

18th Annual Early Learning Conference

Saturday, February 22, 2025



MESSAGE FROM DR. STEVE KNOBL



Good morning,

I am excited you're joining us today for our 2025 conference! The Promise Institute presents our 18th Annual Early Learning Conference, "Full STEAM Ahead." Today's keynote speaker, Professor Sko, and all of our session presenters will share valuable insights to support your development as early childhood educators. I love learning and reading and this is sure to be a great day for all of us.

This conference is one of my favorite events of the year because it allows us all to get together in person, learn from each other, and share the day in a professional development setting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our leading sponsors, including CCEI, Suncoast Credit Union, Publix Charities, and the Florida Lottery, along with all our other sponsors for their support of our early childhood education conference. We rely on donations to plan and deliver such a robust conference, and our vendors and sponsors continue to support us, so thank you. I am excited that Florida's Chancellor for Early Learning, Cari Miller, has traveled from Tallahassee to join us today.

Finally, I would like to recognize our team for working tirelessly to create such an amazing day for you. On behalf of our staff and Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your commitment to our youngest learners and for choosing to be an early childhood educator. It's one of the most important professions in our workforce and we're thankful for each one of you.

Thank you,

Steve Knobl, Ph.D.

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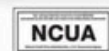


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CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**

9:00 AM - 10:20 AM **CONFERENCE OPENING & KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM **BREAKOUT SESSION 1**

11:30 AM - 12:20 PM **BREAKOUT SESSION 2**

12:20 PM - 1:00 PM **LUNCH A AND EXHIBIT HALL**

1:00 PM - 1:40 PM **LUNCH B AND EXHIBIT HALL**

1:50 PM - 2:40 PM **BREAKOUT SESSION 3**

2:50 PM - 3:30 PM **CLOSING CEREMONY**

3:30 PM **CONFERENCE ENDS**



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Funds **BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS**

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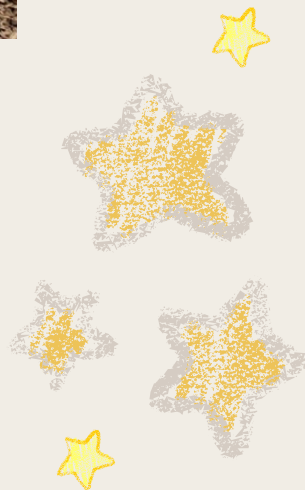
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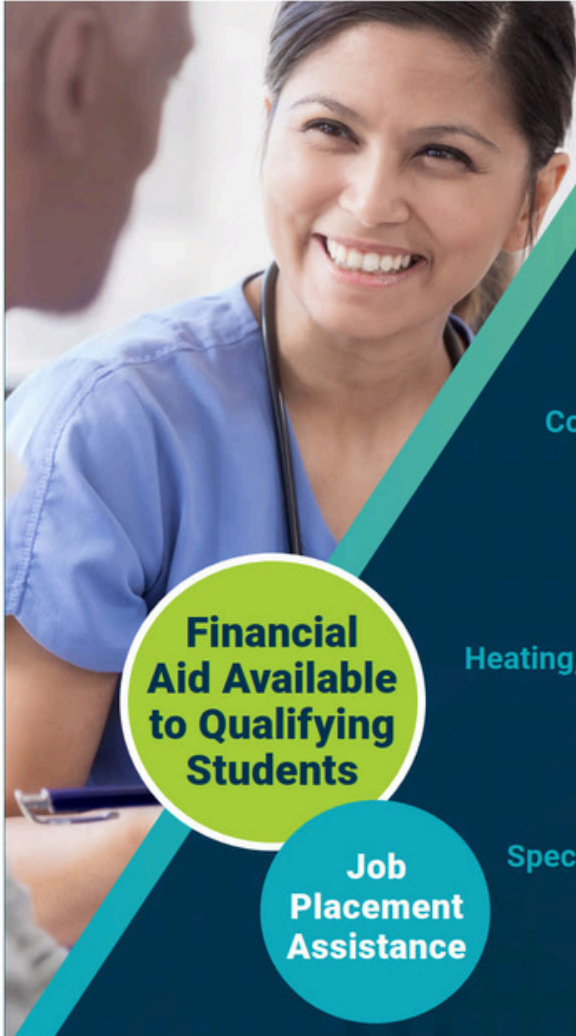
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KEYNOTE SESSION: PROFESSOR SKO PRESENTS THE MAGIC OF TEACHING SCIENCE!



