

# Palm Beach County Education Commission

## PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

### DECEMBER 2005 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.

#### 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 CD<sup>2</sup> (Career Development in Child Development). CD<sup>2</sup>, 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.

#### CD<sup>2</sup>

#### 2004

The second year of the CD<sup>2</sup> 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. CD<sup>2</sup> 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). CD<sup>2</sup>, 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.

CD<sup>2</sup> hosted the first regional meeting regarding early education professional development that included Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. Future quarterly meetings are being planned.

CD<sup>2</sup> 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.

#### 2005

The articulation agreement between the School District of Palm Beach County and Palm Beach Community College has been completed. Students enrolling at PBCC who have completed the teacher education academy program are eligible to receive 9 credit hours that articulate into the AS in Early Childhood Degree program. The career academy programs are currently located in five high schools across the county.

FAU has developed a program proposal for two new Baccalaureate programs, a bachelor degree in Pre-K Primary Education and a Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education. The programs are currently moving through the university approval process. Upon approval, a formal articulation agreement between FAU and PBCC will be created and adopted by both boards.

At FAU, the Center for Early Childhood Education, Community Partnerships and Research (CECERCP) is developing a strategic plan which will include a seamless curriculum for early childhood teachers with PBCC.

PBCC has completed a Professional Development Needs Assessment and the findings will be used to develop curriculum at both PBCC and FAU. Additional needs include an infant/toddler endorsement and appropriate preparation assistance for early educators who are not proficient in English.

*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 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.

#### **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.

### **Executive Leadership Institute**

#### **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.

#### **2005**

The Palm Beach County Leadership Institute has successfully completed two cohorts of Senior Executive Leadership Training at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. To date, 55 senior managers have completed the training.

The Executive Program Leadership and Management Program have been developed in partnership with the University of Miami Division of Continuing and International Education. The program was designed around desired outcomes and competencies and includes modules focused on the core competencies: building internal and external coalitions, communication skills, interpersonal relationships and problem solving and processing information. The first cohort of 30 was launched in August 2005. Over the next five years, 150 individuals will complete the program. This program for emerging leaders from non-profit and public sector organizations will ensure an effective leadership infrastructure is in place for years to come.

*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 Siemens 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.

**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.

**2005**

The program for alternative certification is under review and will be offered in 2006.

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

### 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.

**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.

**2005**

Florida Atlantic University and Palm Beach Community College, Boca Raton campus has completed the hard wired connection. PBCC is now using FAU for back-up Internet services. Policies for access of services and appropriate use for staff development, dual enrollment, sharing digitized library resources and sharing of common applications are in development. FAU is hosting the Distance Learning Consortium website: <http://pbcdlc.fau.edu/>

*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.*

**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.

**2005**

The Florida Price Level Index ratio must be revised to reflect the higher cost of living, particularly housing, insurance and transportation costs in Palm Beach County, South Florida and the Treasure Coast. The tri-county leadership recommends an independent study of the Florida Price Level Index and a look at moving toward regional cost differentials.

*Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with the Business Forum, Economic Council, Regional Business Alliance and Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach 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.

**2005**

Scripps Florida offered two hands-on laboratory experiences with students and teachers conducting research in a laboratory under the supervision of a Scripps Florida scientist. High school educators have the opportunity to create ties and linkages to working scientists who can assist them in curriculum development. The student program aims to inspire students in their present and future educational pursuits by exposing them to leading-edge research.

The first state of the art Biotech Academy opened in August at Seminole Ridge High School and several other high school biotech academies are in design.

The Scripps Florida/Oxford University Scholarship program has been expanded. Two full scholarships are available.

At the recommendation of the Joint Technical Societies (a consortium of professional engineering organizations) Project Lead the Way, a premier pre-engineering program, has been adopted as the curriculum at three high school engineering academies. These industry professionals work closely with teachers and students to provide technical support, internships and guidance.

*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 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.

