

**April 4, 2008**

**Robert A. Zinn** was welcomed to the Council Board at its recent March 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting in Miami. Mr. Zinn is an attorney and the President of the Miami-based **Akerman Senterfitt** law firm with practice areas in Corporate, Global, Mergers and Acquisition, Securities, and Disaster Preparedness and Recovery. He formerly owned Zinn Mazda in Miami and is a member of the United Way Tocqueville Society. He is a generous contributor to the Council through the Lawyers Circle (see below).

The Council is proud to announce that **Akerman Senterfitt PA** is the newest law firm to join the Council's *Lawyers Circle*. The *Lawyers Circle* is a cadre of legal firms which have generously contributed a collective \$450,000 to support the Council's work to improve student achievement by developing school-based leaders. The Council wishes to appreciate **Akerman Senterfitt PA** and the others who previously joined the *Circle*: **Blizin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod, Ferrell Law PA, Greenberg Traurig, Hanzman Gilbert LLP, Podhurst/Orseck, Gunster Yoakley & Stewart, PA** and **Steve Uhlfelder & Associates**.

The **Annual PASS® Meeting** will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Tampa at the Intercontinental Hotel starting at 9:30 a.m. and ending with a noon luncheon. PASS team members, Council Board members, and special guests were invited. A reminder for participants who are attending--please keep your valet parking ticket when you arrive and it will be validated at the meeting.

Welcome to our newest PASS model and partners at Rutherford High School: Principal, **Mike Kennedy**; **Brian Heinfeld**, Gulf Power PASS CEO; and **Joanne Cox**, PASS Coach. Special thanks to **Susan Story**, President and CEO of Gulf Power Company for initiating this partnership and also to **Jennifer Grove**, Gulf Power's Workforce Development Coordinator, and the **Gulf Power Foundation**. PASS is funded through a \$100,000 CEO contribution and funding from the Florida legislature.

The Council also wants to welcome two new Miami-Dade Executive PASS® partnerships and thank the business partners for committing to the model and educational improvement through partnership. The first is at North Miami Middle--**Principal Michael Lewis** with business leader **Daniel Cook**. This is the second Executive PASS partnership for the school, with the first sponsored by Council Board Member and WSVN Channel 7 Vice President **Andy Ansin** and the Channel 7 news team. The second is South Miami Senior High, Principal **Gilberto Bonce** with business partner **Roger Slade**, attorney. Executive PASS has many of the PASS components, but with no formal financial commitment. There are now 41 Executive PASS models and partnerships in Hillsborough, Orange, and Miami-Dade. Participating districts also partner with PASS and Executive PASS.

Two **Mentors of Distinction** from the Council's *Teachers and Teaching Initiative* (TTI) were recently honored for their work. TTI helps to retain new teachers—98% success rate, above state and national percentages—using successful teachers to mentor the novices. **Charles Krause**, a teacher at Lake Trafford Elementary in Collier, received the District's Golden Apple Award honoring excellence. **Carol Mayo**, formerly a mentor at Bryan Elementary in Hillsborough, was promoted to Assistant Principal of Wilson Elementary. The Initiative is funded by the **Wachovia Foundation** and is at select PASS schools. A TTI workshop for program participants will be held in Tampa on April 12<sup>th</sup> with Florida Teacher of the Year Rick Ellenburg as a special guest.

Some 100 participants will attend the statewide Assistant Principal Leadership Forum, funded through the **Florida Department of Education's (FLDOE) William C. Golden Professional Development Program** and conducted by the Council. It will be held in Orlando on April 17-18. Corporate sponsors are **Publix Super Market Charities, Carnival Cruise Lines**, and the **Lennar Foundation**. The Council will conduct two statewide Leadership Academies in Tampa, June 22-27 and July 13-18. They are sponsored by the FLDOE and **Washington Mutual, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., Darden Restaurants Foundation, and Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.** If a school team (Principal, AP, teacher) wants to participate, please contact: [jhasselbach@changeeducation.org](mailto:jhasselbach@changeeducation.org). Most costs, including accommodation and food, are covered.

At the Council's March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, extensive work was done to develop a five year strategic plan for the organization. Board members, key staff, and business leaders participated in a day-long planning event. The meeting was facilitated by **Eileen Carpenter** of **Raymond James Financial** whose services were donated by Council Board member **Scott Curtis**, a Raymond James Senior Vice President. The Board will continue work on the plan at their April 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting in Tampa.

