

# Palm Beach County Education Commission

## PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

### DECEMBER 2006 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.

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

#### 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.

#### 2006

A career academy transition plan has been developed to recruit career academy students into the early childhood field and assist them in transition. The PBCC Institute of Excellence in Early Care in Education provides a transition counselor to support student success and provides career advisement and coordinates academic counseling. Approximately 1000 high school juniors and seniors who are currently enrolled in the CDA coursework are interested in pursuing the AS degree at PBCC.

The degree process at Florida Atlantic University is in the final stages of approval and will proceed under the direction of the Director of the Center for Early Childhood Education, Community Partnership and Research.

The final meeting of CD<sup>2</sup> was held in June 2006 and concluded with draft of the final major task, development of the core competencies. The core competencies are divided into seven content areas and contain five levels that range from the skills and knowledge of the entry level worker to the more advanced worker with a bachelors degree. These core competencies are designed to serve as a guide for improving the work with children and their families.

*Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Broward Co. Community College, Children's Services Council, Dade Children's Trust, Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade Co., Early Learning Coalition of Broward Co., Family Central, Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin County, Florida Atlantic University, Fla. International University, Hispanic Human Resources, Indian River Com. College, Lost Tree Foundation, Mailman Foundation Nova Southeastern University, Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach County Head Start, Palm Beach County Heal Dept., 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.*

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## **PDI – Professional Development Initiative**

### **2006**

The Professional Development Initiative (PDI) is the next step in the development of an Early Childhood Education Professional Development Plan. The intent is to increase the community's capacity of trained ECE professionals; address methods to overcome barriers to increase professional development and develop a consistent pool of qualified child care practitioners for adequately staffing child care programs. PDI will develop a plan to link formal and informal training paths using the core competencies into a single ECE Professional Development System.

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## 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.

### Caregiving Youth Project

#### 2006

Nationwide an estimated 1.4 million youth (ages 8-18) are caring for disabled parents or guardians. Many of these students indicate they leave school because of family responsibilities. In Palm Beach County, about 6000 youth fall into this category. These youth caregivers carry tremendous responsibilities such as household management (e.g. shopping and chores) and caregiving (e.g. personal care, medical care). Many make difficult choices about taking care of the family or dropping out of school. To look more closely at this problem, the Caregiving Youth Project is being implemented to recognize, identify, educate and support caregiving youth in middle school. The project will provide counseling, support services and respite care to these students to help them stay in school and be successful. Approximately 100 youth have been identified to participate in the pilot program at Boca Raton Middle School.

*Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with The Schmidt Family Foundation, The Toppel Family Foundation, The Jim Moran Foundation, Palm Healthcare Foundation, Inc., the School District of Palm Beach County, P. L. Dodge Foundation, Gertrude E. Skelly Foundation, BankAtlantic Foundation, Sun-Sentinel News in Education, Boca Raton Community Hospital Foundation, Bethesda Hospital Foundation, Innovation Center at FAU, Stratis Business Systems, Inc*

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

### 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.

### Executive Leadership Institute

### 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 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.

### 2006

The second cohort of 28 individuals is participating in the Executive Leadership and Management Program. The Leadership Institute serves as a long term human resource development program for the nonprofit, academic, health and human services agencies and programs. The training offered is designed to build and enhance the leadership and organizational expertise and capacity of key individuals and provides the participants the skills to make better decisions, redesign organizational structures and to be more effective in a changing environment. The training is intended to impact not only current leaders, but emerging leaders for the next "generation" as part of a succession planning model. The work is intended to help participants work together in the county in a collaborative manner to strengthen children and families.

The success of the Executive Leadership program has led to the development of the establishment of the Senior Executive Leadership Initiative. This five-day intensive program in leadership development will begin in June 2007 and is designed for the high potential senior executive. The program incorporates cutting-edge business trends and current events into a curriculum developed for both Children's Services Council and Palm Beach County community agency teams.

Plans are being developed to transition the Executive Leadership Program and Senior Executive Leadership Initiative to the Executive Service Corps/Center for Nonprofit Excellence, an agency that provides education and technical assistance to Palm Beach County's nonprofit sector.

*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, Picower Foundation, 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*

### 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.

### Distance Learning Consortium

### 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/>

### 2006

Access to information by all residents and groups is critical to promoting civic engagement, and technology is an important gateway to information and knowledge. Municipal wireless or broadband systems can provide a new, effective way to connect people to information and to each other, and thereby “build community.” Distance Learning Consortium members participated in a three-session series of multi-city live, interactive “webinars” or virtual forums. These programs are designed to provide expertise on creating affordable and accessible wireless systems, as well as offer a vehicle for communities to share with each other. The Webinars were sponsored by the Community Foundation in partnership with the Knight Foundation, One Economy and Intel.

Consortium members are also participating in the Palm Beach County Broadband WIFI Task Force. An inventory of existing public infrastructure has been completed identifying more than 500 miles of fiber optic cable as well as existing buildings and towers owned by Palm Beach County, the School District, FAU and PBCC. The task force is exploring ongoing initiatives in other cities and regions to assess alternatives and options for public/private partnerships. Potential benefits to the community could include digital inclusion, improved efficiency and effectiveness of government, economic development opportunities, enhanced public safety and health care and expanded access to education.

*Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Bell South, Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Florida Atlantic University, Intel, John S. & James L. Knight Foundation, One Economy, Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach County Commission, and the School District of Palm Beach County.*

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

### Science Education

#### 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.

#### 2006

As an outcome of the global visioning process, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Palm Beach County: The 2005 Economic Summit*, Palm Beach Palm Beach County is exploring the creation of a public private educational partnership to support teaching math and science in our high schools and universities. The purpose is to grow industries of the minds as educational infrastructure for Palm Beach County and for America's future. The project will be included in the new *21<sup>st</sup> Century Strategic Economic Plan for Palm Beach County*. The initial phase of this plan is to establish an independent advisory board to hire a consultant who will work with this board to develop goals, objectives and a fund development plan to support an endowment fund to further math, science and engineering education in Palm Beach County.

*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.

### 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.

## Career Academies

### 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

### 2006

Five PBC High Schools achieved the National Standards of Practice (NPOS) and achieved a Certificate of Recognition from the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). These high schools are the first in the nation to complete the rigorous certification process, and include the Computer Tech Academy at John I Leonard High School, the Environment Science & Tech Academy at Forest Hill High School, the Finance Academy at William T Dwyer High School, the Medical Sciences Academy at Lake Worth High School and the Tourist, Hospitality and Resort Management at Palm Beach Gardens High School. Key components include integrated curriculum, job shadowing and internships, business partnerships, post secondary alignment and industry certifications.

The *Tools for Success* has been expanded to assist one hundred at risk students in 11 schools transition from school to the world of work. Through the partnership with Workforce Alliance and Junior Achievement, students will receive training in CPR/First Aid, OSHA job site safety training, violence prevention and drug and alcohol awareness as well as soft skills training in conflict resolution and job etiquette. All skills will be necessary to be hired in an entry level construction position. The goal is to place 100% of the students in a construction or construction related job within six months of program completion.

Leadership Palm Beach County (LPBC), the School District, and the Education Commission are developing a Business Industry Externship program. Interested LPBC alumni are paired with Career Academy coordinators for a day as a mentor/shadow. This offers the LPBC partner a closer look at the academy programs. The Academy coordinators and LPBC volunteers will be better able to identify ways that the alumni can share their talents, knowledge and contracts to support the career programs.

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and the School District of Palm Beach County have entered into a partnership to establish an aviation academy beginning in fall, 2007. This academy will place selected high school students into a challenging aviation-centered learning environment that will introduce them into university and postsecondary technical education standards and work habits. Students will receive a university transcript and/or certificates of completion for advanced standing at Embry Riddle, other universities or technical education programs.

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, Embry Riddle University, Florida Atlantic University, Hispanic Human Resources, Historical Society of Palm Beach, Hotel and Lodging Association, Junior Achievement, Leadership Palm Beach County, Municipalities, Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach County Commission, Palm Beach County Education Foundation, Palm Beach County Film and Television, Commission, Palm Healthcare Foundation, Quantum Foundation, the School District of Palm Beach County, School House Consulting, State Attorney's Office, Workforce Alliance, 4 year colleges and technical schools and local businesses and chambers of commerce.*

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

### **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.

### **2006**

Several youth job fairs were held by Workforce Alliance targeting high school job-seekers throughout Palm Beach County. Positions were available for non-grads looking for summer jobs and graduates looking for year round positions. Seminars for seniors were held at Palm Beach Lakes High School and Boynton Beach High School prior to the job fairs to address dressing for success and interview techniques.

Counselors from local high schools, Palm Beach Community College and Workforce Alliance job counselors participated in several joint seminars to learn more about the services offered by each agency and institution to assist students achieve their educational and career goals.

*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.*

## Goal 3: Skilled Workforce *continued*

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### Teacher Preparation

#### 2006

The Institute of Teacher Education at Palm Beach Community College offers Traditional Pathways, Transitioning Pathways and Professional Development Programs for Teacher Education. In partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, PBCC created a Paraprofessional Retention Outreach program (PRO) to assist paraprofessionals in obtaining an Associate's degree. 40 individuals have completed the AA degree and 8 are continuing at FAU for their Bachelor's degree. Career Academy Teacher Education students received dual enrollment credit at PBCC. The Transition to Teaching Program provides transcript evaluation, coursework, advising and scholarships for alternative certification. Through a US Dept. of Education grant received in 2006, PBCC is developing a program to increase the number of highly qualified Hispanic educators.

Florida Atlantic University is developing the Florida Initiative for the Advancement of Teaching as a practical research-based and scaleable solution for improving Florida's PreK-20 educational system. The program provides increased realistic classroom experiences, continual and intensive mentoring and direct support for teacher education majors. One of the first programs is a partnership program with PBCC, (Project Good FIT) First Induction to Teaching places college freshmen/sophomores into schools with model classroom teachers as mentors. Students are paid a stipend. This has expanded from 4 schools in the first semester, to all Glades schools in the second semester. Project SMaRT (Substituting with Mentors and Realistic Teaching) places college juniors and seniors as paid substitute teachers under the supervision of a university master mentor. Project AIT (Accelerated Induction into Teaching) places highly qualified student teachers as the paid instructor of record with a master mentor in critical shortage classrooms.

*Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with, Centro Cultural Latino Americano, Florida Atlantic University, Hispanic Human Resources, Palm Beach Community College, the School District of Palm Beach County, School House Consulting, and Workforce Alliance.*