



Head Start/Early Head Start Director of Largest Grantee in Florida Selected Administrator of the Year

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Wanda Minick, Executive Director

(850) 694-6477

Wanda@FLHeadStart.org

TALLAHASSEE, FL – September 5, 2023 – Dr. Maite T. Riestra-Quintero, Head Start/Early Head Start Director of the Miami-Dade County Community and Action Human Services Department (CAHSD), receives top honors from the Florida Head Start Association as Administrator of the Year.

Dr. Riestra-Quintero began her career in early care and education 33 years ago at Miami-Dade County Public Schools as a teacher assistant. Over the years, she held several teaching positions within the county, working her way up to supervisory positions, from executive director to director. She presently serves as President of the Florida Head Start Association, advocating on behalf of all Head Start programs throughout the state, and serves on several boards, including the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroé, the United Way Center for Excellence, the Mayor's Children Commission, Miami-Dade College Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee, and the University of Florida Lastinger Advisory Board.

She is a powerhouse in her community through her engagement in strategic partnerships with various agencies. Additionally, Dr. Riestra-Quintero secured \$2.75 million in non-federal match funds to improve access to services that benefit not only the 8,100 Head Start/Early Head Start children and families, but all children throughout Miami-Dade County. Her leadership has led the CAHSD Head Start/Early Head Start program to receive multiple recognitions at the state, regional, and national recognition for her innovative collaborations in bringing services to her community.

Dr. Riestra-Quintero's colleagues state that her exemplary leadership skills, unwavering commitment to excellence, and genuine passion for her work are demonstrated through her accomplishments and collaborations that will continue to impact the lives of countless children and families positively.

The Head Start Grantee Recipient selects nominees and is evaluated by a panel of peers and chosen by the FHSA awards committee. Recipients will be honored during the FHSA annual awards luncheon at the Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village in Cape Coral, Florida, on October 27. Complete details are available on our website, www.FLHeadStart.org.

About FHSA

The Florida Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 42,014 children and families in Florida. Head Start is an innovative federal-to-local program delivering services from school readiness, comprehensive health, and family support services. The Head Start Program Performance Standards drive programs to strengthen and improve the quality to ensure that all children start school ready to succeed. FHSA has been the voice for Florida's most vulnerable children and families since 1999 and is committed to enhancing and supporting the capability of local Head Start programs in the delivery of high-quality services for our children and families.

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Florida Head Start Association
111 N. Gadsden Street, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301
www.FLHeadStart.org