



Miami Dade County Head Start/Early Head Start Disabilities Coordinator Selected as State Association Achievement Award Recipient

For Immediate Release

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – December 1, 2024—The Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) has selected Ms. Nadeige Laleau as this year's Achievement Award recipient. This award recognizes a Head Start/Early Head Start program's Disabilities Services Coordinator for their incomparable work guaranteeing the delivery of services to children with disabilities while empowering parents as their children's advocates.

With 33 years of experience dedicated to the early childhood sector, she began her career as a teaching assistant. She holds multiple degrees, including an Associate's degree in Art, an Associate's degree in Science-Child Development, a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education, including Kindergarten through twelfth grade. She holds the State of Florida Professional Educators Certificate in Varying Exceptionalists with a Pre-Kindergarten Handicapped Endorsement, a Director credential, and multiple training certificates.

In the Miami-Dade County Head Start/Early Head Start program, she has been instrumental in developing a more efficient referral system for children, ensuring those identified with developmental concerns receive the appropriate referrals and support. Her expertise in identifying areas of need and coordinating support services has significantly impacted the lives of many, demonstrating the profound significance of her work, stated Olabisi Baruwa-Catro, MA Vice President of Easter Seals Florida.

Ms. Laleau's supervision of over 16 site-based disability coordinators underscores the importance of her work and her impact on her team. Her tireless dedication to the children, families, and center is evident in her unwavering support in creating environments that ensure children thrive regardless of circumstances. Her commitment to the well-being of the children and families she serves is truly inspiring.

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 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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