

Palm Beach County Education Commission

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

DECEMBER 2004 REVIEW

Goal 1: Child Readiness

The Strategic Plan Challenge:

In our efforts to create a seamless education system, the Palm Beach County Education Commission will promote services for the care, support and education of children from birth and continuing through pre-kindergarten until a child enters the formal K-20 education system.

CD²

2003

A major barrier to providing quality childcare and quality preschool experiences has been the lack of skilled workers. Lack of training, poor salaries, non-alignment of curriculum, lack of opportunity for career advancement and differing governmental regulations are the reasons most cited in finding qualified and skilled workers. In response to this need, local educational institutions, agencies and funders have come together to establish CD² (Career Development in Child Development). CD², a Toppel Family Foundation Initiative, brings together education institutions, Foundations, and community partners to develop and implement a career ladder for professionals working with our youngest children. This is a multi-year collaborative partnership.

2004

The second year of the CD² collaborative focused on three areas: Articulation, access to training and education/professional development. The partners collectively established the “Integration Group” to ensure that early childhood education activities are cohesive, coordinated and aligned to produce quality outcomes for children. CD² produced a countywide Professional Development Plan that was forwarded to the School Readiness Coalition for inclusion in the planning and accountability process. FAU has established the Center for Early Childhood Education, Community Partnerships and Research (CECERCP) . CD², the Institute of Excellence at Palm Beach Community College and FAU are in the process of establishing an articulation agreement for early childhood coursework. PBCC will offer certification courses in Spanish. Challenges currently being addressed include English –only testing and inclusion of childcare workers as a “targeted occupation” for workforce training.

CD² hosted the first regional meeting regarding early education professional development that included Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. Future quarterly meetings are being planned.

CD² convened a statewide meeting in Orlando with universities and community colleges to discuss statewide collaboration. The consensus of the group was to develop an articulated career path model based on the competencies in the Pathways of Professionalism.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Children’s Services Council, Family Central, Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin County, Florida Atlantic University, Hispanic Human Resources, Lost Tree Foundation, Mailman Foundation Nova Southeastern University, Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach County Head Start, Pew Public Education Fund, Picower Foundation, Prime Time, School District of Palm Beach County, School Readiness Coalition, Toppel Family Foundation, Urban League of Palm Beach Count, Workforce Alliance y and private providers.

Goal 2: Improve Student Achievement and the Learning Environment

The Strategic Plan Challenge:

The Palm Beach County Education Commission seeks to improve the knowledge and skills of Palm Beach County's residents based on a supportive learning environment.

Executive Leadership Institute

2003

Recognizing that the quality of leadership in schools is a primary driver of school success, local leaders participated in the Darden/Curry Partnership for School Executive Leadership at the University of Virginia. The Partnership brings together the latest thinking from educational leadership and general management to focus on the business of education. Through its programs and case development, the Partnership provides executive education for K-12 educators in leadership, organizational change, managing and leveraging critical resources, facilitating partnerships and communicating with stakeholders, as well as other nonacademic issues facing school administrators. Through its community and business partners, the Partnership will broaden the understanding of the complex nature of the school organization and strengthen the relationship between executives and school district leaders. This is a multi-year collaborative partnership.

2004

The success of the 2003 pilot program, generated interest to expand the program to develop leadership capacity across the education, health and social service sectors. The Palm Beach County Leadership Institute has been established and will work closely with the Darden School of Business, Weldon Cooper Institute for Public Service, and Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia to develop the program. It is believed that the integrated program will bring education, health and human services, and business together in this process, and that it will serve as a national model. The model for the Senior Executive Institute is a 13 month program. The training is proposed in two tiers. The Senior Executive Program is designed for CEO's, Superintendents, Presidents and second-line senior administration and will focus on the development of the highest level leadership competencies to be more effective in leading complex organizations with complex issues. The Executive Program will target directors and middle managers focusing on the development of the leadership skills required to greater levels of leadership competence within a complex, ever-changing, diverse environment within Palm Beach County.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Children's Services Council, Citrix Systems, Economic Council, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Pew Public Education Fund, Principal's Association, School District of Palm Beach County, Urban League of Palm Beach County, Workforce Alliance

