



Palm Beach County
Education Commission, Inc.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

DECEMBER 2007 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 (Career Development in Child Development)

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 CD2 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.

2007

The Bachelor in Early Care and Education which is (BECE) degree will be offered as soon as state approval is received and the articulation agreement is complete. The Bachelor of Arts in Education: Early Childhood (BAEEC.) proposal and folio are being rewritten according to new state guidelines. Two new Masters Degrees in Early Childhood are being created, one for advanced studies in early childhood and one for teachers who are certified in other education areas and need expertise in early childhood.

Slattery Lab School received a four Star rating from the county's Quality Improvement System (QIS), and now serves as an interdisciplinary research site for early childhood education and is currently conducting six research studies.

The Toppel Family Foundation, Inc., presented FAU's College of Education with a \$3 million gift to establish the Toppel Family Early Childhood Education Institute on the Boca Raton Campus. This will provide a setting for faculty, educators, researchers, degree students and community partners to collaborate on issues related to Early Childhood Education that will benefit children and 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., Mary & Robert 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 practioners 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.

2007

Focus groups and in depth interviews among childcare center directors, practioners and family home care operators were conducted to gather information regarding perceptions/ opinions regarding training, professional development, curriculum and developmental assessments. From this research, implications and recommendations have been formulated to move toward a better educated early childcare workforce and high quality standards in early childhood education.

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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.

2007

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded the Caregiving Youth Project a four year \$500,000 grant to support the expansion of this program. In addition to Boca Raton Middle School, children at Congress Middle School and Lantana Middle School increasing the number of children served. The project addresses caregiving ramifications including isolation and activity restrictions that could hinder the student's success in school. In addition to directly services these middle school students, CYP will increase awareness of caregiving youth issues throughout the county and identify and prioritize the students in most need of services. They will provide counseling and support services including respite and sponsored activities and build a replicable model. The *Silent Epidemic* reports that among students who drop out of school for personal reasons, 22% do so to care for a family member. The dropout rate of students receiving CYP support will be compared to a control group to determine if the strategy is a valid dropout prevention intervention.

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*

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.

Executive Leadership Institute

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.

2007

The Palm Beach County Leadership Institute continues to build the leadership skills of key individuals in public sector and non-profit organizations at both the middle management and senior executive levels. Our integrated leadership training model enables us to collectively and collaboratively provide better quality services within our community. To date, 55 middle management executives have completed the Leadership and Management Initiative and 30 senior executives have completed the University of Miami Senior Executive Leadership program. The Palm Beach County Leadership Institute is now administered by the Center for Non-Profit Excellence to ensure our objective of developing a plan for long term sustainability.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Children's Services Council, Citrix Systems, Economic Council, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Mary & Robert 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*
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.

2007

The Distance Learning Consortium operations have been institutionalized through the 2004 articulation agreement between Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Community College and the School District of Palm Beach County. Staff from these three organizations continues working together. Consortium members are actively participating in the Broadband Access taskforce.

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.

Efficacy - Campaign for Proficiency

2007

Efficacy is the belief in ones ability to successfully perform a task or achieve a goal. With our partners, a “Train the Trainer” certification process resulted in 10 community leaders becoming certified to conduct the Campaign for Proficiency presentations in the community. To date, more than 500 parents, community agency staff and other community members have been trained. Adults who participate in the training will reinforce with all our children that they can succeed “by knowing it and showing it” to be ready for graduation, work or college.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Children’s Services Council, the Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Faith-based Ministries, Mary & Robert Pew Public Education Fund, Picower Foundation, Prime Time, the School District of Palm Beach County, Toward a More Perfect Union, and the United Way.

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

Broadband Access

2006

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.

2007

A cooperative agreement was successfully executed between the Palm Beach County, the School District, Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Community College and South Florida Water Management District which included co-funding a project manager. A project manager has engaged to oversee the project including feasibility studies and possible projects. Potential projects include the connections to Florida LambdaRail, a national and regional network, interagency connectivity, and solutions to provide broadband access to high poverty communities to shrink the digital divide.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District, Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Community College, School District of Palm Beach County, and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioner, the Mentoring Center, and the City of West Palm Beach.

Science Education

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, *21st Century Palm Beach County: The 2005 Economic Summit*, 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 *21st 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.

2007

The Independent Citizen Group on Education is a private citizen's initiative who actively supports science education in Palm Beach County. A series of school visits to familiarize the membership with the depth and breadth of science education was conducted with the hopes of engaging their 3000 Palm Beach County members as a valuable resource tool.

