



NEW TEAM LEADING THE WAY FOR GAINESVILLE FOR ALL'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER

A diverse team of educators and community activists has been empaneled to plan for the opening and daily operation of a transformative early learning center to be located on the campus of Metcalfe Elementary school, announced James F. Lawrence, Gainesville for All executive director.

“We’re excited that these talented professionals have agreed to join the strategic planning team created to lead the way for the Gainesville Empowerment Zone Early Learning Center,” Lawrence said. “Individually and collectively they are ideally suited for planning an early learning center that we believe can become a template for urban school districts wrestling with huge academic achievement gaps between Black and white students.”

The center will provide struggling families from pregnancy through age 3 with a wide range of educational and social services in a way that has not been done in the past in public education.

Team members:

Charmaine B. Henry, team chair, is the recently retired founder and principal of the Genesis Preparatory School. She also was a teacher at J.J. Finley Elementary School for 27 years before opening Genesis, a charter school, in 2000.

Yolanda Hagley Fluellen has been involved in early childhood education for more than two decades and formerly headed Alachua County’s HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) program which excelled under her leadership.

Elliene Chisholm is a retired preschool specialist and educator for Alachua County Public Schools.

Curtis Peterson is principal at Caring and Sharing Learning School, which has won numerous national and state awards for excellence.

Dr Elizabeth Bondy is a professor at the University of Florida’s School of Teaching and Learning. She is currently actively involved in assisting teachers at Terwilliger Elementary School.

Marilyn McCall is former director of the My School, a non-profit full-day childcare center sponsored by the Campus View Church.