

Trident United Way Reading by Third CCSD

Beginning in Florida with its Early Learning Florida statewide professional development system, the Lastinger Center has expanded to provide professional learning opportunities to early childhood educators across the country. We blend online learning with face-to-face options to ensure maximum learning for participants. In partnership with Trident United Way, UF Lastinger Center will provide a blended online and face-to-face professional development system to 30 Prekindergarten teachers and paraprofessionals. We plan to target the lowest performing schools to help close the gap in preschool readiness. It is clear that the earlier we work with children in language and literacy skills, the more they benefit from formal reading instruction.

UF Early Literacy Content Clinics provide Pre-K classroom teachers and paraprofessionals with engaging learning opportunities that lead to a strong foundational understanding and application of early literacy content and strategies. Through a systematic approach, UF will work with a cadre of preschool teachers to build on and increase their knowledge of early literacy instruction. The sequence of courses includes *Foundations of Phonological Awareness*, *Shared Storybook Reading and Vocabulary Development*, and *Emergent Reading and Writing*. This professional development includes face-to-face workshops with virtual follow sessions and job embedded coaching in Pre-K participants' classrooms. This course meets the requirements for the *Read to Succeed* criteria, *Foundations Course*.