



Congratulations to the following graduates!
We are so proud of your accomplishments!



Iesha Grinnell, Registry Coach, graduated from the University of West Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences: Public Health!



Jalin Nelloms, son of **Tamela Nelloms**, HR/Executive Assistant, graduated from Rickards High School! He will attend Lively Technical College in the fall to study aviation or welding.



Jason Cruz, stepson of **Dasiely Cruz**, ELCC Director, graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes School! He will attend Christopher Columbus High School in August.



Jack and Miles Quinnell, sons of **Melissa Quinnell**, WAGE\$ Counselor, completed 8th grade at Cobb Middle School. They will join their older brother Carlin at Leon High School in August.



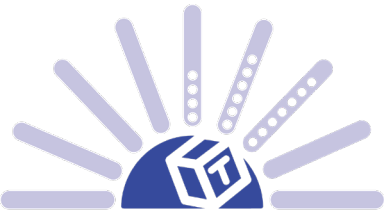
Carter Wilson, son of **Heather Wilson**, T.E.A.C.H. Counselor, completed 8th grade at Deerlake Middle School! He will join his older brother Nolan at Chiles High School in August.



Sydney Lee Brown, daughter of **Jenna Brown**, Communications Director, completed VPK at Good Samaritan Academy. She will attend kindergarten and join big brother Quint at Florida High in the fall!



Program Spotlight



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®

FLORIDA

A Program of Children's Forum, Inc.

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Because you asked, issues of Forum Focus will now spotlight one of our programs or services. In doing so, other Forum departments will better understand the important role we all play in fulfilling our mission. This issue's spotlight features the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship program.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship Program (T.E.A.C.H.) is helping to establish a well-qualified, fairly-compensated and stable workforce for Florida's children. Operated by the Children's Forum, T.E.A.C.H. creates access to higher education for early childhood educators working with young children. T.E.A.C.H. provides scholarships for early educators to work toward an Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's Degree in early childhood, a Florida Staff Credential, a Florida Director Credential, or credential renewals.

T.E.A.C.H. maintains a three-way partnership in which the early childhood educator, the sponsoring program (their employer), and T.E.A.C.H. share the costs for classes, books, and time away from work. Scholars earn a raise or bonus after the successful completion of an educational year and agree to work for at least one year at their sponsoring program.

Meet the T.E.A.C.H. Team!



Lori Stegmeyer
Director of Workforce Initiatives



Lisa Adams
Assistant Director



Ashley Casey
Program Specialist



Melissa Castro
Program Specialist



Tami Fletcher
Program Specialist



Erika Frisby
Counselor



Emily Fulkerson
Counselor



Martha Grant
Counselor



Paula Grant
Reimbursement Specialist



Amanda Gregory
Counselor



Program Spotlight



Meet the T.E.A.C.H. Team!



**Lolita
Hawkins**
Administrative
Specialist



**Camisha
Hodge**
Assistant



**Tomica
King-Jackson**
Counselor



**Chelsea
Lister**
Senior Program
Specialist



**Jessica
Long**
Counselor



**Dawn
Lynn**
Program
Specialist



**Samantha
May**
Program
Specialist



**Grace
Moore**
File Clerk



**Angela
Nathan**
Counselor



**Jasmine
Richardson**
Counselor



**Brenda
Romuald**
Assistant



**Mary
Terry**
Assistant



**Cheslee
Williamson**
Counselor



**Heather
Wilson**
Counselor



Conferences and Events



Florida is one of two states to be included in an Early Childhood Higher Education Barriers initiative. The Children’s Forum has been selected to administer the initiative in Florida, which includes **Phyllis Kalifeh**, President and CEO, **Lori Stegmeyer**, Director of Workforce Initiatives, **Melissa Clements**, Vice President and Chief Research Officer, **Denise Bishop**, Vice President and Chief Outreach, Innovation and Training Officer, and **Bob Buesing**, the Forum’s Board Chair, business leaders, other early learning advocates, and stakeholders. The initiative seeks to reduce barriers, increase diversity, and facilitate the successful completion of higher education certificates and degrees for early childhood educators in Florida.

The **Help Me Grow® Florida** team attended the Help Me Grow National Forum in Buffalo, New York last month! Hosted by HMG of Western NY, the conference featured incredible keynote speakers and was a great opportunity to connect with other HMG state affiliates. Alexandra presented with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and some of her fellow Act Early Ambassadors on how HMG can collaborate with the “Learn the Signs. Act Early” campaign.



Chelsea Lister, Senior T.E.A.C.H. Program Specialist, **Lisa Adams**, T.E.A.C.H. Assistant Director, **Martha Grant**, T.E.A.C.H. Counselor, and **Kiki Peters**, WAGE\$ Coordinator, were honored and recognized at the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood National Center Symposium for their years of service and commitment to increasing the education, compensation, and retention of the child care workforce. Their service ranged from 5 years to 20 years!





