

ELPM BUILDING BLOCKS

Building a Future

A Quarterly publication for our partners, supporters, and friends

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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

As 2009 comes to a close, we would like to welcome Dean Rusk YMCA Head Start Academy as the new high quality child development center located in the West End area. As we move into a new year, I am very grateful to all of our partners and funders who have helped ELPM realize so many accomplishments in 2009. ELPM looks forward to another exciting year and continuing our quest to advance the mission of early learning education and providing additional high quality early learning centers for the development and growth of our young children!

Happy Holidays! Wishing you all the best in 2010!
Kara Portnell, Executive Director



Dean Rusk YMCA Head Start Academy

The Dean Rusk YMCA Head Start Academy held its grand opening on September 16, 2009, at the former site of Atlanta Public School's Dean Rusk Elementary in Atlanta's West End. The Academy will serve approximately 340 pre-school children with quality early learning programs. Through federal grants and other donors, more than \$7.8 million was raised for this academy.

"Families in the West End will now have access to programs that will give their children a strong educational foundation," says Metro Atlanta YMCA Chief Operations Officer Eston Hood.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta Public Schools and Early Learning Property Management partnered in creating this academy. Programs at the new academy for three and four-year-olds include traditional Head Start, state-funded pre-k, extended day care and summer camp.

YMCA Head Start program responds to community needs for child care. According to several studies, children in Head Start Programs score higher on school readiness measure like verbal achievement, perceptual reasoning and social competence than children in other pre-schools or none at all. Children who attend a quality early childhood program are 33 percent more likely to graduate from high school than those who did not.

Congratulations to Dean Rusk YMCA Head Start Academy!

*Excerpts reprinted with permission—YMCA
www.ymcaatlanta.org*

Dean Rusk YMCA

BEFORE & DURING RENOVATIONS



AFTER RENOVATIONS



OPENING CEREMONY



Project Team:
 C.L. Perinchief, Williams Russell & Johnson, Inc.
 Hugh Landrum, CMA Associates, Inc.
 Kara Portnell, Early Learning Property Mgmt.
 David Drews, Gay Construction
 Tamra Sheppard, YMCA of Metro Atlanta
 Jeff Kowalczyk, YMCA of Metro Atlanta



News Around the Block

Gwinnett Tech Early Childhood Education and Care Student Honored



Presents with Puppets,
Crayons and Bears
with Santa.

By Ellie, Age 4
The Hudgens Center

Gwinnett Tech early education student, Mary Stocklas, has been honored as the Student of the Year by the Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC) in recognition of her academic and professional accomplishments.

This marks the third time in four years that a Gwinnett Tech student has earned the GAYC honor. The Georgia Association on Young Children is a non-profit membership organization that promotes quality early care and education for young children. Mary is preparing to earn an associate degree in early learning childhood education and has also been recognized for excellence at the national level.

Mary Beth Byerly, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement at Gwinnett Tech, says, “We are so grateful to be able to provide training to those who will greatly impact our future generation of children. We could not have it without our funders and supporters’ involvement! We started our Fall quarter with record breaking enrollment numbers, a 25% increase over last year. This makes the 11 consecutive quarter of double digit increases. Our Early Childhood Education and Care program continues to be one of our fastest growing programs. This Fall, we again, saw a considerable enrollment increase in Early Childhood Education and Care, a 36% increase over last Fall. The “build it and they will come” mantra is certainly holding true for this program. The Hudgens Center is a “beehive” of activity with 195 children getting ready for the Holidays! It is such fun to go down and visit with the children. It is hard to believe that the little six week old babies that started in the Center will be four this summer and heading into one of GA PreK Classrooms. It has been fun to watch them grow. I wanted to share the wonderful news with those that had the vision to invest in Gwinnett Tech.”

*Excerpts Reprinted by Permission, MB Byerly
www.gwinnettech.edu*



New President Appointed to the Black Child Development Institute, Atlanta

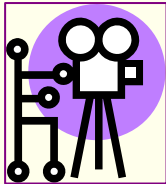


Cindra Taylor, Executive Director for Premier Academy and Minnie Howell Child Development Center has recently been appointed as the new president of Black Child Development Institute, Atlanta. Cindra is currently BCDI’s Vice President and brings over 29-years for experience in non-profit management. She has been with Premier Academy since 1996 where she oversees three local childcare centers. She has served with many organizations in the Atlanta area, among them: Board of Directors for the Georgia Association for Young Children, Director of Administrative Services for the YWCA of Greater Atlanta and has conducted numerous training and workshops for early childhood professionals, including teaching Child Development Associate courses and is a national trainer for Get Ready to Read. She is currently the Chair for the early learning center at Central United Methodist church.