ABOUT OUR KEYNOTE

Brenda Skoczelas is an Associate Professor of Physics in Florida. Brenda is a published author, an expert in online course design, and was named the Florida Professor of the Year in 2018. In addition, she is a keynote speaker, an Iron Man triathlete, races motor cycles, and is a certified scuba diver, among other hobbies. Ms. Skoczelas is passionate about attracting and keeping girls in STEM, and encouraging young people to become STEM teachers. She has garnered four industry awards for her work as the title character in The Professor Sko Science Show.

Despite being a self-avowed introvert, Brenda appears in YouTube videos, stage performances, and public appearances in order to, in her words... “be the role model I wish I had so no girl ever has to do without one again.” Brenda earned her bachelor’s degree in Mathematics and master’s degree in Physics from Ball State University. Her research background includes the development of non-invasive diagnostic procedures using the magnetic field for testing to assess potential nerve damage.

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EVENT AGENDA

7:30 AM - 8:55 AM

Registration and Breakfast

Location: Conference Check In

9:00 AM - 10:20 AM

Opening Ceremony and Keynote

Location: Conference Keynote Speaker

9:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Professor Sko Presents the Magic of Teaching Science!

Location: Conference Keynote Speaker

Speaker: Professor Brenda Skoczelas

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

KidVision Full STEAM Ahead in the Kitchen!

Location: Classroom 4

Speaker: Penny Bernath

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Let Sko make you a Pro! Sciencing is easy in your classroom using Professor Sko's Resources

Location: Conference Keynote Speaker

Speakers: Mark Thompson, Professor Brenda Skoczelas

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Explore the Outdoors with PBS KIDS STEAM Activities

Location: Classroom 2

Speaker: Sarah Keith

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Cultivating Creativity: Enriching Beyond Art in the Early Childhood Classroom

Location: Classroom 7

Speaker: Katie Chefero

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Nature in the Classroom

Location: Classroom 1

Speakers: Christy Taylor, Jennifer Mclachlan

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

OCHR.Org: Navigating Child Custody to Achieve Successful Co-Parenting Strategies

Location: Classroom 3

Speakers: Jake Hornstein, Greg Hill

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

STEAM in Action for Preschoolers

Location: Classroom 5

Speaker: Dr. Brenda Gonzalez

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Why the Why Matters!

Location: Classroom 6

Speaker: Jamie Harmon

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Technology in STEAM!

Location: Classroom 9

Speaker: Andi Walker

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Exploring Creativity through Process Art: Unleashing Young Minds

Location: Classroom 10

Speaker: Kari Dittman

10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

STEAM: Math and Art Skills

Location: Classroom 8

Speaker: Veronica Nickels

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EVENT AGENDA

11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	KidVision Full STEAM Ahead in the Kitchen! Location: Classroom 4 Speaker: Penny Bernath
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	STEAM in Action for Toddlers Location: Classroom 5 Speaker: Dr. Brenda Gonzalez
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Introducing STEM to my Toddler class! Location: Classroom 1 Speaker: Mercedes Delgado
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Explore el aire libre con las actividades de PBS KIDS STEAM Location: Classroom 2 Speaker: Liza Grazier
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Participants will Discover the benefits of TORSH Talent Location: Classroom 3 Speaker: Melissa Hayes
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Creative Play: Playing Without a Set of Rules or Structure Location: Classroom 6 Speaker: Eunice Lopez
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Storytime Meets STEAM: Integrating picture Books into Hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Activities Location: Classroom 7 Speaker: Chrystine Mitchell
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Implementing STEAM to Facilitate Children's Learning Location: Classroom 8 Speaker: Barbie Sheats
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Outdoor Play for Preschool Children Location: Classroom 9 Speaker: Leslie Thomas
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Arte Procesada en la Edad Preescolar! Location: Classroom 10 Speaker: Becky Tirado
12:20 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch A Location: Breezeway Walkthrough/ Lunch areas
1:00 PM - 1:40 PM	Lunch B Location: Breezeway Walkthrough/ Lunch areas
1:50 PM - 2:40 PM	Building STEAM Culture in the Classroom Location: Classroom 5 Speaker: Dr. Brenda Gonzalez
1:50 PM - 2:40 PM	Introducir STEM en my clase de ninos pequenos! Location: Classroom 1 Speaker: Mercedes Delgado
1:50 PM - 2:40 PM	Participants will discover the Benefits of using TORSH! Location: Classroom 3 Speaker: Melissa Hayes
1:50 PM - 2:40 PM	Looking Closer at the Art in STEAM Learning Location: Classroom 4 Speaker: Liz Fields
1:50 PM - 2:40 PM	Creative Play: Playing without a set of Rules or Structure Location: Classroom 6 Speaker: Eunice Lopez

