



## Council for Educational Change – Every Child Can Succeed!

### Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award

Our Council Board established the *Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award* to reward outstanding Principal Leadership. It is an *annual* recognition, now in its sixth year. It shines a spotlight on extraordinary Principal leadership and its importance in increasing student achievement and improving schools. Thanks to the Award's generous sponsors, the Grand Winner receives **\$10,000** and the Gold Medallion winners (two in 2007) receive **\$5,000** each. Following the corporate practice and model, all awards are for personal use.

This award honors the educational improvement legacy of **Leonard Miller** who was the Chair of the South Florida Annenberg Challenge from 1997-2002. Mr. Miller was also the founder of the Council for Educational Change, the successor organization to the Challenge. He firmly believed that Principal leadership--research and experience bears this out--is the catalyst to increase student achievement and to provide a quality education for all students. He generously funded many educational improvement programs focused on leadership.

The Award program has flourished with the support of the sponsors who have rewarded Principals in Council programs throughout Florida. This year's online Award application and information is now available on the Council website. It takes approximately an hour to complete. The three Award criteria are:

increased student achievement; development/empowerment of staff; and engagement of business/community partners. Last year's special Award Event was held at the Star Island home of Council Board member and Educational Advancement Chair, Sue Miller.

Below are brief profiles of last year's Grand and Golden Medallion Winners sharing just a few of their accomplishments.

#### **Grand Winner: Peggy Pearson, Mt. Vernon Elementary, Pinellas**

Mrs. Pearson led the team that raised Mt. Vernon from a "D" school for three years in a row to an "A" school for the past five years. Mt. Vernon had a very successful PASS model, with CEO mentor **Elliott Stern** working closely with Mrs. Pearson. She also helped implement and support the Council's Teachers and Teaching Initiative at her school. Under her leadership:

- raised school grade from a "D" in 2002 to an "A" for the last five years
- no teacher turnover in two years
- school has been awarded the St. Petersburg Mayor's Top Apple Award several times
- school hosts monthly parent meetings that draw upwards of 200 participants to each gathering
- energized the business community to provide mentoring opportunities for students

#### **Gold Medallion Winners:**

##### **Dr. Jean Teal, Miami Edison Senior High, Miami-Dade**

Dr. Teal was formerly the principal of Council PASS school Charles Drew Elementary where she led the school from a "C" to an "A". During her tenure at Miami Edison, she spurred her faculty and students to move the school from its persistent "F" to a high "D", last year. Among the other Council programs in which she participated are Executive PASS and the Florida Leadership Academy. Under her leadership:

- school achieved some of the highest Math gains in the state
- Parent Resource Center was established and increased parent participation in school site activities
- small learning communities were created for teachers to collaborate on improving student achievement

##### **Randall "Jud" Strickland, S.A. Hull Elementary, Duval Public Schools**

When Mr. Strickland took over the helm of S.A. Hull in 2004, the school was a "D." In his words, he "commenced to drive out fear of failure" and replace it with systems of data gathering and application to instruction. Last year the school earned an "A." Under his leadership:

- school made the highest FCAT gains in reading in the district
- monthly family nights include legal, health and financial clinics and math activities
- Ready to Learn Grant, earned from the local PBS affiliate, provides parent literacy workshops.

Our thanks to the generous sponsors of the 2008 Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award Program and Event:

**Baptist Health South Florida, Carnival Cruise Lines, Cobb Family Foundation, Edward W. Easton, Lennar Foundation, Richard and Susan Finkelstein, and Akerman Senterfitt**

*Your sponsorship helps reward and inspire superior Principal leadership!!!*