

# *TEACHING TEACHERS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOME*



Great teachers help create great students. In fact, research shows that an inspiring and informed teacher is the most important school-related factor influencing student achievement, so it is critical to pay close attention to how we train and support both new and experienced educators. The best teacher-preparation emphasizes subject-matter mastery and provides many opportunities for teachers to participate in professional development. Just as professionals in medicine, architecture, and law have opportunities to learn through examining case studies, learning best practices and participating in professional development allow teachers the time to apply their learning of theory in the context of teaching in a real classroom setting.

This is what Hancock County Head Start staff members apply in day-to-day operations. Hancock County Early Head Start/ Head Start & Pre-K teachers participated in an intensive three-day professional development retreat to enhance their skills and knowledge to increase student outcomes. The training was conducted by Lakeshore Learning, leading Early Childhood Education consultants, whose primary goal was integrating STEAM in day to day classroom instruction. The facilitator, Patti Jo Wilson delivered an intentional, engaging, and interactive session that supported best practices and collaboration. The training built in language and literacy skills, social and emotional development, fine and gross motor skills, as well as classroom management. So, look out Hancock County Early Head Start/ Head Start & Pre-K parents, we are creating scientists, engineers, statisticians, artists, and technicians. **Hats Off to the Hancock County EHS/ HS & Pre-K teachers.**