

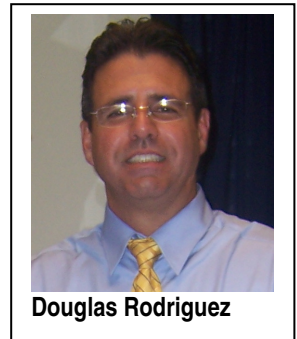
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**MEDIA ADVISORY — Nov. 19, 2008**

## **Miami-Dade Principal Douglas Rodriguez Wins Statewide Council for Educational Change Award**

**Receives \$10,000 Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award at Special Event!!!!**

**Douglas Rodriguez, Principal of Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High, is the winner of the \$10,000, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award, bestowed by the Council for Educational Change at a special event Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, where the winner was announced.**



Douglas Rodriguez

The statewide Award recognizes outstanding Principal leadership and is presented annually to a high-performing Florida Principal. The \$10,000 is for personal use. It honors the late Leonard Miller, Council founder and Chair of its predecessor organization, the \$100 million South Florida Annenberg Challenge.

The finalists and Award winner were chosen from statewide applicants who demonstrated extraordinary leadership—the Award's focus—in a statewide Council program(s) in these three criteria: raised student achievement; empowered staff leadership; and formed meaningful partnerships.

Participating in the event were: **Gloria Estefan, Comissioner of Education Eric Smith, Senator Dan Gelber, Miami-Dade Superintendent Alberto Carvalho** and a host of leaders, dignitaries and celebrities. Gloria Estefan was the special speaker. "This event shines a bright spotlight on outstanding Principal leadership," said Gloria Estefan. "During difficult financial times, these Principals (the two finalists and winner) find creative ways to do all the right things for the right reason—our children."

At the event, Rodriguez was surprised with a congratulatory video from the school's students and staff and with the appearance of several students, from the school's soon-to-be first graduating event who came to personally congratulate him.

The event was held at the Star Island home of Sue Miller, Council Board Member and Chair of its Educational Advancement Committee. All three of the finalists, which also included **Dr. Rosann Sidener**, Principal of Miami Beach Senior High in Miami-Dade and **Terry Strong**, Principal of Winston Elementary in Polk County, were designated Gold Medallion Winners. Principals Sidener and Strong received \$5,000 each, also for personal use.

The event is sponsored by **Baptist Health South Florida, Carnival Cruise Lines, Cobb Family Foundation, Edward W. Easton, Lennar Foundation, Richard and Susan Finkelstein, and Akerman Senterfitt.**

The Council for Educational Change is the successor organization to the South Florida Annenberg Challenge and was founded in 2003. Its mission is *Leading the Way to Better Education* by:

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developing business and education partnerships; supporting empowering and enhancing school leaders and using lessons learned through research to address critical issues in education.

The Council has garnered more than \$10 million for educational improvement programs including PASS, Executive PASS, the Florida Leadership Academy, the Assistant Principal Leadership Forum and the Teachers and Teaching Initiative. This work has helped to develop some 5,000 school leaders and impacted one million Florida students. Council partners include Florida and the nation's leading corporate and philanthropic organizations and government agencies.

### Principal Douglas Rodriquez:

- opened Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High in Miami-Dade as a new school
- achieved and maintained an A grade since opening the school, for the last two years
- met AYP graduation criteria this year
- is establishing work partnerships which will provide internships for 150 students
- is State and Miami-Dade Principal of the Year
- raised school grade from a D to a B in former school of Miami Springs High
- participates in the Council for Educational Executive PASS©\* program in Ronald Regan/Doral Senior High and in his former school, Miami Springs Senior High



**At Ronald Reagan High, the students are the VIP's. Principal Douglas Rodriquez, shown with a student above, prioritizes student achievement and helping students succeed and reach their full potential.**

\*Executive PASS teams a CEO and Principal to work for school improvement. Executive PASS partner at Reagan is MCM Corp. and was the Southern Command at Miami Springs High. In Miami, Executive PASS is also sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the South Florida Youth Foundation. There are 41 Executive PASS models—with 23 in Miami-Dade and the rest in Hillsborough and Orange Counties.

Please visit the Council website for more information about our work: [www.changeeducation.org](http://www.changeeducation.org).

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**Please support our work. Contact President and Executive Director, Dr. Elaine Liftin, or Educational Advancement VP, Dawn Wilson, at 954.727.9909.**

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