



Palm Beach County
Education Commission, Inc.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

DECEMBER 2008 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.

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.

2007

Focus groups and in depth interviews among childcare center directors, practitioners 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.

2008

PDI has completed the professional development plan for early care in education (ECE) professionals. The plan links the informal non-credit professional development training programs with the professional degree programs. The implementation plan will focus on a delivery system that links the instructional components offered by agency and institutional partners. The connectivity plan will provide a system of instruction rather than a series of unrelated or disconnected training modules. Additional work is planned to address changing licensing requirements for childcare workers to include a minimum entry level standard of a high school diploma or GED.

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.

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.

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.

Caregiving Youth Project

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.

2008

The project has been expanded to Okeechewee Middle School and Palm Springs Middle School. Students participating in the Boca Middle School Program will be featured in a Caregiving Youth Documentary that will be produced locally and aired nationally to raise awareness. T.E.N., the school district's television station has produced a PSA to be broadcast on local affiliate TV. The Education Commission has received a \$100,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation to provide computers, internet connectivity and technical support to Caregiving Youth participants. Our student caregivers not only miss more school but cannot participate in school based or community based supplemental academic programs. Having access to technology will enable the students to keep up with academic work and take advantage of supplemental education opportunities. Family members will also be better able to communicate with teachers and monitor their student's work through *Edline*.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with the AT&T Foundation, 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*

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.

Executive Leadership Institute

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.

2008

The third cohort of the Leadership and Management Initiative (LMI) included 29 middle management executives and brings the total to 84 middle management graduates. It is anticipated that these individuals will be an integral part of the succession plan for Palm Beach County’s public and private sector nonprofits. Program enhancements for the 2008-2009 year will place less emphasis on leadership theory and provide more hands on practical training in fund development, strategic planning, use of technology, financial management, project management and performance management tools. A leadership colloquium has been added to the program to provide the opportunity to discuss leadership and technology issues affecting the 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, 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*

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.

2008

More than 1000 training events have been offered in after school programs, community agencies and local universities. Ten additional community members will complete the training in January 2009 and will be available to expand the outreach to community organizations on the waiting list. Training will also be offered to a cohort of staff from Palm Beach Community College. Delivering a consistent message to young people from the schools, churches and broader community strengthens the message that as adults we are committed to ensuring our children succeed.

Smart is not something you just are, Smart is something you can get!” - *Dr. Jeff Howard, Efficacy Institute*

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.

2008

Palm Beach County fiber-optic network is now connected to the Florida LambdaRail which will improve bandwidth capabilities, enhance network performance and support collaboration and communication among local and regional partners. South Florida Water Management District and the City of Palm Beach Gardens have connected to county fiber and several other cities are in the planning stage. More than a dozen schools have been connected to county fiber and the county and the School District participate in joint long range planning to share connection costs when possible.

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, and the City of West Palm Beach.

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

Digital Inclusion

2008

The digital divide describes the fact that the world can be divided into those who do and those who do not have access to and the capability to use modern information technology. Over the past 15 years, citizens have become growingly dependent upon access to technology such as computers and the internet to participate socially and economically. More than 68% of the US population has access to a computer and the internet in their homes and use it regularly. However, for those in the very low and low economic status they have been left behind and have become a part of the digital divide. Their lack of access to technology and the web limits their ability in the workforce, education and ability to grow economically.

To address this growing concern, a small Proof of Concept Project was implemented in a six-block area surrounding Pleasant City Elementary School. The intent was to identify and provide resources needed to provide technology to children and families of students attending school. The necessary components included computers, training, technical support and internet access in the homes of these families. Families meeting specific criteria were given computers that had been exceled from the school district and refurbished by high school students. Training was provided by school district personnel in partnership with a community-based organization. Help desk support was provided by PBCC and the wireless signal was provided by Palm Beach County. The Education Commission and our community partners have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$101, 500 by the Quantum Foundation to expand this project to 100 families in the Pleasant City neighborhood. The computers will be refurbished at Roosevelt Middle School and training will be provided to families by the Urban League. Students from the WPB Empowerment Center will be trained in level one support. Families participating in the United Way's Prosperity Campaign will be included in the project.

A second pilot project is underway in Delray Beach. Students attending the Beacon Center program at Village Academy were trained by Park Vista High School students to reimage computers. The same model for connectivity and access is being used in Delray. The initial families were provided training by TED Center and school district staff. The City of Delray Beach and community members from the Ed Board have raised private funds to support the project. Additional planning is underway in several other communities to initiate similar projects.

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, City of West Palm Beach; Urban League of Palm Beach County, United Way, Toppel Family Foundation, Quantum Foundation, TED Center, City of Delray Beach, the Delray Beach Education Board and private citizens

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

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.

Science Education

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.

2008

With the support of Pratt & Whitney, PBCC offered a Math and Science Summer Institute to advance high school and college student. The institute was a blend of rigorous college classes, research projects and career exploration to help prepare students for a future in engineering and science research.

