

## Education's Next Horizon Names New Leaders



The 23-member Board of Directors of Education's Next Horizon recently elected **Julio R. Galan** of Lake Charles, Louisiana as President and Board Chairman. Galan replaces **Steven Scheurich**, Vice President of Service Delivery for Entergy, who served as Board Chairman for two years. Since 1997, Galan has been president and chief executive officer of Family and Youth Counseling Agency (FYCA), an organization that provides family services to residents of southwest Louisiana. Galan also heads the Family Foundation of Southwest Louisiana, the endowment arm of FYCA. Galan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master's in Guidance and Counseling at Loyola University.

Rounding out the Board leadership are **Charmaine Caccioppi**, Vice-President, and **Dan Bevan**, Secretary-Treasurer. A Metairie resident, Caccioppi is president of the Louisiana Association of United Ways and senior vice-president of governmental relations for the United Way of Southeast Louisiana. Bevan, a CPA, is president and chief financial officer of the Baton Rouge-based Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation. **John Warner Smith**, the chief executive officer of Education's Next Horizon since 2007, continues to serve in that capacity.

## The Business Case for Investing in Early Childhood Education

Education's Next Horizon has released a six-page policy brief on the benefits of early care and education to Louisiana's businesses and local economies. The brief, "The Business Case for Investing in Early Childhood Education," cites current research findings by several sources, including the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, the University of California, Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, and Noble economist James Heckman. Heckman's groundbreaking study, *The Productivity Argument for Investing in Young Children*, proved that the quality of early childhood development significantly impacts health, economic, and social outcomes for individuals and society. He describes how investments in the early care and education of at-risk children lead to improved worker productivity. The brief also shows Louisiana businesses how they can help build a stronger early childhood education network. Click [here](#) to download a copy of the brief.

## Louisiana Education Department Seeks Applications for Early Childhood Community Pilots

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for Early Childhood Education Network Community Pilots. The department is hoping to identify five local pilot networks as a first step toward the implementation of Act 3, the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act. The law requires LDOE and other state agencies to align publicly-funded early childhood education programs into a unified system with common standards, assessments, and accountability measures.

The community pilots will have two years to show successful practices that can be modeled and scaled up to fully implement the new, statewide system by 2015. The pilots are required to prepare more children to be ready to learn and succeed. The local models must also build sustainable local capacity and ensure supports for maintaining a skilled early childhood education workforce.

The LDOE will award grants ranging from \$80,000 to \$350,000 to each pilot and provide professional support in administering new administrative requirements. Click [here](#) to access the RFA.