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Educare DC's New CEO, Jamal Berry, Steps Into His Role & Focuses on Excellence

"Excellence in everything" is the guiding principle from newly installed president and CEO of Educare DC, Jamal Berry. This passion for excellence stems from Mr. Berry's long history with Educare DC and his career in childhood development. With a vision that began in his college days at Bowie State University and continued through his fifteen years working within the community, Jamal is now living out his passion by guiding the next generation of leaders.

"We will strive for excellent interactions with children and families, excellent performance, excellent and efficient meetings, and to provide excellent opportunities for staff to grow and learn. The Educare Excellence will shine bright!"

Mr. Berry came into his leadership role with significant experience, including positions of progressive responsibility over ten years at Educare DC, moving from mentor teacher to school director, and to his most recent position as vice president of programs with full responsibility for program management and performance.

Mr. Berry earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pedology (Child and Adolescent Studies) from Bowie State University. At George Washington University, he earned a master's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Specialist of Education degree in Leadership and Early Childhood Special Education.

"Growing up we had extended family that lived with us, learned with us, we took care of each other, and we grew together. What I learned from that experience is empathy, compassion, and community, and those are now embedded in my leadership style and who I am as a person."

Looking ahead, Mr. Berry has a vision for Educare DC that will lead to even greater impact in the community. "We're going to continue to provide intentional professional development for staff, high quality teaching, and intensive family engagement for our children and families. We are committed to success beyond our walls through community partnerships and policy advocacy so that all children have an equal chance to succeed."

About Educare DC: Opened in July 2012, <u>Educare DC</u> is part of a 25-school national network that serves as a platform for broader change, inspiring high-quality programs in communities, improving public policies, and demonstrating a comprehensive approach to the first five years of life and learning. Educare DC serves over 400 children from prenatal to age 5 – and their families – across two Educare centers and five partner sites in DC. Educare DC is a Head Start program, combining federal funding, local Pre-K and childcare subsidy funds, and private philanthropic dollars to provide full-day, full-year comprehensive education, health, mental health, nutrition, and family engagement services. # # #