



## The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. Staff Receives State Award from the Florida Head Start Association

For Immediate Release

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**TALLAHASSEE, FL -September 5, 2023** – The Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) has selected Alisa Thornton as their 2023 Staff of the Year recipient. Representing all Head Start programs statewide, the FHSA recognizes Ms. Thornton for her abilities to positively impact the lives of children, parents, and teachers in her role as Early Childhood Development and Education Services Manager for The Agriculture and Labor Program (ALPI).

Ms. Thornton began her career with ALPI over 23 years ago, where she started as a teacher assistant. She worked her way up and was eventually promoted to the role she holds today. She holds a Master of Science degree in Teaching and Learning with an emphasis in Early Literacy from Nova Southeastern University. Ms. Thornton maintains multiple state Train the Trainer certifications and collaborates with the public school system as well as various early learning-focused community organizations to help other providers enhance the teaching quality of their programs.

The contributions made by Ms. Thornton have impacted the entire organization's early childcare education team. She developed a coaching and mentoring system that assists in setting professional development goals for each teaching staff's needs that improves teacher/child interactions. She also spearheaded improvements by introducing technology to support student learning and parent/child engagement. Ms. Thornton consistently stands out by offering innovative ideas that improve their organization's performance which can be seen through positive Federal Reviews and obtaining accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The Head Start Grantee Recipient selects nominees and is evaluated by a panel of peers and chosen by the FHSA awards committee. Recipients will be honored during the FHSA annual awards luncheon at the Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village in Cape Coral, Florida, on October 27. Complete details are available on our website, [www.FLHeadStart.org](http://www.FLHeadStart.org).

### **About FHSA**

*The Florida Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 42,014 children and families in Florida. Head Start is an innovative federal-to-local program delivering services from school readiness, comprehensive health, and family support services. The Head Start Program Performance Standards drive programs to strengthen and improve the quality to ensure that all children start school ready to succeed. FHSA has been the voice for Florida's most vulnerable children and families since 1999 and is committed to enhancing and supporting the capability of local Head Start programs in the delivery of high-quality services for our children and families.*

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