

## **Early Learning Coalition Appoints Successor Executive Director**



**Spring Hill, FL** (October 20, 2017) After a six month nationwide search, the Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties unanimously appointed **Dr. Steve Knobl** as its new Executive Director at a Special Meeting on 10/13/17. Knobl, a long-time resident of Pasco County, succeeds current Executive Director Jim Farrelly, who retires in January 2018 after 10 years of Coalition leadership and a 44-year career.

Fifty-one persons expressed interest in this non-profit leadership opportunity, advertised nationally via the American Association of School Administrators and the Non-Profit Times. Additionally, the position was widely advertised through Florida's Association of School Administrators and via the Tampa Bay Times. Sixteen fully qualified candidates were considered; the Board of Directors interviewed five applicants prior to selection of Dr. Knobl.

Currently, Dr. Knobl serves as Chief Executive Officer, Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County. Previously, Dr. Knobl served as Regional Campus Director and Academic Dean, Rasmussen College and enjoyed a long administrative career within the Pasco County School District, including a four-year term as High School Principal. Dr. Knobl previously served on the Coalition's Board of Directors, both as a business representative and as a "Community At Large" member.

Steve earned his undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from the University of Central Florida, a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Saint Leo University and a doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction, University of South Florida.

Dr. Knobl's rich experience in education, his knowledge of the Early Learning Coalition model of service delivery to our communities, and detailed familiarity with the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando County made him an ideal candidate for appointment. He clearly communicated his primary objective – "*service to children and families,*" in his pre-appointment presentations to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Knobl will join the Coalition in early January, assuring a smooth leadership transition.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Ramute (Jak) Jakubauskas, Human Resources, at 727-233-8291 or [r.jakubauskas@phelc.org](mailto:r.jakubauskas@phelc.org)

**About the Coalition:** *The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is 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 13,000 children between infancy and twelve-years old, working with more than 400 providers in both counties.*