



Shayla Williams-Barnes Selected as Executive Director

The Board of Directors of B J Jordan Child Care Programs Inc., dba Beanstalk announces that Shayla Williams-Barnes has been selected by the Board as our next Executive Director, effective October 1, 2017, succeeding our longtime and beloved Executive Director, Saundra Walden, who has announced her retirement effective at the end of September.

Shayla comes to Beanstalk with a wealth of experience in early childhood education across different



types of settings, including public and private, and in multiple roles, including Early Childhood Educator, Site Supervisor, Center Director, and Owner. Her education and experience include a focus on diversity and meeting the needs of children and families from multiple ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. She brings a passion for education – both early childhood education and lifelong learning.

Shayla's teaching and leadership experience began in northern California, including experience as Center Director. For the next five years she owned and directed a preschool in Atlanta, Georgia. As owner, she had responsibility for the success of the preschool – success for the children, for the teachers, for the families, for the staff, and for the community, maintaining enrollment stability and

increasing enrollment to expand the level of service provided to the community. She also served as Center Director of a center serving both preschool and school-age children.

Upon returning to California, Shayla spent four years in roles with increasing responsibilities from Site Supervisor to Center Director, including assisting other centers in both California and Nevada. In these roles she has built partnerships with local elementary schools to expand community involvement and ensure enrollment stability and growth. She has collaborated with resource and referral agencies to assist families with parent workshops and teachers with training courses.

A common thread throughout Shayla's experience is her success in maintaining enrollment stability across multiple economic cycles, through community relationships and outreach. Her demonstrated skills in this area will position Beanstalk to expand opportunities and provide professional growth

opportunities for Beanstalk teachers and staff – including providers.

Shayla's passion for education includes her own education. In addition to completing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development from California State University, Sacramento with a minor in Social Welfare & Pan African Studies, she earned a Master of Science degree in Early Childhood Studies and Education Specialist degree (Ed.S.), both from Walden University. She is currently in the dissertation stage of completing her Doctor of Education degree (Ed.D.) in Early Childhood Education from Walden University.

At Beanstalk, our dedicated teachers and staff are the heart and soul of our mission. For decades, our professionals have been serving the children of our community, earning the trust of families across many socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, giving parents the peace of mind to know their children are in the best of hands, learning and growing with their peers in a nurturing environment. Our teachers and staff are successfully carrying out the vision and legacy of B J Jordan every day, as we have been doing under the leadership of Saundra and our dedicated management team. This important work and service to the community will continue, as we celebrate our past successes and turn the page to our future successes. Our work will be even further strengthened under Shayla and our current management team, continuing to fulfill B J's vision every day.

* * *

Beanstalk's mission is to provide children and families with enriching child development and nutritional programs in centers and family child care homes that are safe, affordable, research-based and culturally sensitive, supported by community partnerships and coordinated services.