

May 2, 2008

More than 60 participants from PASS® teams attended the Council's Annual PASS meeting in Tampa on April 16. Special guests included St. Petersburg Mayor **Rick Baker** and Hillsborough Superintendent **Mary Ellen Elia**. Attending from the Council were: Chair **Steve Saiontz**; Vice Chair **Gene Marshall**; Board Members **Bob Graham**, **Jeffrey Miller**, **Karen Fryd**, and **Steve Wasserman**, all of whom are PASS CEO's or supporters; Council President **Dr. Elaine Liftin**; and PASS Coordinator **Sherry Clarke** who arranged the event. In addition to CEO funding, PASS is generously supported by the **Florida Legislature** and statewide sponsor, **Raymond James Financial**.

Save the date...
November 19, 2008

Leonard Miller
Principal Leadership
Award Luncheon



Tampa Bay area *Mentors of Distinction* from the Council's Teachers and Teaching Initiative (TTI) were honored at the PASS meeting. TTI is funded by the **Wachovia Foundation** and placed at selected PASS schools. TTI retains and develops new teachers, with successful teachers mentoring the novices. TTI has a 98% retention success rate. Mentors honored were: **Susan DiFederico** and **Larry Plank**, Robinson High, Tampa; **Carol Dinsdale**, Mt. Vernon Elementary, St. Petersburg; **Jacqueline Kasperski**, West Tampa Elementary; **Pamela Barnes**, formerly Winston Elementary, Lakeland; and **Carol Mayo**, formerly Bryan Elementary, Tampa (recently promoted to AP). **Judy Anderson**, Assistant Vice President of Wachovia Bank in Tampa and **Dr. Billy Birnie**, TTI Mentor Program Coordinator, helped recognize the mentors. **Pete Bucholtz** is the TTI director.

Some 100 students from Edison Senior High attended a performance of the Florida Grand Opera's production of *Julius Caesar* on April 24. The cultural outing was arranged by the school's Executive PASS® mentor, **Keith Ward**, the founder and President of Quality Management North America, Inc. Mr. Ward, an Edison alum, works with Principal **Dr. Jean Teal** and provides broadening experiences for students. He also made it possible for students to attend the Russian National Orchestra, a London Philharmonic concert and a New World Symphony performance. Board member **Karen Fryd** also attended with the students. [The event and partnership were featured in a Herald article this week and you can read more about it online.](#)

Two Executive PASS meetings were recently held. The first was on April 25th for the Orange County group. The luncheon meeting was hosted by Executive PASS partners **Frank Santos**, CFO of Rosen Hotels and Resorts and by **Karen Breakell**, Community Relations Director of **Nemours**. The second meeting was held for the Hillsborough contingent on April 28. The networking luncheon was hosted by Executive PASS partner, **Peter Scalia** of Gameworks. Both meetings were attended by **Dr. Elaine Liftin** and Council area Executive PASS Coordinator, **Ralph Hewitt**, who arranged both meetings.

Some 100 participants attended the statewide Assistant Principal Leadership Forum® in Orlando, April 17-18. It was funded through the **Florida Department of Education's (FLDOE) William C. Golden Professional Development Program** and by these corporate sponsors: **Publix Super Market Charities**, **Carnival Cruise Lines**, and the **Lennar Foundation**.

The Council will conduct two statewide Florida Leadership Academies® in Tampa, June 22-27 and July 13-18. They are sponsored by the FLDOE and **Washington Mutual**, **Akerman Senterfitt**, **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc.**, **Darden Restaurants Foundation**, and **Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.** Teams (Principal, AP, teacher) interested in attending an Academy should contact John Hasselbach: jhasselbach@changeeducation.org or 954.727.9909.

