**ELC AWARDED $6000 GRANT FROM PNC BANK FOR NEW STEAM MACHINE**

**Palmetto, Florida, January 4th, 2022** – The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County (ELC) has been awarded a $6000 grant from PNC Bank to help create a new STEAM Machine mobile classroom that will increase ELC’s educational fleet to six vehicles.

The new STEAM Machine will have disabled access and be constructed from a school bus donated to the ELC by the School District of Manatee County. The PNC Bank grant will contribute towards interior buildout and STEAM program materials.

Paul Sharff, ELC Chief Executive Officer, said: "Our organization is so grateful for the support of PNC Bank. They have been long standing partners and understand the need to invest in our youngest learners. This grant will help us increase our mobile educational fleet to six vehicles, and we could not provide such innovative learning programs without the support of funders such as PNC Bank. Once again, we would also like to thank Superintendent Saunders for her support in donating a school bus that was being decommissioned. We truly appreciate our partnership with them and PNC Bank as we work together to support early education in Manatee County.”

The STEAM curriculum focuses on science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math. ELC's STEAM curriculum engages early learners in real projects within authentic environments and lays the academic groundwork for math and science.

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. is a multi-service agency dedicated to helping children develop skills that they will need to be successful in school and life. The agency's focus is on high-quality school readiness opportunities for all children and their families, understanding that it is in the first years of life that a child’s future educational success is determined and the critical role of parents, as their child’s first and most important teacher.

To learn more about Coalition’s services, go to www.elc-manatee.org or call 941-757-2900, extension 2101.