Scripps Florida continues its successful summer research internship program for teachers and students. Scripps also offers "Introduction to Science" lectures for middle school classes and offers "Science Saturdays" for high school sophomores and juniors.

The newest life science business in Palm Beach County, Max Planck Florida Institute, will be providing science programs to Palm Beach County students and educators. In 2009, they will debut their Science Tunnel, a sophisticated, interactive multimedia show that offers visitors a fascinating trip into the realm of scientific discoveries. It has traveled to Tokyo, Singapore, Shanghai, Brussels, Johannesburg, Seoul and Berlin. Palm Beach County will be its first location in the United States. The exhibition features video stations and hands-on exhibits. Visitors can observe dancing atoms and molecules at work, discover the roots of human culture or fight a virus before it infects the body.

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with Business Development Board, Children's Services Council, Max Planck Society, the Oxford University, Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach County Commission, Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, Department of Education, Pratt & Whitney, The Scripps Institute, Urban League of Palm Beach County, Workforce Alliance, and The Independent Citizen Group on Education.

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.

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.

Career Academies

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.

2008

The Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission in partnership with Palm Beach County Economic Development Office and the School District produced *Industries of the Mind*, a seven :30-second commercial series to market the career pathway opportunities available for our students. The commercials are based on the 21st Century Palm Beach County Strategic Plan findings that identified seven industry clusters for Palm Beach County's future: Bioscience, Aerospace, Marine and Environmental Science, Information Technology, Tourism, Film Arts & Culture and International Banking and Financial Services. Additional information is available by accessing the link: <http://www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/careered/industries-of-the-mind/>

Atlantic Community High School's Criminal Justice Academy and Seminole Ridge's Construction Academy were awarded "Model Academy" status by the National Career Academy Coalition. Palm Beach County continues to lead the nation in the number of quality programs available to our students

In a major effort to stimulate student interest in higher level science and math careers, FAU's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, in partnership with the School District has been awarded a five year grant for \$2.6 million from the National Science Foundation. Graduate research students are paired with high school science students to incorporate cutting edge research and implement conceptually based curricular materials into the classroom. Two career academy programs, Spanish River's Biotechnology and Boca High's STEM academy are participating in the program.

The Palm Beach County Career Pathway Consortium, a partnership between PBCC and the school district, has established a Leadership Boot Camp for high school Career Pathway Academy Coordinators, district CTE support staff and school site administrators. Participants share best practices, receive information on career planning and development, articulation agreements, dual enrollment. College outreach services and implementation strategies for career programs.

Monroe County and Palm Beach County School Districts have received a five year \$1.5 million grant to replicate West Boca High's Model Culinary Academy. This unique Inter-district agreement will strengthen the availability, accessibility and equity of educational choice programs at Marathon High School and prepare students or the increasing number of jobs in the foods services industry

Palm Beach County Education Commission in partnership with the Breakers Hotel, Business Development Board, Embry Riddle University, Commerce Bank, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Florida Atlantic University, Hispanic Human Resources, Historical Society of Palm Beach, Hotel Biba, Hotel and Lodging Association, IBM, Junior Achievement, Leadership Palm Beach County, Lockheed Martin, Loggerhead Museum, Municipalities, Norton Museum, Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach County Commission, Palm Beach Cultural Council, Palm Beach County Education Foundation, Palm Beach County Film and Television, Commission, Palm Healthcare Foundation, Pratt & Whitney, 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 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.

2008

The informal partnership of Workforce Alliance, Business Development Board and the Education Commission continue to provide coordination of economic development, education and employment to ensure a quality workforce in Palm Beach County. QE3 worked together on developing curricular pathways for career education that provides for core course crossover credit between academic and career programs and alignment to the 16 national US Department of Labor occupational clusters and streamlining state certification requirements to assure business/industry-based professionals can be employed as career and technical education teachers. Workforce partnered with the educational community to provide training programs and curriculum to match business needs, including partnering with FAU on the Biotech Training Program: and working on the Federal Work Ready Certification Profram to prepare job seekers for employers.

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*

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.

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.

Teacher Preparation

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..

2008

Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT) and GOOD FIT continue to serve as a practical, research-based, and scalable solution for improving Florida's PK-20 educational system by recruiting, preparing, and retaining quality educators in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of Florida schools. Project Good FIT recruits potential education majors by paying college freshmen and sophomores to provide instructional support with model teachers. The SMaRT Program provides college juniors and seniors with classroom experience as substitute teachers with mentors. The AIT Program fills teacher vacancies with select university seniors who are ready to student teach with daily support from a mentor. The FIAT initiative improves the quality of instruction for both school-aged and undergraduate students with retired educator mentors. Currently, Florida Atlantic University is working closely with the three community colleges and seven school districts in its region to implement one or more of these three FIAT pilot programs on a limited scale. In the '07-'08 school year, Palm Beach County 62,672 students received 55,165 hours of quality instruction.

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.