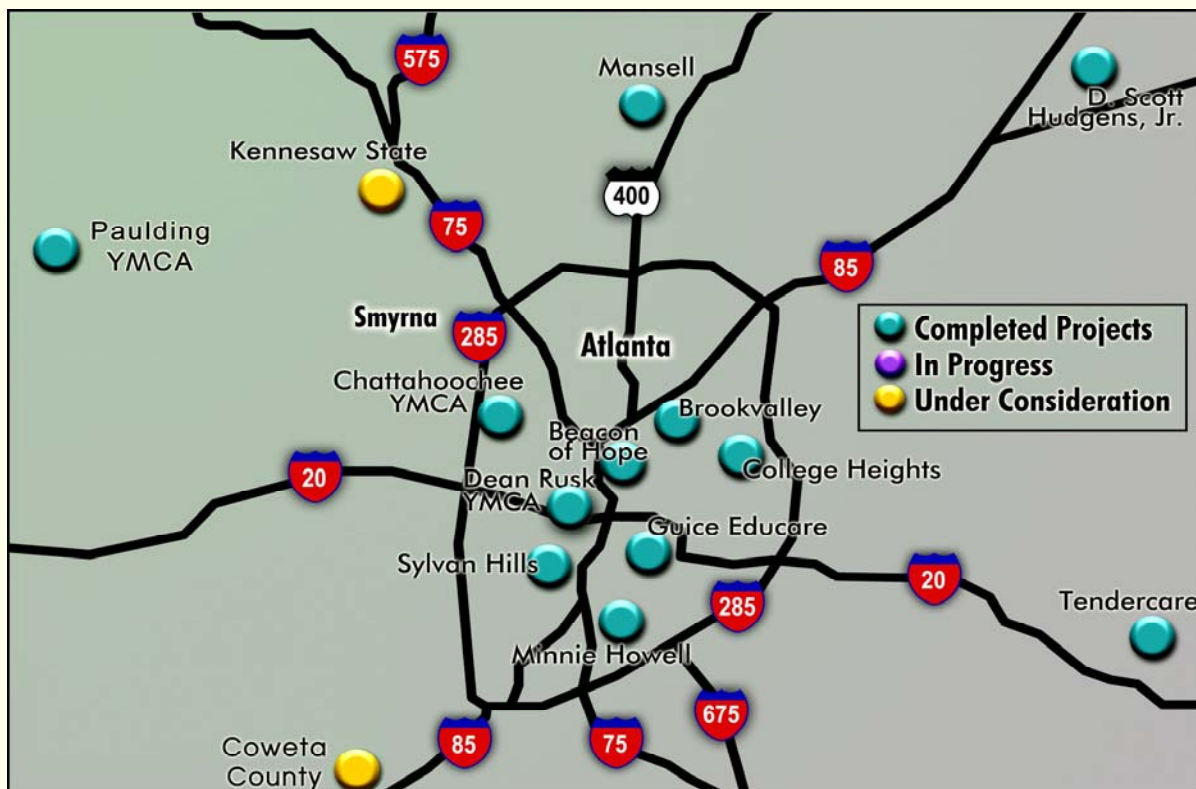
Cindra is “thrilled to have a chance to lead this organization with its incredibly talented leadership team and committed membership. Our children needs us now more that every.”

*Excerpt from National Black Child Development Institute
Www.premier-academy.org*

Early Learning Property Management Meets the Media!!



ELPM had the distinct honor of being highlighted on Peachtree TV's JJ on Atlanta community affairs show featuring a "Back to School Series" which aired on July 22, 2009 and hosted by JJ Johnson. ELPM was represented by Kara Portnell, Executive Director and Bill Garrett, ELPM Board member. The segment gave ELPM the opportunity to share its mission of addressing the need for high quality early learning centers. ELPM looks forward to visiting with JJ on Atlanta sometime in the future to share upcoming events and strategic plans.



ELPM CENTER LOCATIONS

Mission Statement

To support and promote early childhood learning and development by providing safe and adequate facilities where early learning programs and activities can be conducted.



57 Executive Park
Suite 315
Atlanta, GA 30329

TO:

