From June 12-16, the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR) will join local, state, and national funders that support early literacy, and hundreds of civic and community leaders, public officials, and educators from across the country – connecting, learning, sharing, evolving, and strengthening – to learn from and with each other, and collectively drive toward bigger, stronger, and better results to move the needle on third grade reading proficiency.

It's because of YOU... the committed parents, grandparents, child care professionals, early learning educators, and caregivers that we can take this journey -- the volunteers, the school systems, hospitals and clinics, libraries, media networks, and other foundations and organizations. Thank you!

The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR) will officially receive a Pacesetter Award on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, by the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for exemplary work in eliminating barriers faced by children from low-income families on the path to becoming proficient readers.

Pacesetters are part of a nationwide network of more than 300 GLR Campaign communities,
representing 42 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Campaign communities are dedicated to narrowing the achievement gap between children from low-income families and their more affluent peers. SCGLR is one of 48 communities receiving this honor.

The national GLR Campaign is recognizing SCGLR for its excellence for success, scale, and sustainability:

- Supporting parent success and addressing the health determinants
- Driving with data
- Building cross-sector collaboration
- Prioritizing children and families in public housing
- Utilizing technology for impact

Especially noteworthy is SCGLR's overarching two-generation approach, the dental sealants program, the successful rollout of Vroom and its focus on public housing.

This will indeed be a week filled with much activity and anticipation for SCGLR and our region. In addition to receiving the Pacesetter Award on Wednesday, SCGLR is a finalist in the GLR Campaign Communications Expo: Awareness Campaign, Media Partnership, Media Story, Website, Social Media, and Event.

Does SCGLR do this alone? No way! Due to extraordinary local participation, the Suncoast region is a finalist for the All-America Cities Award based on the self-assessment of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. The Awards will be presented in Denver next week during GLRWeek, and some of our region's collaborators will be there:

- The Patterson Foundation
- MagnifyGood
- Community Foundation of Sarasota County
- United Way of Manatee County
- The School District of Manatee County
- Sarasota County Schools
- SPIRECoLab
- Sky Family YMCA
- YMCA Reads
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast
- Manatee County Public Library System
- Manatee County Government
- Mind in the Making
- Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County
- and Sarasota Housing Authority

During this knowledge sharing week, Debra Jacobs will be chairing the Funder Huddle and moderating the Town Hall on More Than Money Philanthropy and Beth Duda will be presenting two sessions on early childhood development and Kindergarten Readiness.

Thanks to each nonprofit, business, government, and media outlet for your extraordinary efforts of this moral imperative.
Research spanning 100 years has proven that students may lose ground academically when they are out of school for the summer. This scenario is particularly acute among low-income students who lose an average of more than two months in reading achievement in the summer – slowing their progress toward third-grade reading proficiency and exacerbating the achievement gap with their middle-class peers.

To help promote school readiness and prevent the summer slide, United Way of Manatee County in partnership with Manatee County Public Library System and three local apartment complexes have worked together to bring Special Reading Rooms and the Suncoast Summer Book Challenge to over 300 children living at each location this summer. These special reading rooms will become permanent fixtures in each apartment complex for the children to use year round.
Yesterday, John Annis, Vice President for Community Investment for the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Kirsten Russell, Initiative Consultant for Community Foundation of Sarasota County and Beth Duda, Director of Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, presented a progress report to the School Board of Sarasota County. In the end, the School Board presented them with balloons as a testament to this region’s significant work in School Readiness, Summer Learning, Health and Parent Engagement, and Attendance.
Research shows us that the first five years of a child's life are a critical time for brain development and the basis for future success. We look forward to sharing engaging news and updates with you related to the earliest years of life. The Patterson Foundation respects your privacy and will not share or sell your contact information.

To be added into the 0-5 Express newsletter distribution list, please click HERE. If there is information you are interested in learning more about, email SCGLR.