes, Le Mont Saint-Michel, Fort la Latte, and Cap Fréhel.



The QCCC team enjoyed celebrating the May birthdays of **Veronica Madriz**, **Marjorie Rizzo**, and **Rebeca Quintero-Holly**. Hope you had a wonderful birthday!

Conferences and workshops and summits, oh my!



Lori Stegmeyer, Director of Workforce Initiatives, and **Phyllis Kalifeh**, President and CEO, attended a Compensation Workgroup Summit during the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® 2018 National Professional Development Symposium. The workgroup of early childhood advocates developed a strategic action plan to address the education, compensation, and retention issues facing the early education workforce. Other workgroup attendees included Dr. Herman Knopf from the University of Florida, Roy Keister, a private child care owner and FACCM representative, and Erin Smeltzer, School Readiness Program Unit Manager from Florida's Office of Early Learning.



Denise Bishop, Vice President and Chief Outreach, Innovation and Training Officer, **Felicia Bonner**, Child Care Evaluation Services Director, and **Lisa Roberts**, T.E.A.C.H. Outreach Coordinator, recently attended the 4th Community Summit on Children in Tallahassee. The Summit convened a broad spectrum of community members and business leaders to discuss topics and issues which focused on children and families. In addition, they had the opportunity to interact with other members of the local community who work on similar issues, challenges, and programs.



The QCCC team had the pleasure of attending the 2018 International Conference on Thinking (ICOT) at FIU in Miami. ICOT fosters collegial exchange and educational development around the cultivation of thinking. In between their volunteer duties, the QCCC team had the opportunity to see Howard Gardner and Temple Grandin present and attended many informational sessions.



Recognitions!



The Forum was excited to recognize Representative Byron Donalds at our Statewide Help Me Grow Meeting in Orlando last week! He was one of two recipients for our Legislative Leadership Awards.



Denise Bishop, Vice President and Chief Outreach, Innovation, and Training Officer, serves as a member of the Family Friendly Employers and Culture Task Force! As part of Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum's Family First Initiative, this task force discusses best practices, policies, and programs that employers can establish to provide a family friendly workplace.



Tomica King-Jackson, T.E.A.C.H. Counselor, was recently accepted into the Kappa Delta Pi International Honors Society in Education! Founded in 1911, KDP fosters excellence in education and promotes fellowship among those dedicated to teaching.

The Forum was recently recognized as a Family Friendly Workplace by the City of Tallahassee! This recognition is awarded to businesses that are doing incredible things for their employees, going above and beyond legal requirements. Our efforts and family friendly policies are an ever present reminder of the communities we serve.





Forum Happenings



Shout Outs!



"The Help Me Grow staff would like to thank **Melissa Clements**, Vice President and Chief Research Officer, and **Lori Stegmeyer**, Director of Workforce Initiatives, for serving on the FY18-19 HMG Request for Proposal Evaluation Team. Melissa and Lori spent many hours reading, scoring, and providing comments to 13 proposals. This work requires attention to detail and can be very time consuming. We greatly appreciate their participation!"



-**Tamara Price, Allyson D. Adolphson, Alexandra Goldberg, and Elizabeth O'Neill**



SAVE THE DATE!

Use Your Noodle: Make a Difference
Forum Professional Development Conference

September 19-21

San Pedro Center in Winter Park, FL

Please note: September 19th is a Fall Holiday for Leon County Schools. Please plan accordingly.

Happy Birthday



May / June

Dawn Lynn , T.E.A.C.H	May 05
Kimesha House , Quality Initiatives	May 08
Marjorie Rizzo , QCCC	May 10
Kate Nielsen-Nunez , Fiscal	May 11
Veronica Madriz , QCCC	May 12
Caitlin Eliason , Fiscal	May 17
Nikita Allen , WAGE\$	May 31
Alexandra Goldberg , HMG	June 21
Estela Chang , QCCC	June 27

Happy Anniversary



May

Erika Williams , WAGE\$	11 years
Lisa Roberts , Outreach & Innovation	2 years
Ashley Casey , T.E.A.C.H.	2 years

June

Lisa Adams , T.E.A.C.H.	19 years
Phyllis Kalifeh , President/CEO	18 years
Ingrid Reyes-Jimenez , Registry	2 years
Tamara Price , HMG	2 years
Laura Richardson , Outreach & Innovation	2 years
Anita Bushnyakova , Fiscal	2 years