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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8.22.2025

Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County Welcomes New CEO

The Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County is proud to announce the appointment of Alison Fraga as its next Chief Executive Officer. She will formally join the ELC on September 29.

Alison currently serves as the Chief Development Officer for the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County, one of the largest ELCs in the state, where she serves on the leadership team reporting directly to their CEO and oversees all communication, branding, community engagement, key stakeholder and strategic partnership development, and development efforts. Additionally, she secured over \$2M in annual grant funding and led outreach and programmatic strategies to support kindergarten readiness and early childhood programs.

Prior to her time with the ELC of Hillsborough County, Alison served as Chief Advancement Officer for the Boys & Girls Club of Tampa Bay. She is an active community member, serving on multiple nonprofit boards and volunteering with others, and holds a bachelor's degree in human resource development from the University of Florida and an MBA certificate in nonprofit leadership from the University of Tampa.

"Alison is an embodiment of the qualities that both our community and board of directors envisioned for the next Chief Executive," said the ELC's gubernatorial appointed Board Chair Kevin Cooper. "As a proven 'families-first' leader, she masterfully blends the right mix of passion, compassion and creativity needed to transform service delivery to and from our providers in Sarasota County."

Alison becomes just the second individual to lead the organization in its impactful 23-year history, following the recent retirement of founding CEO Janet Kahn. She was recommended for selection by a Transition & Search Committee that included members of the board as well as community stakeholders Michelle Kapreilian (CEO, Forty Carrots Family Center), Denise Marzullo (CEO, All-Star Children's Foundation) and Kelly Romanoff (Senior Vice President for Strategy and Evaluation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation).

"Sarasota County is well known and regarded for many things, but it's commitment to early childhood education and family support stands at or above the rest," shared Alison. "I'm thrilled to join a team and a community that works tirelessly to ensure that families and providers are given the tools and opportunities needed to succeed."

Alison and her husband Alex are proud parents of a son, also named Alex, who currently attends the United States Merchant Marine Academy. They look forward to relocating to the area in the coming months.

About the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County:

The Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County prepares local infants, toddlers and preschool children for lifelong success through access to quality early learning programs. Serving more than 4,000 children and 155 childcare providers every year, the Coalition administers and oversees the local integrated system of early care and education across Sarasota County.