



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Smart Start partners with Acelero Learning Clark County

Acelero Learning Clark County provides the highest quality services to young children and their families.

Las Vegas- January 2007- Willa and James Chaney, a couple who founded Smart Start Childcare over a decade ago, have partnered with Acelero Learning Clark County to add classroom training and support for all staff. Acelero Learning Clark County will assume management of the facility.

Smart Start has served as one of the leading early childhood education centers in North Las Vegas for hundreds of children and families in need. Willa Chaney, also owner of the only African-American beauty school in Nevada, spoke at the community breakfast for Acelero Learning Clark County held on December 14. Chaney was enthusiastic about improving the quality of education for children.

Melissa Sherrill, Executive Director of Acelero Learning Clark County, expressed her appreciation for all the community supporters Acelero is receiving and their partnership with the Chaney's.

“We at Acelero Learning Clark County, are committed to providing the highest quality program to meet the health, education, and social supports of children and families and are excited about our partnership with Smart Start which enable us to provide more services to children and families,” said Sherrill.

Acelero Learning Clark County has begun providing training and education course for childcare teachers, directors, and interested parents at their Early Childhood Education and Training Center on Stewart Avenue. These trainings are recognized by the Nevada Registry and all participants can receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs). With this new partnership with Smart Start, Acelero Learning Clark County will begin holding training workshops at Smart Start.

Over the last six months, Acelero Learning Clark County has become one of the largest providers of early childhood education and training services to children, families, and staff in the Las Vegas valley. Acelero Learning Clark County will seek to build on this momentum by applying for the Head Start grant to provide early childhood services to children and families through out Clark County. Sunrise Children' Foundation will provide home-based Head Start services and Nevada Health Centers will assist in making sure Head Start families receive high quality health services.



“All of my experience working in this community over the last two decades has convinced me that Acelero Learning Clark County is the best option for our children and families who want to have a great Head Start program,” said Dr. Thom Pierce, Professor of Special Education at UNLV and Chair of the Acelero Learning Clark County Board of Directors. If successful, Acelero Learning Clark County would replace EOB, which was the Head Start grantee for 32 years until CDI Head Start took over on an interim basis earlier this year.

Part of Acelero Learning Clark County’s unique approach is its affiliation with the national Acelero Learning office. In 2001, Acelero Learning began working with local leaders in communities where Head Start grants had been revoked or relinquished to build strong organizations that could serve as the replacement grantee. What began with one partner program, serving 227 children in Newburgh, New York, has now grown to a network of programs that serve nearly 2,000 children and families in Head Start regions around the country.

Acelero Learning Clark County is currently enrolling children and both their Smart Start and Stewart Avenue locations. Call 702-430-9362

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