

Message from the President & CEO

Evelio C. Torres

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On Saturday, February 14, 2009, I attended a legislative forum with Representatives James Bush, III (D-109) and Dwight Bullard (D-118). The forum was organized by the Alliance for Early Care & Education in collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. Providers were offered an opportunity to discuss proposed legislation and other challenges facing early childhood education. Participants asked questions, exchanged ideas and provided feedback in an open and honest dialogue with the panel. David Lawrence, Jr., ELC Board member and President of The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, gave an inspiring speech about the importance of advocacy and active involvement in the future of our children's early education.

To continue making positive strides in our community in these challenging economic times, it is more important than ever that we work collaboratively towards the common goal of improving our early education system. We have accomplished a lot, but much more work remains to be done.

Please know that there is a strong and consistent advocacy effort taking place on your behalf at the state level. The effort includes members of the board of directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, the Early Learning Advisory Council, the Florida Children Services Council, and others. Our main funder, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, has also been very actively involved in advocating in front of the legislature for resources to support early education. As you already know, I also spend a good part of my time locally and in Tallahassee addressing issues that impact you, your work, our community, our children and our families.

As an example of the outstanding advocacy efforts by our board, I would like to share with you an article written by our founding board member Mr. David Lawrence, Jr., that recently appeared in The St. Petersburg Times.

I remain at your service.

Sincerely,
Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO

