

April 9, 2007

Community Launches Council PASS[®] at Holmes Elementary

JEFFREY MILLER contributes \$100,000 for model at Holmes

"There's No Place Like Holmes" where the entire community will celebrate the launch of the Council for Educational Change's PASS[®] (Partnership to Advance School Success) Holmes model.

WHAT: Community-wide PASS launch
WHERE: 1175 NW 67th St. (adjacent to site of the new Holmes school campus)
WHEN: April 16, 2007 1:00 PM

The PASS model is funded by Jeffrey Miller, who contributed \$100,000 for the three year program. Matched funding comes from a legislative appropriation and from district resources.

Since 2005, Mr. Miller has donated more than \$300,000 to support PASS at Holmes and Hialeah Elementaries, where he sponsors two programs, including a Parent Academy. PASS teams a leading CEO and a motivated principal working to infuse business strategies into school improvement.

There are now 67 statewide PASS partnerships including 10 current and 6 alumni schools in Miami-Dade. There is more information about PASS and how it works, on page 2, following.

Holmes is the second school where Mr. Miller, the President and CEO of **Weeks Gas** and a Council Board Member, funds, and is actively involved, in a PASS model. He is a noted and generous philanthropist who focuses on school-based educational improvement. He was the **2006 Miami-Dade School Exemplary Business Partner Award Winner** and will be honored at the **Education Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards** event April 19th.

The launch event will focus on the students and community. Prior to the agenda, there will be entertainment for the students and free refreshments for all. A brief formal program with **Mr. T. Willard Fair** as the guest speaker follows. Mr. Fair is the State Board of Education Chair, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Miami and a Council Board member. Mayor **Manny Diaz**, **Commissioner Dorrin Rolle** and top school district leadership, including **Superintendent Dr. Rudy Crew** and School Board member **Dr. Sol Stinson** will be featured. Holmes is in Dr. Stinson's district. Council for Educational Change leadership including Board Chair **Steve Saiontz** and President and Executive Director **Dr. Elaine Liftin** will also attend. Representatives from the **Miami Heat** and **Nike** will also attend. All of the parents and families of the Holmes students have been invited.



PASS team: from left to right, PASS Coach Dr. Pat Dixon, CEO Jeffrey Miller, and Principal Dahlia Gonzalez



Mr. T. Willard Fair
Special Guest Speaker

Council For Educational Change Board....Florida's Educational Think Tank

Steven J. Saiontz, Chair Dr. Elaine Liftin, President and Executive Director

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"This is really a team effort," said Steve Saiontz. "We are very fortunate to have the cooperation and support of Miami-Dade Schools and Superintendent Dr. Rudy Crew. There is nothing more exciting than a community coming together to help students achieve. The Council and our PASS team are fully committed to Holmes and its students."

Jeffrey Miller is already a Holmes "family" member and a familiar face at the school, working with the Principal and her team on strategies to improve student achievement, and on foundation elements such as attendance, behavior and individualized instructional best practices.

He is also getting to know and appreciate the students. He recently took 22 of them to a Miami Heat game where they viewed the game from a box and met the Heat dancers, mascot and some players.

Among the goals for the Holmes PASS are:

- Increase and revitalize PTA membership
- Recruit and enlist new partners to support educational improvement
- Raise awareness of the school and the PASS model in the community
- Reach out to the community to involve them in Holmes activities and the future success of the school
- Identify and target key academic areas in need of improvement
- Use student performance data to determine how best to tailor and deliver instruction for individual students
- Provide ongoing professional development, focused on leadership and best instructional practices, for faculty and staff
- Develop an instructional leadership team

PASS

Some partnership strategies include:

- Data driven decision-making, student and school performance
- Focus on raising student achievement
- Incentives and rewards for faculty and student performance
- Strategic planning
- Increased and meaningful parent and community involvement

"When I walk the halls and visit classrooms at Holmes Elementary, I have a real sense of belonging," said Mr. Miller. "Working hands on with a school is one of the most challenging and rewarding projects I have ever undertaken. PASS is all about teamwork and leadership," continued Mr. Miller. "I hope that our work together will produce some innovative approaches to improving education at the school. Most of all, I want this to help students succeed."

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WHAT IS IT?

- CEO mentors Principal of an underperforming school, working with an education coach
- Mentor works hands on with Principal, infusing business strategies into improvement
- Supporting corporation or foundation contributes \$100,000 for the 3 year program
- Partnered by Florida legislature through the FLDOE
- Sponsored statewide by Raymond James Financial

WHOM DOES IT SERVE?

- Florida Schools (generally C and D grade) that are low performing and face significant challenges
- More than 30,000 students: 83.37% who are free/reduced lunch eligible and 84.48% who are minority

WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE?

- Brainchild of Florida Council of 100 and South Florida Annenberg Challenge (Council predecessor organization)
- Matching dollars available
- Ability to monitor the impact of CEO's "investment in student achievement"
- Independently evaluated

More information about the Council and its many programs can be found at: www.changeeducation.org.

THE COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGE is Florida's Educational Think Tank.

We prepare and empower school based leaders, unite business and educational leaders to achieve excellence in public education and use the lessons we have learned through our research to address critical issues in education. We are a statewide 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.