Goal 2: Improve Student Achievement and the Learning Environment *continued*

Intensive Teacher Education Training

2003

A program has been implemented to train and certify displaced workers from Seimens Corporation and Motorola. Individuals complete the Intensive Summer Institute and earn 18 graduate credits at FAU. Following the summer coursework, the individuals receive a new teacher orientation. They are placed as math and science teachers in Palm Beach County secondary schools with an experienced educator as a mentor. In addition to this professional support, the teacher/candidate attends a weekly graduate seminar. Upon completion of this closely supervised teaching semester, it is expected that the teacher candidates will pass the required certification exam and be eligible for teacher certification. It is a perfect win-win situation: Teachers highly skilled in the content area and jobs for displaced workers. This is a multi-year collaborative partnership.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Florida Atlantic University and the School District of Palm Beach County.

2004

The Intensive Summer Institute was highly successful and Florida Atlantic University received a replication grant from the Department of Education to continue the program.

Distance Learning Consortium

2003

Distance Learning is a tool used to increase student access, provide flexibility, promote integration of technology in the learning environment and promote globalization of education. A consortium of local educational institutions distance learning professionals in being developed to coordinate and leverage the local resources. This is a multi-year collaborative partnership.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Bell South, Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Community College and the School District of Palm Beach County.

2004

The Distance Learning Consortium was successful in amending the articulation agreement between Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Community College and the School District of Palm Beach County. This addendum provides the authorization for the three institutions to work together and enables Florida Atlantic University to host the Consortium web-site. Plans are being developed to offer intra-institutional staff development coursework. Palm Beach Community College is offering a teacher education course on T.E.N (The Education Network), the School District cable television channel beginning in January and shared distance learning coursework for students is being explored. Several grants that would provide benefits to all three institutions have been submitted.

Goal 2: Improve Student Achievement and the Learning Environment *continued*

District Cost Differential

2003

2004

Education and business leaders from Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties are working with our local legislative delegations to address the inequities of the District Cost Differential that creates a school funding formula that shortchanges almost 40% of the state's population.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with the Business Forum, Economic Council, Regional Business Alliance Tri County School Districts,

Science Education

2003

2004

The Scripps Institute initiative in Palm Beach County has sparked a renewed interest in science education. Following a community trip to The Scripps Institute in La Jolla, California, working groups are planning new facilities, reviewing K-20 math and science curricula, revising teacher preparation for science and math instruction, and exploring new ways to attract more students into demanding science fields. A scholarship program has been developed at Oxford University for top performing Florida university scholars. This program is anticipated to become the Scripps Florida/Oxford University Scholarship program.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Business Development Board, Children's Services Council, the Oxford University, Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach County Commission, Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, Department of Education, The Scripps Institute, Urban League of Palm Beach County, Workforce Alliance.

Goal 2: Improve Student Achievement and the Learning Environment *continued*

Sales Tax Referendum

2003

2004

The Community and Education Partnership spearheaded a successful campaign to approve a half-cent sales tax increase to fund school construction and modernization. The sales tax will be in effect for six years and will have raised \$560 million when the tax ends in December 2010. An independent citizen oversight committee will be established to review all project spending and make sure all schools in the plan are built. The additional funds guarantee that new and replacement schools will be built to reduce overcrowding, older schools will have increased access to technology, emergency shelter space will increase and adult and community education options will be expanded.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Alliance of Delray Residential Association,, Classroom Teachers' Association, Coalition of West Boynton Residential Association Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, County Council of PTAs, Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Inc., Gold Coast Builder's Association, Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, Greater Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce, Greater Delray Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, Northern Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce, Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce, Palm Beach County Business Development Board, Palm Beach County League of Cities, Palm Beach County School Administrators' Association, Palm Beach County Staff Association, Palms Realtors' Association of the Palm Beaches, School District of Palm Beach County, West Chamber of Commerce, Voters' Coalition of Palm Beach County, and the voters of Palm Beach County.

Goal 3: Skilled Workforce

The Strategic Plan Challenge:

Nearly everyone in Palm Beach County works and work begins at an early age. To be realistic about the needs of the County's people, the Palm Beach County Education Commission must and will seek to prepare *everyone* to successfully enter the workforce, to integrate workforce preparation with the K-20 system, to identify realistic job opportunities and to constantly and flexibly match lifelong workforce preparation with changing job opportunities.

