



## FAMILY & COMMUNITY E(ngagement) UPDATE: January 2019

**Greetings! E(ngagement) Updates** keep you informed of the latest Family and Community Engagement resources and information. Please share with your districts!

### Happening This Month...



January is [National Mentoring Month](#). The goal of this annual campaign is to celebrate and promote mentoring. Mentoring, which involves pairing young people with caring adults, is a youth development strategy that creates a path to successful adulthood for children.



Mentoring is one of 15 strategies for dropout prevention as defined by the [National Dropout Prevention Center Network](#). Research suggests that youth who have a mentor are more likely to attend and be more engaged in school, finish high school and continue on to post-secondary education, and form more positive social attitudes and relationships.

Check out these resources and information on the impact of mentoring:

- The [National Mentoring Partnership](#) offers program resources, information on national initiatives and youth mentoring, collaborative webinars, toolkit, and virtual trainings. Their next webinar, [Maximizing Volunteer Engagement](#), will be held January 24 at 1pm.
- [Youth.gov](#) offers opportunities to become involved and resources to include free marketing materials for National Mentoring Month or your own mentoring programs

January

[National Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Month](#)

January 11

[National Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Day - Wear Blue!](#)

January 28—Feb 1

[Children's Literacy Week Florida!](#)

January 30-Feb 1

[National Association of Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESSA\) Conference](#), Kansas City, KS



### Upcoming Events...

February

[National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month](#). This national effort raises awareness about abuse in young adult relationships and promotes programs to prevent violence among teens and young adults.

February 15

[Family and Community Involvement Award](#) nominations are due.

February 20

[Hartwick Symposium Series 2019: Self-Advocate and Family Focus](#), Tampa, FL

June 11

[Hartwick Symposium Series 2019: Secondary Symposium](#), Orlando, FL

The Florida Consortium on Inclusive Higher Education hosts two symposiums on February 20 and June 11 to promote postsecondary options and resources leading to employment and careers for students, families, and all who work with students with intellectual disabilities.

### News and Information...



The Florida Department of Education recently released the [2017-18 Five Star School Award winners](#). These schools are recognized for their commitment to incorporating family and community members into the school environment to enhance student learning and success. Statewide, over 700 schools earned the recognition. Congratulations to Florida's winning schools!



The [2018-2019 Family & Community Involvement Award application](#) is now available. State award nomination applications must be submitted via the district volunteer coordinator [online](#). For additional information, please contact our office.

[Congratulations to Osceola Magnet Elementary School](#) in Indian River County for reporting the highest



percentage of dads and male role model participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dads Take Your Child to School Day event. The school was honored with a [virtual visit from Chancellor Lyons](#) and received a \$1,000 award to continue developing their fatherhood engagement programs. Special Thank You to districts and schools that participated in the 2018 Dads Take Your Child to School Day survey.



**Resources and Grants...**



With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Florida Humanities Council's [Community Project Grants](#) respond to the needs of local communities and often address topics of statewide interest that promote collaboration, civic engagement and community dialogue. Grants are awarded throughout the year.

**We Want to Hear from YOU!**

As always, we look forward to collaboration and open communication. Please contact the Family and Community Engagement Team:

- Bonita Hampton, Director, [Bonita.Hampton@fldoe.org](mailto:Bonita.Hampton@fldoe.org), 850-245-0842
- Clifford Jackson, Program Specialist, [Clifford.Jackson@fldoe.org](mailto:Clifford.Jackson@fldoe.org), 850-245-9882
- Cindy Huffman, Educational Consultant, [Cindy.Huffman@fldoe.org](mailto:Cindy.Huffman@fldoe.org), 850-245-7858



**Please share feedback, requests, and staff contact information changes, by clicking [here](#).**

*\*Disclaimer: Links provided for information and reference. The Florida Department of Education does not endorse a specific program or source.*