

Helios Innovation Technologies in Early Learning

The UF Lastinger Center for Learning will build on previous Helios Education Foundation investments in three innovative ways: (1) significantly enhance the capacity of the Early Learning Florida system by integrating innovative technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), to more effectively personalize content for early childhood professionals, including coaches; (2) customize the place-based Early Learning Florida work for Pinellas County to build on the increased impact in Hillsborough County; and (3) expand the early language and literacy focus of Early Learning Florida courses by further developing and extending the University of Florida's literacy online professional development (PD) system, the Literacy Matrix, to create comprehensive, high-quality early language and literacy PD for teachers of children birth through grade three.

UF will coordinate the following:

- Integrate a customized recommendation engine into the Early Learning Florida platform to connect users to the content they need, based on their expressed interests, inputs such as CLASS scores, professional development goals, and online activity.
- Design and test AI-enabled tools to improve the efficiency and impact of coaching feedback and certification; leverage additional resources to continue creating an AI-powered video classifier tool to enable efficient review of coaching certification videos.
- Provide deep support to teachers, directors, and coaches and develop customized solutions for Pinellas County.
- Develop three new module strands and a series of resources for leaders and coaches to complete the suite of professional development tools for the new Literacy Matrix.