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EVENT AGENDA

1:50 PM - 2:40 PM

Storytime Meets STEAM: Integrating Picture Books into Hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Activities

Location: Classroom 7
Speaker: Chrystine Mitchell

1:50 PM - 2:40 PM

Where does STEAM fit in our lives?

Location: Classroom 10
Speaker: Judith Gerena

1:50 PM - 2:40 PM

Age-Appropriate STEM Materials to Foster Collaboration in Preschool

Location: Classroom 2
Speaker: Rachel Waff

1:50 PM - 2:40 PM

Implementing STEAM to facilitate Children's Learning

Location: Classroom 8
Speaker: Barbie Sheats

1:50 PM - 2:40 PM

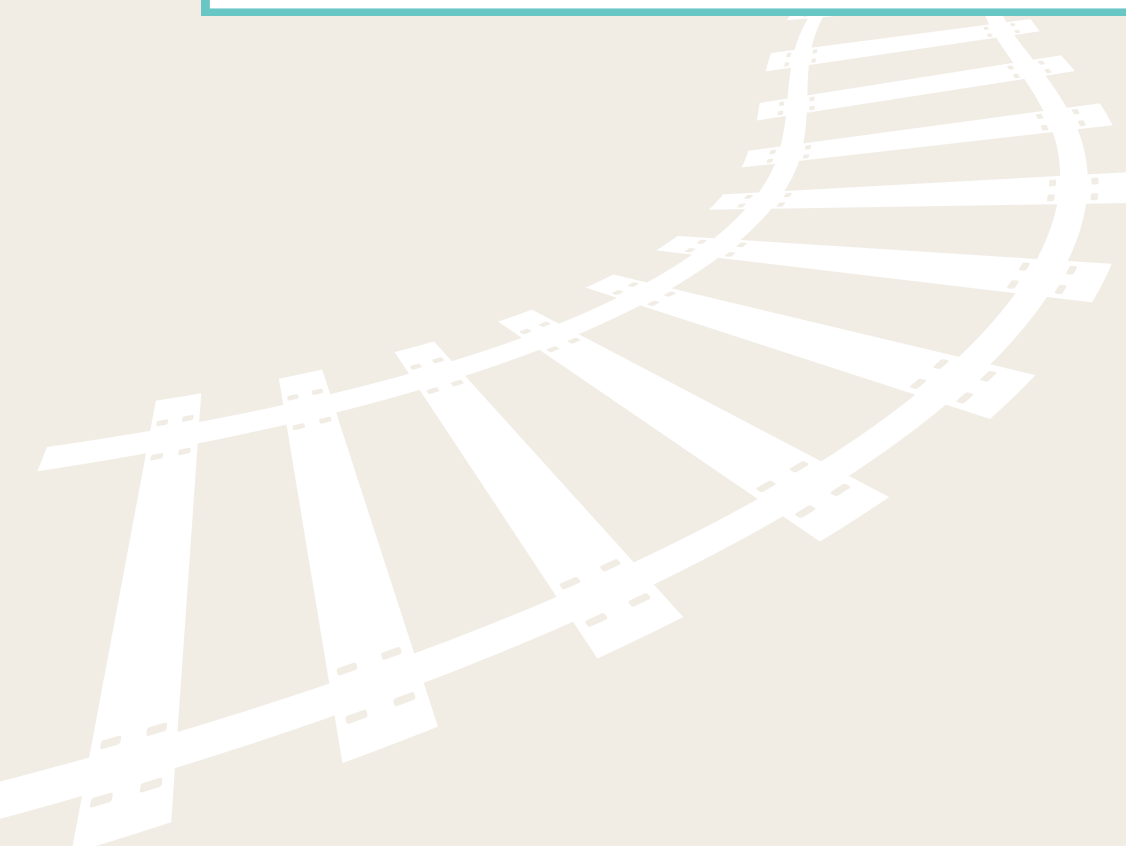
Outdoor Play for Preschool Children

Location: Classroom 9
Speakers: Leslie Thomas, Alissa Rohl

2:50 PM - 3:30 PM

Closing Ceremony

Location: Conference Keynote Speaker



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Melissa Ackerson from Elfers Christian
Julie Allison from Beacon Community
Loralee Janus from Longleaf Learning
Tevin Lashley from Geaux Baby
Terrica Lashley from Geaux Baby



