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A PUBLICATION OF EDUCATION'S NEXT HORIZON

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LOUISIANA'S 80/10 HIGH SCHOOLS



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Statewide Meeting on Early Childhood Education Planned

The Louisiana Association of United Ways (LAUW) and Education's Next Horizon will jointly host a statewide meeting on early childhood education on February 2, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the LAUW office, located at 2515 Canal Street in New Orleans. Organizations from every region of the state will convene to discuss the Governor's recently announced early childhood education reform proposals. The groups will also discuss business engagement in early childhood education and funding for Birth-to-Five, Pre-K and Literacy. For more information, contact Pamela Allison at (504) 827-6823 or PamelA@unitedwaysela.org.

Early Learning Business Collaborative Planned

Education's Next Horizon and the Committee of 100 for Economic Development (C100) are planning a partnership initiative to increase business awareness of the benefits of early childhood education and to strengthen the early learning system. The Committee of 100 is a private non-profit organization whose membership includes the top CEOs of leading private and public companies in Louisiana and University Presidents of Louisiana's institutions of higher learning. The Committee's primary focus is to help Louisiana to attract and retain industry.

Working in partnership with other stakeholders across the state, the business partnership will focus on improving the quality of early learning programs as well as expanding access to needy families. The state's School Readiness Tax Credit offers an ideal vehicle for accomplishing these goals.

While the School Readiness Tax Credit has existed since 2007, the "business" component of the tax credit has great potential for expanded use. Under state law, businesses can receive tax credits by investing directly in high-quality rated child care centers. Businesses can also receive a 100% refundable tax credit up to \$5,000 by donating to designated Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies that support child care service providers.

Governor Jindal and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education have made kindergarten readiness one of the building blocks for recently proposed education reforms. Business support of early learning will be a necessary ingredient for the success of those initiatives.

Education's Next Horizon Welcomes New Supporters

The Board of Directors of Education's Next Horizon

welcomes two new corporate supporters of Louisiana's Promise, our statewide dropout prevention initiative. **AT&T** and the **Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA)** each approved a grant to *Louisiana's Promise* in December 2011. Thanks to the support of its sponsors, Education's Next Horizon is able to provide communication, community engagement, and dropout prevention planning support to school districts at no cost. We also support school districts through research such as our recently released report on dropout prevention best practices. For more information about Louisiana's Promise, call us at (225) 383-3844 or email jsmith@lanexthorizon.org.

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