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Jefferson Ready Start Receives \$30K Donation from Jefferson Business Council

Funding will support high-quality early education for economically disadvantaged children in Jefferson Parish

METAIRIE, LA (May 11, 2022) – [Jefferson Ready Start Network](#) (JRSN) announced today that the [Jefferson Business Council](#) has donated \$30,000 to the JRSN Future Fund. The critical donation makes JRSN eligible for a matching donation through the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund (ECE Fund).

“There is an urgent need for quality education for our youngest citizens,” says JRSN Executive Director Sarintha Stricklin, Ph.D.. “We have an in-depth understanding of the state of early care and education in the parish, and now is the time to develop targeted strategies for building a more equitable, sustainable and accessible early learning ecosystem. Support from the parish’s most influential business leaders is key, and we are grateful to the Jefferson Business Council for stepping up.”

Launched in October 2021, the JRSN Future Fund was created in partnership with the Jefferson Community Foundation to allow businesses, organizations and individuals an avenue to contribute toward efforts to increase access to quality child care for all. The Future Fund supports publicly funded seats for children ages birth to 5 years at high-quality child care centers, as well as resources for centers. Jefferson Ready Start Network leaders and thought partners have increased efforts for local fundraising in order to capitalize on this funding.

“Access to early education is essential for the success of our children and our community at large,” said Jim Martin, President of Jefferson Business Council. “Our mission is to encourage, promote and enhance the economic posture, social welfare and environment of the parish. What better return on investment is there than supporting the future of our workforce?”

For additional information about JRSN or to donate to the JRSN Future Fund, visit jeffersonreadystartnetwork.com. To learn more about the Jefferson Business Council visit jeffersonbusinesscouncil.com.

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About Jefferson Ready Start Network: Under the authority of Jefferson Parish Schools, the Jefferson Ready Start Network works to create a culture of high-quality, comprehensive early childhood services (birth to 5 years) through engagement and partnerships with families, educators and community members. For more information, visit www.jeffersonreadystartnetwork.com.

About Jefferson Business Council: *The mission of the JBC is to promote and encourage economic development in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Business Council membership consists of a variety of civic leaders, business owners and CEOs who have worked to create a vibrant quality of life and economic development environment in Jefferson Parish over many years.*