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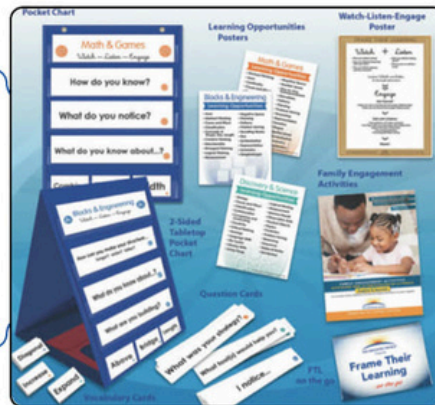
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*2018 Dell Technologies Realizing 2030: A Divided Vision of the Future Summary

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The impact of Lorelee's S.T.E.A.M. teaching is long reaching. The engagement of her students in her classroom is full-on and enthusiastic. Her students have come to understand that they not only CAN, but they SHOULD question everything.

They become critical thinkers, observing and participating hands-on activities, referring to documentation, scaffolding knowledge, participating in conversations with peers, using different modalities to scaffold, and becoming confident in exploration of new ideas, environments and opportunities.



Lorelee Janus



Julie Allison

Beacon Community Child Care Center

Children love to be in Ms. Julie's classroom she has a special way to engage the children in learning. My son has learned so much from her, and it has always been through interactive activities. I was in complete shock when not even a month after he started VPK, he learned all the letters and sounds of the alphabet. Ms. Julie used the Nemours curriculum too which has a lot of hands-one activities. My son is always happy to go to VPK.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE JOHN AND HELEN LONG SCHOLARSHIP

The John and Helen Long Scholarship began in 2008 at Gulf High School where Dr. Knobl was the Principal. Dr. Knobl organized the family scholarship for a graduating senior who was studying to become a teacher. This was also a way to honor the legacy of his grandparents, John and Helen Long. In 2018, the scholarship followed Dr. Knobl to the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties where it is now used to support a teacher completing a college degree in early childhood education.

Dr. Knobl has fond memories of his grandparents taking him and his younger sister to the Hudson Library, buying books together at Waldenbooks in the Gulfview Square Mall, reading around the pool each summer as they were growing up. As the oldest of eight grandchildren, he recalls how often his grandparents encouraged everyone to enjoy learning and continue their education beyond high school.

By modeling a love for reading and creating a supportive learning environment. John and Helen truly left an incredible legacy for the entire family. The entire family enjoys reading about the scholarship winner and looks forward to the announcement each year.



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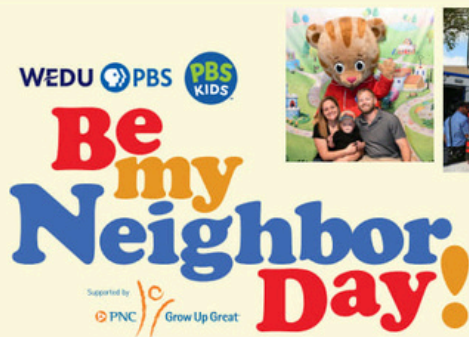
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Kelsi Perez

Pitter Patter Kids Preschool

As an early childhood educator and student, I am dedicated to fostering a love of learning in my students through engaging, hands-on, and thematic activities.

With this scholarship, I can access additional resources, attend more professional development, and implement teaching strategies that will benefit my students.



I am deeply committed to making a positive impact on the lives of young children, and this scholarship will be instrumental in helping me achieve that mission.

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by providing education,
resources, and support
services for successful
coparenting strategies.

