MEDIA ALERT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15506 County Line Road
Spring Hill, FL 34610
Phone: (727) 233-8291 ext. 115
Fax: 727.857.0151
Contact: Melinda Velez
Email: m.velez@phelc.org

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. launches

The Promise Institute for Early Childhood Educators.

Spring Hill, FL (January 17, 2020) The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. (PHELC) is expanding its educational training platform with the announcement of The Promise Institute which serves to empower early childhood educators and its commitment to ongoing professional development. **On Friday, February 7th, PHELC celebrates the launch of The Promise Institute with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Early Learning Coalition's main office located at 15506 County Line Road, Spring Hill, FL 34610. Ribbon Cutting ceremony will begin at 9:00 am, followed by refreshments.**

For over a decade, PHELC has hosted its annual Early Learning Conference which is one of the largest conferences for early learning educators hosted by a coalition in the state of Florida. ***"The coalition has always supported the need to provide teachers the best training we can offer, so children benefit and develop a love of learning in their early years."*** Explained PHELC Executive Director, Steve Knobl, Ph.D. ***"We recognize that an educated early childhood professional will positively influence a child's scholastic future."*** said Knobl. Since 2005, PHELC's strategic mission has been to create a supportive community for children to be successful in school and life.

"The Promise Institute starts off with a promise: to offer ongoing, high-quality professional development for early learning educators. We want teachers to be motivated to increase interactions with their classrooms and build relationships with the communities and the families they serve." commented PHELC Senior Training Specialist, Dawn Espinoza.

An example of the overall curriculum will include: PHELC Trainings such as Volunteer Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Math, VKP Language, VPK Standards Training, VPK Phonological Awareness Training, Circle of Security for Parent and Teacher training, CLASS observation Preschool Course and many more including certifications, development, social and emotional trainings. Participants (not limited to Pasco and Hernando County residents) may earn CEU's (Continuing Education Units) when completing courses. The Promise Institute has the distinction of being *IACET accredited (International Association for Continuing Education and Training).

The Promise Institute operates under PHELC, a 501c3 organization. It is funded as part of PHELC's education and quality programming. The Promise Institute will be seeking grants for educational resources and technology improvements. For more information about The Promise Institute, please call 727-233-8291.

###

About the Coalition: *The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is a 501c3 organization and one of 30 Early Learning Coalitions in Florida. Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program is for all children who are four-years old on or before September 1. School Readiness provides subsidized childcare for low-to-moderate income working families. The nonprofit serves over 12,000 children between infancy and twelve-years old, working with more than 300 providers in both counties.* *The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is accredited by the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) and is accredited to issue the IACET CEU.