Events and Adventures!



The Early Learning Career Center team, along with the Children's Trust and Florida International University (FIU) professors, celebrated the graduations of early childhood educators from FIU! These educators will impact children in the Miami-Dade community.



Lisa Roberts, (Project Manager, ACSU), and her daughter Sydney recently ventured on a weekend trip to the Jacksonville Zoo with Sydney's Brownie Girl Scout troop. The group enjoyed an overnight trip to the zoo and slept next to the tiger exhibit. One of the many highlights of the trip was feeding the giraffes!



Angela Nathan, T.E.A.C.H. Counselor, and her daughter attended the 2nd annual Mother & Daughter Tea Party in Havana! They had a wonderful time.



Margot and Bridget Mooney, daughters of **Denise Bishop**, Vice President and Chief Research Officer, are living their best lives! Margot is studying abroad this summer with an FSU cohort at the Jonkoping University in Sweden. Bridget, who just finished her junior year of high school, visited China and Japan for an educational adventure.





Events and Awards!



Emily Fulkerson, T.E.A.C.H. Counselor, married Robert Hayes on April 27, 2019 at St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral. Congratulations to the happy couple!



Martha Grant, T.E.A.C.H. Counselor, **Kiki Peters**, WAGE\$ Coordinator, **Viviana Avila**, CCES Specialist, and **Jinan As-Siddiq**, Shared Services Coordinator, and friends met up in Puerto Rico for an exciting kickoff to the summer. While there, they visited Toro Verde Adventure Park in Orocovis to complete an awesome zip line course in the mountains. The trip was filled with fun, food, and laughter.



Kate Kirchhoff, daughter of **Bill Kirchhoff**, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, recently won the 2019 Congressional Art Competition for Second District of North Florida! Her piece will be hung in the U.S. Capitol. The rising senior at Chiles High School will be flying to Washington, D.C. to attend a reception and a tour of the Capitol. Kate also received \$500 and, should she wish to attend, an art scholarship to the Savannah College of Art and Design.



Forum Happenings



Shout Outs!

"Sending a Shout out to **Cathy Hall**, HMG's new Contracts Compliance Specialist, for hitting the ground running in her new position. Welcome to the team, Cathy!"

-Alexandra Greenberg

"Special thanks to **Phyllis Kalifeh**, President and CEO, for her generosity by giving my oldest son Chris her office furniture. She helped furnish his new apartment. A big shout out to **Camisha Hodge**, T.E.A.C.H. Assistant, her son Les, and **Lolita Hawkins**, T.E.A.C.H. Administrative Specialist, for rolling up their sleeves to help Chris and I move the sofa. I am thankful for my entire Children's Forum Family. "

-Tomica King-Jackson



"I would like to give a shout out to **Emily Fulkerson**, T.E.A.C.H. Counselor, for helping me with my work load. I was feeling overwhelmed and without hesitation, she offered her assistance. It was so appreciated!"

-Angela Nathan

"I want to send a shout out to **Tomica King-Jackson** and **Amanda Gregory**, T.E.A.C.H. Counselors, for responding so quickly to my emails. It makes my job so much easier."

-Dawn Lynn



"The Early Learning Career Center team celebrated **Leidy Sevilla**, Program Support Specialist, for Administrative Professionals Day. She keeps us organized, manages deadlines, and keeps the office running smoothly. We could not ask for a better colleague."

-Dasiely Cruz





Forum Happenings



Happy Birthday

May

Dawn Lynn, T.E.A.C.H. May 05
Amanada Gregory, T.E.A.C.H. May 06
Kate Nielsen-Nunez, Fiscal..... May 11
Caitlin Eliason, Fiscal..... May 17
Nikita Allen, WAGE\$ May 31

June

Julia Edwards, WAGE\$ June 07
Alexandra Goldberg, HMG..... June 21

Happy Anniversary

May

Erika Williams, WAGE\$ 12 years
Lisa Roberts, ACSU 3 years
Ashley Casey, T.E.A.C.H. 3 years
Amanda Gregory, T.E.A.C.H..... 1 year
Tomica King-Jackson, T.E.A.C.H..... 1 year
Kathryn Brockett, Outreach and Innovation 1 year

June

Lisa Adams, T.E.A.C.H..... 20 years
Phyllis Kalifeh, Admin..... 19 years
Tamara Price, Help Me Grow 3 years
Laura Richardson, Outreach and Innovation... 3 years
Anita Bushnyakova, Fiscal 3 years
Melissa Quinnell, WAGE\$ 1 year

Welcome Newbies!



Tami Fletcher
T.E.A.C.H. Program
Specialist



Catherine Hall
HMG Contracts
Compliance Specialist



Samantha May
T.E.A.C.H. Program
Specialist