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## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Registration is Open for 2018 Early Care and Education Professional Learning Conference**

FAIRFIELD – Solano County Office of Education has partnered with several agencies — including First 5 Solano, Child Start, Inc., and Solano Family and Children's Services — to sponsor the Quality Counts Early Childhood Education (ECE) Conference. The event will take place on Saturday, September 22, 2018, at Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road in Fairfield, at 8:00 AM. This year's conference theme is *Quality Counts in Solano Early Care and Education*.

"The Solano County Office of Education is proud to bring together nearly 200 professionals to learn from experts in the field of early childhood education and collaborate with each other during this conference," says Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. "We know that early learning teacher effectiveness matters, especially in a child's formative years, and it is one of the most important school-related factors influencing student achievement. When our early childhood education teachers participate in quality training, our students receive the benefits."

Participants will have an opportunity to tour the highly rated Early Learning Center at Solano Community College and learn about Solano County's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Led by the Solano County Office of Education and First 5 Solano, this statewide initiative to enhance the quality of early learning programs provides evidence-based support to strengthen communities and improve overall outcomes for children and their families.

Topics of interest will be available for early learning professionals and anyone working with young children. ECE professionals will participate in three breakout sessions and choose from 27 interactive/informative sessions such as baby signs, STEAM-inspired (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activities, trauma-informed practices, special needs inclusion, and self-care for early learning professionals.

An array of vendors and community agencies will share products and resources, including representatives from Head Start, Solano Family & Children's Services, Help Me Grow Solano, Solano Coalition for Better Health, and several higher learning and training organizations.

Lakeshore Learning is co-sponsoring the keynote speaker for the event. Early learning professionals are invited to take advantage of the early bird registration rate of only \$20 (until July 31, 2018). Register online at <http://bit.ly/2018ECEConference>.

For more information, contact Gethsemane Moss, Senior Director of Community Engagement, at [GMoss@solanocoe.net](mailto:GMoss@solanocoe.net) or 707-399-4429.

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