
2014 Citizen of the Year

David Lawrence Jr.

President of The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, chair of The Children's Movement of Florida, and Education and Community Leadership Scholar at the University of Miami School of Education & Human Development

David Lawrence Jr., a nationally known leader in journalism, retired in 1999 as publisher of The Miami Herald on behalf of early learning and school readiness. The Herald won five Pulitzer Prizes under his stewardship. In 2002 he led the campaign for The Children's Trust, a dedicated source of early intervention and prevention funding for children in Miami-Dade. He's a gubernatorial appointee to the Children's Cabinet and has led two statewide panels on child protection.



Lawrence helped lead passage of a statewide constitutional amendment to provide pre-K for all 4 year olds. An endowed chair in early childhood studies has been established in his name at the University of Florida. The David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Public School opened in Miami-Dade in 2006.

He serves on the national boards of the Everglades Foundation and Americans for Immigrant Justice, and chairs the Foundation for Child Development in New York. He previously chaired the United Way and the New World School of the Arts—now the Perez Art Museum of Miami. His numerous awards include 12 honorary doctorates as well as "Father of the Year" and "Family of the Year."

He's a graduate of the University of Florida and the Advanced Management program at the Harvard Business School.

Lawrence and his wife Roberta have five children and five grandchildren.