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

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

Andrew L. Ansin • Philip F. Blumberg • Hugh M. Brown\* • Columba Bush • Charles E. Cobb Jr.\* • Irv Cohen • Scott A. Curtis • Dr. Akshay Desai • Willard D. Dover, Esq.\*  
Edward W. Easton • T. Willard Fair • Thomas J. Flood • Edward T. Foote, II • Karen Fryd • Dr. Robert W. Graham, III • Bill Habermeyer • Steven T. Halverson\* • Alfred Hoffman, Jr.\*  
Elsie Sterling Howard • Cyrus M. Jollivette • David S. Kenin Esq • Jonathan I. Kislak • Daniel W. Mahurin\* • Gene E. Marshall • Beth G. Martinez\* • Philip G. McNally • Jeffrey Miller  
Sue Miller • Robert A. Morris Jr. • Robert Moss • Fred F. Pezeshkan • Charles E. Porter • Andrew S. Rosen • Peter S. Rummell • Michael Scheck • Elliott Stern\* • Steven J. Uhlfelder  
Gwynn C. Virostek • Steven Wasserman • Lynn Wines • Dr. Paul Zimmerman • Robert A. Zinn \*Life Trustees

## Council for Educational Change – Every Child Can Succeed!

### Teachers & Teaching Initiative (TTI) Helps Florida Teachers Thrive -Funded by Wachovia Foundation

Larry Plank was a scientist at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission before he was a teacher. And before he was a *successful* teacher, instructional leader, and teacher mentor, he was a struggling new teacher, adapting to a school culture very different from the scientific and business sectors he knew.

He never forgets those days, and has empathy for the new teachers, knowing the significant challenges they face. This helps him to be an effective mentor to new and beginning teachers at T.R. Robinson High School in Hillsborough. And, now as a veteran instructional teacher leader, he wants to share his experience and expertise, by mentoring new and beginning teachers—supporting their potential. He is even pursuing a doctorate with an emphasis in instructional leadership and teacher mentoring.

Larry is a shining star and integral team member in the Council's Teachers and Teaching Initiative (TTI) program generously funded by the Wachovia Foundation. He is a charter program member, starting in the 2005 pilot year. Since that time he has mentored 16 novice teachers in the field of science. He is a *Mentor of Distinction*, a cadre established by the Council to recognize these individuals and promote effective teacher mentoring. It offers the services of these Mentors to other schools and teachers throughout the state.

Another reason for Larry's and the mentees success is his above and beyond support for the teachers, exceeding the program expectations. From TTI, the Council learned that classroom management is a priority development need for new teachers, with different strategies called for in a high school. Larry helps with that and more. He concentrates on developing the mentees *instructional* skills from day one.

He uses a team approach and enlists other successful teachers at the school to help the novices. They develop creative, interactive lesson plans, study student performance data, pursue professional development opportunities and work as a collaborative learning group. They also work on stretching the potential of the students—setting high expectations. Larry believes the veteran teachers also benefit from creative ideas and enthusiasm of the novices. From his prior experience and his involvement with PASS and the corporate influence, he also feels that business best practices can contribute to improvement.

#### Initiative Highlights

- Funded by Wachovia Foundation—one of 23 national grants
- 98% success retaining new teachers in program, above state, national averages
- Mentoring of novice teachers by successful teachers; workshops for group with experts; online learning for teachers
- Served 89 novice teachers in 2007
- Developed 22 teacher mentors in 2007
- Placed in PASS schools: Hillsborough, Pinellas, Collier, Polk, Duval and Leon



Larry at a recent TTI workshop

Larry is the department science chair at Robinson. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from FSU and both a Master's degree in Biology and a Specialist's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida USF. He is enrolled in a doctoral program at USF in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on the induction and mentoring of new science teachers.

He was named Robinson's Teacher of the Year, B.E.S.T. Mentor Teacher, Sigma Xi Science Teacher of the Year for Hillsborough County, Endeavor Academy Technology Leader in Science, and Accomplished Teaching Academy graduate. He presented at the Southern Regional Council on Educational Administration's conference, the American Educational Research Association's annual conference, and at the 2007 Council/FLDOE Leadership Academy.

To learn how you can get involved, please call the Council at 954.727.9909