Career Academies

2003

High wage and high demand occupations within the 16 national industry cluster groups have been identified to establish career academy programs in comprehensive high schools across Palm Beach County. Targeting a student's interest and working with their learning style, a rigorous and relevant curriculum will help students be prepared to enter the workforce and/or attend post secondary school directly from high school. This is a multi-year collaborative partnership.

2004

Career academies have been established in every comprehensive high school. The Career Education and Business Leadership Committee (CEBLC) identified and developed curriculum in response to occupational information provided by Workforce Alliance. The career academies were identified within industry clusters and designed to prepare students for both postsecondary education and work. Career academies require articulation to postsecondary institutions. Industry partners are essential to provide expertise as guest lecturers and mentors, assist in the development of curriculum, and to provide real life work experiences for students. (Attachment A) Additional funding for program support and training is being pursued through grants and donations.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with the Business Development Board, Florida Atlantic University, Hispanic Human Resources, Historical Society of Palm Beach, Hotel and Lodging Association, Junior Achievement, Municipalities, Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach County Commission, Palm Beach County Film and Television, Commission, the School District of Palm Beach County, State Attorney's Office, Workforce Alliance, 4 year colleges and technical schools and local businesses and chambers of commerce.

Goal 3: Skilled Workforce *continued*

Comprehensive Career Development Plan

2003

A Comprehensive Career Development Plan is currently being developed. Key components are integration of academic and vocational coursework, strong emphasis on reading through the content area, career exploration, broad transferable skills and data driven decision making. Career counseling, including direct assessment, planning and course selection is critical. Dr. Willard Daggett of the International Center for Leadership in Education conducted community informational outreach seminars in 2003 and is currently assisting in curriculum and staff development. This is a multi-year collaborative partnership.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County and career academy advisory committees.

2004

High School teams, including the principal, guidance counselor and teachers from each building are working with Dr. Daggett to integrate academic and CTE (career and technical education) curriculum that includes reading in the content area and writing across disciplines. The teams focus on the effective use of data including the Curriculum Matrix, the CTE Matrix, Arts Matrix, Gold Seal Lessons, and small learning communities as applied to an academy program.

Guidance Counselors

2003

Additional information was needed to determine how to better prepare students for careers. Focus group research was conducted with school guidance counselors to determine: how guidance counselors define career education; what guidance counselors know about career education and what guidance counselors perceive career education includes. The findings are being used to redefine the role of the school counselor and develop appropriate training to provide effective career counseling. This is a multi-year project.

2004

A counseling website has been developed to provide academic and career counseling information to students, parents and professionals. Topics include, but are not limited to: Academic Advising, Curriculum Frameworks, Home Education, College and post-secondary opportunities, distance learning, scholarship information, career development, workforce information, articulation agreements and useful career development sites.

The Student Development Advisory Board (SDAB) was created to develop a system-wide developmental guidance program based on national standards, to help students develop the academic, career and social competencies needed for long-term success. Three sub committees, Academic, Career and Personal/Social, were established to identify the K-12 student competencies which would be the priority for phase one of implementation. Additional competencies would be added as resources become available. A survey was conducted to determine both existing and additional resources currently being used to provide counseling support to students. Once finalized, the Student Development Plan will be presented to the School Board for implementation in the 2005-2006 school year.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Palm Beach County Healthcare District, Florida Atlantic University, Junior Achievement, the School District of Palm Beach County and Workforce Alliance.

Goal 3: Skilled Workforce *continued*

Workplace Certification 2004

2003

2004

A plan is currently being developed that would provide students graduating from career academies with a workplace readiness certificate. This certificate program would align with the work ready certification used by Workforce Alliance for adult workers. Certification would be provided in both knowledge skills, the hard skills necessary for specific occupations and soft skills, such as punctuality, work ethic, appropriate dress and attitude. This certification program will provide job seekers, students and employers with a central frame of reference for employability skills. This is a multi-year partnership.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Palm Beach Community College, the School District of Palm Beach County, and Workforce Alliance