AGREEMENT
Between
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
and
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SCOPE OF WORK
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) Teacher Academy

This agreement provides Title I funds from The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida; hereby referred to as Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), to support the University of Florida’s collaboration in implementing the district-led VPK Academy. The Academy aims to ensure all Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) teachers participate in all required trainings, offer mechanisms for these professionals to collaborate within and across feeder patterns on the implementation of the content and strategies learned within these training sessions, provide ongoing support, and afford VPK teachers opportunities for professional growth throughout the life of the Academy. This proposal was collaboratively developed with representation from the Office of Early Childhood, and it builds largely on the excellent early childhood professional development work currently done within the M-DCPS. The project is designed to enhance VPK teachers’ ability to implement curriculum with fidelity, develop effective relationships with students and families of diverse backgrounds, and build powerful communities of practice; resulting in improved school readiness and academic outcomes for children. This contract is for $750,000.00 with a beginning date of November 1, 2013 and expiring June 30, 2016. Utilizing Title I funds within this agreement The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida and the University of Florida propose to enhance early learning instruction to all Pre-kindergarten students by:

1. Providing the necessary funding for substitute coverage for VPK teachers and paraprofessionals when they must attend professional development beyond M-DCPS annually scheduled professional development days.

2. Providing up to 20 teachers each Academy year with peer facilitation training to develop facilitation skills in order to work collaboratively with early childhood professionals within and across all MDCPS feeder patterns. Teachers will learn structured conversation protocols and other techniques to cultivate communities of practice within their regions. The peer facilitation training will consist of an initial, intensive three-day institute in the fall with two additional days of follow-up in the winter and spring. Based on this training, participating teachers will lead after-school community of practice sessions for interested VPK teachers across their region.

3. Providing a stipend to trained peer facilitators as they lead regional community of practice sessions and to participating VPK teachers. To receive this incentive, participants must attend five sessions lasting 90 minutes each and participate in the Miami-Dade County Annual Learning Showcase.

4. Providing ongoing support to VPK teachers, Peer Facilitators and the regional communities of practice.