**OCHR.Org
Provides:**



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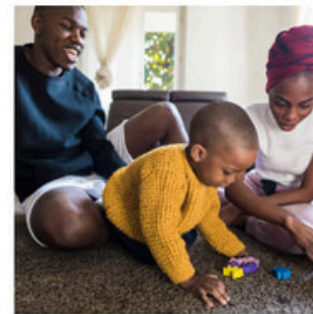
Our Children Have Rights .Org is a 501 (c)(3) organization: EIN: 87-1023012



EMOTIONAL VACCINES FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY


Emotional Vaccines® consists of a library of videos featuring proactive, evidence-based content, each designed with non-clinical messaging and simple, easy-to-follow steps to empower anyone with the knowledge and education they need to transform their lives.



PARENTING POD


Turning surviving into thriving

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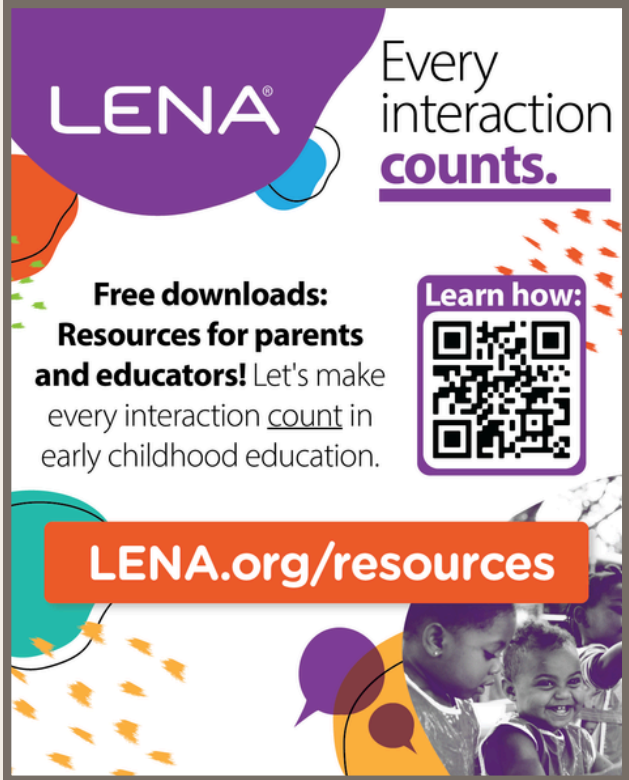


Every interaction **counts.**

Free downloads:
Resources for parents and educators! Let's make every interaction count in early childhood education.

Learn how:


LENA.org/resources





The 18th Annual Early Learning Conference Saturday, February 22, 2025



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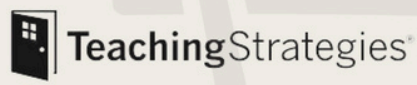
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CEU DISTRIBUTION RULES

CEU Certificates

A conference certificate will be available in your “Promise Institute” account after you complete a questionnaire and survey online.

- Log into <https://ece-elcph.talentlms.com/>. (Your username is your email address)
- Locate and click on “Full STEAM Ahead CEUs.” You will find this on your home page or in “My Courses.”
- Press “Start or Resume Course” and complete the questionnaire and survey.
- Wait up to 3 weeks for an Early Learning Coalition Training Specialist to verify your attendance.
- Once the attendance has been verified, click on the **PROGRESS** tab.
- You will find your certificate located under the **CERTIFICATIONS** tab.

CEU Terms and Conditions

By registering for this conference and purchasing CEUs, you agree to the CEU Terms and Conditions on the Coalition’s website.

These terms and conditions include that all CEU paperwork is the participant’s responsibility.

If CEU paperwork is incomplete, it will be changed to “not passed, and you will need to attempt again to answer the questions thoroughly, accurately, and academically in essay format. Participants will have ten (10) days to complete CEU paperwork and resubmit to the Coalition.

Payment for CEUs is non-refundable.

CEU Distribution

CEU Certificates of Completion will be available in your “Promise Institute” account at <https://ece-elcph.talentlms.com/>. You will find your certificate under the **CERTIFICATIONS** tab.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. (ELCPH) has been accredited as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). In obtaining this accreditation, the ELCPH has demonstrated that it complies with the ANSI/IACET Standard which is recognized internationally as a standard of good practice. As a result of the Authorized Provider status, ELCPH is authorized to offer IACET CEUs for programs that qualify under the ANSI/IACET Standard.





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