### 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.

## Career Academies

### 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.

### 2005

The School District developed an aggressive communication and marketing campaign to promote the career academy opportunities. The new logo, *Building Futures Together*, now appears on all career academy promotional materials including a recruiting brochure published in four languages. These brochures were mailed to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families and distributed at all middle and high schools. A 10 minute video has been produced and has been distributed to schools and community groups for information and recruitment. The career academies are an integral part of the CHOICE offerings to provide more options to all students. The CHOICE programs include all career academies and magnet programs offered in the district.

For specific information you can access the school district website: <http://www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/SecondaryCareerEd/career/index.htm>

Additional public awareness initiatives include joint presentations at the Model Schools Conference, National Education Summit, Florida School Boards Association, National Career Academy Coalition and Association of Career and Technical Education Conference.

The Career Education and Business Leadership Committee (CEBLC) is not just a committee but an on-going process that brings education and business together for a purpose. CEBLC builds relationships that result in support for career academy programs

Palm Healthcare, Junior Achievement and the School District partnered to provide almost 3000 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from 10 middle schools a job shadowing/field experience. The students had the opportunity to interact with health professionals and high school medical academy and magnet students and explore career and academic options.

The Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission in partnership with the Palm Beach County Office of Economic Development launched a new curriculum called *On-Location Education Program* for high school students interested in pursuing careers in the film and television industry. Industry experts worked directly in the classroom and helped students learn how to budget, write, develop, film and edit television programming. Three documentary films were produced and aired on the school district's cable network. The program will be replicated.

Workforce Alliance, Junior Achievement and industry supporters joined with the school district to create *Tools for Success*. It is a supplemental construction career education program focusing on skill development and hands on experience. Students at Forest Hill High

**Career Academies continued**

School and Palm Beach Lakes High School participated in the pilot program. OSHA safety certification, CPR/First Aid, on-site construction experience and 25 hours of apprenticeship were part of the program design. The initial program was extremely successful and has been expanded to eight schools. Successful students may be eligible to continue their education at PBCC

Several cities are taking the lead in creating opportunities for students. In partnership with the City of Delray Beach, students at Atlantic High School are designing and building a house within the Community Development Area. Lake Worth High School students are renovating a historical building, the first in the nation completely renovated by students.

*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, Palm Healthcare Foundation, 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.*

**2003**

**Power of QE<sup>3</sup>**

**2004**

**2005**

Modeled after the United States Department of Labor's successful Power of E<sup>3</sup> (Economic Development, Employment and Education), Palm Beach County launched the QE<sup>3</sup> initiative. Quality Economic Development, Quality Employment and Quality Education (QE<sup>3</sup>) is a proactive coordination of the three areas to ensure a high quality workforce in Palm Beach County. QE<sup>3</sup> focuses on integrating the collaborative delivery of services. By being responsive to business, the outcome should result in careers, not jobs.

The School District in partnership with the Business Development Board and Workforce Alliance offered a teacher externship experience to one career team from every high school in the district. Each team included a guidance coordinator, a career academy teacher and an academic teacher to experience an externship related to an academy program in their school. This teaming approach provided a dual learning experience and an advisement connection so that all career education students are provided the same information about the real world of work

The BDB and Workforce Alliance hosted their annual PACE luncheon by recognizing 100 of the district's best and brightest career academy students. Students have the opportunity to interact with local business leaders.

*Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with the Business Development Board, Palm Beach Community College, School District of Palm Beach Count, School house Consulting and Workforce Alliance.*

**2003**

**Economic Summit**

**2004**

**2005**

Total Education encompasses the entire education and workforce preparation system, beginning with our youngest children in pre-kindergarten programs through high school graduation, and post secondary and graduate education. Our students must have strong academic, technical and social skills for Palm Beach County to remain competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.

The Total Education Panel recommends three primary strategies. First: nurture and expand our local public/private initiatives throughout the region to support a world class education at all levels. Second: integrate workplace values, attitude and behavior into every classroom, from elementary school through college. Third: substantially increase the funding for basic pre-k-20 education and higher education research. The higher cost of living and the higher student growth rate in South Florida should be recognized with additional public funding at all levels.

*Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, Florida Atlantic University, Junior Achievement, the School District of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach Community College, Northwood University and Workforce Alliance.*