

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Early Connections Learning Centers Acquires New Building to Expand Early Education Services

Colorado Springs, CO — [February 11, 2025] — Early Connections Learning Centers is excited to announce the acquisition of a building at 415 Sahwatch Street, marking a significant milestone in our mission to increase access to high quality, affordable early education for children in Colorado Springs. This facility will soon become the Alice Bemis Taylor Center for Early Education, expanding access to much-needed early education in our community.

Key supporters of this \$9 million project include: El Pomar Foundation; Norwood Foundation; Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation; The City of Colorado Springs; Lyda Hill Philanthropies; Cathy and Bart Holaday; Jerry and Pam Bruni; Anschutz Foundation; and Ent Credit Union.

The project will also bring New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) back to El Paso County for the first time in 15 years. This federal program stimulates investment in economically distressed communities by attracting private capital to projects that foster revitalization, create jobs, and strengthen local infrastructure.

“We are thrilled to provide additional high quality early education options for families who live or work in downtown Colorado Springs. The Alice Bemis Taylor Center represents our commitment to ensuring all children have access to high quality early education, laying the foundation for a lifetime of success,” said Liz Denzon, President and CEO of Early Connections Learning Centers.

“El Pomar Foundation is proud to support Early Connections in their efforts to expand access to high quality early education. This project exemplifies the importance of investing in children, families, and the future of our community.” Kyle Hybl, President and CEO, El Pomar Foundation.

“The Alice Bemis Taylor Center is an exciting addition to downtown and the future Park Union neighborhood. It aligns with the broader vision of creating a vibrant and thriving community. The Norwood Foundation is proud to support this project, which provides invaluable access to early education while contributing to the area’s long-term growth and revitalization.” Chris Jenkins, Norwood Foundation.

“We’ve long believed in the power of education to transform lives. Supporting the Alice Bemis Taylor Center is an investment in the next generation and the community we care deeply about,” said Jerry and Pam Bruni.

“The Alice Bemis Taylor Center is more than a building—it’s a catalyst for growth and opportunity for all Colorado Springs families. We are thrilled to play a part in this transformative campaign,” said Cathy and Bart Holaday.

To close the funding gap, Early Connections is working to raise the final \$1.5 million.

A generous \$500,000 gift from their supporting Foundation, a steadfast partner of Early Connections Learning Centers for generations, has been committed. This significant investment reflects not only the strength and resilience of the Foundation but also its unwavering commitment to advancing its mission. Tripling the impact of this gift will be pivotal between now and April 2025 to ensure renovations can begin this summer.

When completed, the Alice Bemis Taylor Center will increase the capacity of our current location behind Antlers Hotel by 57%, ultimately providing an additional 70 early education opportunities with an emphasis on infants and toddlers. Additionally, this space will establish a groundbreaking professional development center for early educators, providing unparalleled training and support for both center-based providers and those who operate child care programs out of their homes.

The facility is expected to open its doors in early 2026, ushering in a new era for Early Connections, which has served Colorado Springs families since 1897.

To support the Building Futures Campaign and ensure that our community's children have access to high-quality early care and education, Early Connections invites community members to get involved. Every contribution, no matter the size, will make a difference for children and families in Colorado Springs.

For more information, visit <https://www.earlyconnections.org/capital-campaign/>

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***Note: Photos available upon request**

About Early Connections Learning Centers

Established in 1897, Early Connections Learning Centers (Early Connections) is the oldest nonprofit early care and learning organization in Colorado. Their mission is to provide high quality, comprehensive early care and education to all children. Serving approximately 300 children each day, ages 6-weeks to 16-years, their classrooms provide year-round support to our community's working families. Early Connections operates three full-day, year-round centers for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; and before/after school and full-day summer programs for school-age children. In addition to their centers, they partner with a network of family child care homes, the Home Network of the Pikes Peak Region, and operate Court Care of the Pikes Peak Region, a free drop-in center at the El Paso County Courthouse.