



Instructional Coach with Brevard Public Schools Head Start Receives State Award from the Florida Head Start Association

For Immediate Release

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – December 1, 2024- Michelle Dale, Instructional Coach with Brevard Public Schools Head Start, receives the distinguished honor of Staff of the Year award from the Florida Head Start Association (FHSA), a recognition of her outstanding contributions to early childhood education.

Ms. Dale's journey with Brevard Public Schools Head Start began nine years ago as a Head Start Teacher. Her dedication and passion for early childhood education led her to become an Instructional Coach in 2018, a role in which she has significantly contributed to the team. Her ability to mentor new coaches has been instrumental in the organization's success. She has led a district-level literacy course to improve instruction for early childhood teachers and family services initiatives with innovative new practices. Michelle is a true systems leader. Cindy Kaier, Education Manager of Brevard Public Schools, stated that she is not only an instructional coach for the Head Start program but is also considered by many to be an instructional leader throughout the district.

She earned her Arts degree in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She also holds a State of Florida Teaching Certificate in Early Childhood Education and a Micro-Credential through the University of Florida in Early Childhood Language and Literacy. Her involvement within Brevard Public Schools Head Start spans from having developed and designed summer transition calendars providing daily activities for learning and creating video lessons parents can do at home during the summer, developing individualized packets for parents to avoid the summer slide, and creating a summer backpack project filled with learning materials and resources about summer library programs. She also developed a tool that aligns classroom routines with the Florida Education Development Standards and Head Start Learning Outcomes to enhance services for families.

Ms. Dale's many contributions have had a profound impact program-wide, and her shared leadership with school principals has significantly enhanced the quality and fidelity of coaching teachers receive. Her district-led literacy course, High-Impact reading Interventions and Targeted Supports (HITS), has not only improved instruction for Head Start teachers but also for kindergarten teachers who receive children from the Head Start program, ensuring children have every opportunity to make a successful transition into kindergarten.

The FHSA annual awards luncheon, where Ms. Dale will be honored, 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. We invite you to join us in celebrating her achievements. Complete details are available at www.FLHeadStart.org.

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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