Palm River Elementary in Tampa had their PASS kick-off celebration on April 25th which was well attended by parents, community members, Principal **Woodland Johnson**, staff and students. The PASS model is sponsored by the **Community Foundation of Tampa Bay** with **Richard Wainio**, Director of the Tampa Port Authority, serving as the CEO mentor. Special guests at the event were: Richard Wainio; Hillsborough School Board Vice Chair **Carol Kurdell** and Board Member **Dorothea Edgcomb**; Coach **Susan Turner**; PASS Coordinator **Sherry Clarke**; and **Andy Forbes**, Port Communications Director.

Congratulations to Council Board Member and educational champion **Karen Fryd**! She and her South Florida Youth Foundation received several recognitions at the 2007-2008 Miami-Dade Exemplary Awards ceremony on April 18, in the following categories: Exemplary Business or Organization Liaison, Exemplary Partnership Districtwide and Exemplary Dade Partnership Schoolwide. Mrs. Fryd is active in PASS, working with Council Board member and PASS CEO **Jeffrey Miller** at Holmes Elementary.

The Council's next telephonic Board Meeting will be held on May 21 at 10:00 a.m. and it is *very important* that Board Members attend. Please continue reading to find out about the Council's newest partnership group--the **Lawyers Circle**.

Council for Educational Change – Every Child Can Succeed! Lawyers Circle Creates a New, Dynamic Donor Group

It's not a case, but rather a cause, that united eight of Florida's most distinguished law firms to contribute to educational improvement through the Council.

These prestigious firms are charter members of the Council's *Lawyers Circle*. Together, they have donated \$450,000 to the Council's organization and program work to improve education and positively impact student achievement. They believe in the Council's mission of educational improvement through the development of school-based leadership, aligned to standards.

How did it all start? It was the brainchild of Council Educational Advancement Chair, Sue Miller.

"These firms and their leaders know that an investment in education is an investment in our children's future," observed Sue Miller. "After studying the Council's work, evaluation results and accountability measures," she continued, "they signed on and gave most generously."

Robert Zinn, Akerman Senterfitt

Robert A. Zinn is the President of Akerman Senterfitt, a prominent Miami law firm with both global and corporate practice areas. Mr. Zinn not only joined the Lawyers Circle, giving a sizable contribution, but also joined the Council Board on April 16th.



A community activist, Mr. Zinn and his firm are committed, long term, to educational

improvement. "Helping our children reach and exceed their potential--now and in the future--is a big job and even bigger responsibility that we must all share," said Mr. Zinn. "Nothing has proven more effective in raising student achievement than skilled and empowered school leadership. That's the formula for student success and the Council's focus. The *Lawyers Circle* provides a unique opportunity to support quality education for all students. That is a deeply held priority and commitment for our firm."

Caesar Alvarez, Greenberg Traurig

Cesar Alvarez is the CEO of Greenberg Traurig. This distinguished firm was the first to join the Lawyer's Circle with a generous gift. It is an international law firm with 1,750 lawyers, 29 offices and strong roots in Florida. The firm advises local, national and international companies in the practice areas of aviation, entertainment, financial institutions, health care, real estate, technology, international trade and customs, manufacturing, and retail.

"We are pleased to be a founding member of the Lawyers Circle," said Mr. Alvarez. "Greenberg Traurig welcomes the opportunity to assist students and educators throughout Florida. The Circle reflects the firm's culture of collaboration, creating a team of committed law firms working together on strategic education improvement. Education is the key to giving each child a fair shot at the American Dream and a prosperous future for our community. We look forward to seeing additional firms as members."



Lawyers Circle

Akerman Senterfitt PA

Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

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Hanzman Gilbert LLP

Podhurst/Orseck

Gunster Yoakley & Stewart, PA

Steve Uhfelder & Associates

**"The Lawyers Circle
creates a new group of
champions for our students."**

-Sue Miller, Council Educational Advancement
Chair and Founder of the Lawyers Circle

To learn how you can get involved and join the
LAWYERS CIRCLE, please call the Council for
Educational Change, Dawn Wilson, at 954.727.9909

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