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GOVERNOR BUSH LAUNCHES THE FLORIDA FAMILY LITERACY ACADEMY

TALLAHASSEE – As part of the Governor’s Family Literacy Initiative, Governor Jeb Bush today launched the Florida Family Literacy Academy. Coordinated by the Volunteer Florida Foundation, twelve of the initiative’s top family literacy providers will create a network to test, teach and share best practices throughout Florida and the nation.

“Family literacy programs across our state are helping Florida families improve their lives through education,” said Governor Bush. “The Florida Family Literacy Academy will serve as a critical tool to share and capitalize on our successes.”

The programs chosen to participate in the Florida Family Literacy Academy have signed a three-year commitment to serve as teachers and trainers of the next generation of family literacy programs. These programs are highest achieving of the nearly 100 affiliate programs funded by the Governor’s Family Literacy Initiative since 1999. They are:

- Alliance for Families with Deaf Children (Broward)
- Apopka Greater Reading or Writing Skills (Orange)
- Barry University Migrant Program (Miami-Dade)
- Calhoun County Public Library (Calhoun)
- Collier County Housing Authority (Collier)
- Communities in Schools (Bradford)
- DeSoto Education Foundation (DeSoto)
- Family Literacy at School and at Home at Carlos Finlay Elementary School (Miami-Dade)
- Hispanic Unity of Florida (Broward)
- Lake Wales Family Literacy Coalition (Polk)
- Lakeland Teen Parent Program (Polk)
- St. John’s Learning Center (Hillsborough)

Governor Bush proclaimed September as Florida Adult and Family Literacy Month. Additionally, today is International Literacy Day. More than 20 percent of Florida’s adults face literacy challenges that severely impact their families, employment and quality of life. Florida’s public schools, volunteer and community-based literacy organizations, community colleges and libraries provided adult education and family literacy services to more than 348,000 adults during 2004-2005.

The Governor's Family Literacy Initiative's funded programs engage all members of the family to foster a passion for learning and helping each other achieve. The Initiative focuses on adult education, early childhood education and parenting education.

For more information on the Governor's Family Literacy Initiative or to volunteer, please visit www.VolunteerFloridaFoundation.org.