The Scripps Institute announced its first PhD graduate from Scripps Florida. The establishment of graduate education has been a key goal of Scripps Florida. Scripps continues to provide internships for students and teachers.

FAU, Pine Jog Environmental Center and the School District are partnering to build the first LEED certified elementary school in the state of Florida. This school is uniquely sited on an active environmental education site to provide a living laboratory for the students. A secondary facility is also being constructed to provide science teacher training, staff development and Master Degree programs.

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, and The Independent Citizen Group on Education.

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

Youth Empowerment Centers

2007

With four of five of the centers up and running for just a few months, the impact on the community has been enormous. To date, more than 300 young people have taken advantage of a wide range of opportunities available at the centers. Some of the services include, academic support in the form of homework assistance, tutoring and mentoring, TV and radio production, recreation, job related soft skills reinforcement including resume writing and interview techniques.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Palm Beach County, Criminal Justice Commission, Workforce Alliance, Cities of West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Lake Worth, Boynton Beach and Belle Glade, the School District of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Sheriff, and the Boys and Girls Clubs..

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.

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 8th 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 8th 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

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.

2007

West Boca High School achieved the National Standards of Practice (NPOS) and achieved a certification of recognition from the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). This brings the total of award winning academies to six. Palm Beach County has the distinction of having the most NCAC certified academies in the nation. Today more than 30,000 students are enrolled in more than 100 CHOICE programs district-wide. Newly released data shows that students who are enrolled in the career academies out perform regular/traditional students and those showing the greatest improvement are the Level 1 and 2 students.

Palm Beach Community College and the School District are refining their career cluster pathways to ensure that students can take advantage of all credit opportunities offered to them. Through the inter-institutional articulation agreement, PBCC and the school district course alignment includes more course by course alignment so that students who complete portions of programs at the high school level can receive college credit for their learning. A recent OPPAGA study this agreement was one of only three in the state that met the full criteria as specified in state statute.

Florida Senate Bill 1232, effective July, 2007 requires a percentage of students enrolled in career academies achieve industry certification or college credit in the academy. Many academy programs do not have industry certification or college credit and we are currently working with industry representatives and public and private post secondary institutions to address the problem.

Leadership Palm Beach County established GET REAL to connect industry expertise and resources with career academy coordinators through opportunities to work directly with LPBC alumni leaders.

Through a Workforce Alliance B.E.S.T. grant 11 students at Lake Worth High School received training and certification as medical translators.

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.

2005

Modeled after the United States Department of Labor's successful Power of E³ (Economic Development, Employment and Education), Palm Beach County launched the QE³ initiative. Quality Economic Development, Quality Employment and Quality Education (QE³) is a proactive coordination of the three areas to ensure a high quality workforce in Palm Beach County. QE³ 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.

Power of QE³

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.

2007

Workforce Alliance, Business Development Board, Palm Beach Community College and the School District are working to make sure that the career academy designs are meeting the work force needs of the future. The programs that are obsolete will be eliminated and high demand academies replicated. AWI process for industry certification is focused on nationally recognized certification and portability which will require educators to work very closely with industry.

The interagency team is providing support for the Career And Professional Education Act of 2007 (CAPE ACT) commonly know as SB1232. School Districts and Regional Workforce boards are required to develop joint strategic planning and implementation plans for all career academies.

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 scalable 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.

2007

The Florida Initiative for the Advance of Teaching (FIAT) is being expanded to serve all counties served by Florida Atlantic University. The University and regional partners have created a three prong innovated approach that is practical, research based, and scalable. Project Good FIT increases the number of education majors by paying college freshmen, sophomores and others interested in teaching to provide instructional support with model teachers. SMaRT provides classroom experiences to college juniors and seniors to work as substitute teachers with mentors. AIT fills teacher vacancies with selected university seniors who are ready to student teach as the actual classroom teacher with daily support from a mentor. Undergraduate students receive extensive classroom experiences and intensive, multi-year support with retired educator mentors as well as a minimal stipend. The students in the schools classrooms are provided with additional qualified and caring undergraduates to directly support mutual learning in concert with the classroom teacher.

The initial pilot was a joint initiative of PBCC and FAU to bolster and build the teaching profession in the Glades for Glades residents. This same program design is being developed with PBCC and FAU's School of Nursing to recruit and train health care professionals in the Glades region..

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