

Pasco County Early Childhood Program Director Earns the Florida Head Start Association Administrator of the Year Award

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – December 1, 2024—Vicki Wolin, Pasco County School Director of Early Childhood programs, has been awarded the Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) Administrator of the Year for her innovative leadership and significant contributions to the children and families of Pasco County. Her work has positively impacted the lives of countless children and families, making her a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

With over 35 years in early care and education, Ms. Wolin's career journey has been a testament to her unwavering dedication to the field. Her roles have ranged from teaching in classrooms to holding administrative positions such as Assistant Principal and Principal. She holds various certifications, a clear demonstration of her commitment to providing a solid educational foundation for young learners.

With a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Masters in Educational Leadership, Ms. Wolin has effectively mobilized resources and expanded educational opportunities by prioritizing funding for classroom coaching and mental health coordinators. These efforts address the mental health needs of children, families, and staff in her community. As a Pasco Hernando Early Learning Coalition member and an FHSA Board of Director, she shares her expertise in shaping early childhood education and policy in her community to advocate for the specific needs of families and children. With her leadership, Pasco County Early Childhood programs host various community-based family support events such as their Community Baby Shower. This event provides expectant mothers and new parents valuable responses such as free health screening, baby care essentials, and educational materials on child development. Other community-wide events centered around engaging children, families, and staff include La Hora del Café (Coffee Hour), Health Prevention Workshops, Professional Learning Communities, and One-on-One Parenting curriculum sessions.

Ms. Wolin is revered as a visionary leader who fosters collaboration and creates an inclusive environment for the children and families being served by Pasco County and for her dedicated team of educators and support staff who share her passion for early childhood education.

The FHSA annual awards luncheon will occur on December 11, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando as part of the association's 25th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Conference. Complete details are available at <u>www.FLHeadStart.org.</u>

About FHSA

The Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) is a nonprofit organization that empowers its members to advocate for and enhance education, health, and social services for 45,000 children and families in Florida. Head Start is a key player in the early childhood education landscape, providing critical services, including

school readiness and comprehensive health support, guided by the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Since 1999, FHSA has organized impactful events and training sessions to elevate discussions within the Head Start community. FHSA's dedication to this cause is unwavering, striving to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the most at-risk children and families.

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