

March 7, 2008

On Feb. 29, Miami-Dade School Board Member **Renier Diaz de la Portilla** hosted, and Council Board Member Jeffrey Miller sponsored a meeting in Miami to encourage business and municipal leaders to engage in educational improvement partnerships. The Council's PASS<sup>®</sup> and Executive PASS<sup>®</sup> were showcased by Miami Mayor **Manny Diaz** and Hialeah Mayor **Julio Robaina**. Following the UPDATE is more information.

On April 10, at a special ceremony in Orlando, the Council will receive the **Florida Department of Education Commissioner's Business Recognition Award**. The Council was selected for this award by Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) and Superintendent **Dr. Rudy Crew**. To date, the Council has provided development, tools, activities and services for 254 MDCPS educators and 170 schools. Among the Council programs serving the district are PASS, Executive PASS, Instructional Leadership Academies, Florida Leadership Academies<sup>®</sup> and Assistant Principal Leadership Forums<sup>®</sup>. The Council also partners on the Superintendent's Urban Principal Leadership Initiative which is a US Department of Education grant program.

At their next meeting on March 26 in Miami, Council Board members will undertake strategic planning for the organization's next five years. Board member **Scott Curtis of Raymond James Financial** provided the services of facilitator **Eileen Carpenter**, Performance Consultant, Raymond James Financial. Board members **Bob Graham** and **Bob Moss** have been instrumental in expediting the five year planning. Board member **Beth Martinez** is generously sponsoring the meeting.

Two new PASS models are now underway. Thanks to the generosity of the **Community Foundation of Tampa Bay**, a new PASS model has started at Gibsonton Elementary School in Hillsborough. The PASS mentor is **Charles Blumenkamp** who recently retired as the Executive Director of Sales and Marketing for Verizon's Southeast Region. **Donna Marran** is the Principal and **Irene Betancourt** is the PASS coach. Council Board Vice Chair and Foundation Board Member **Gene Marshall** was instrumental in developing this partnership. **Jeffrey Miller** is sponsoring a second PASS model at Holmes Elementary in Miami-Dade. **Dahlia Gonzalez** is the Holmes principal and **Dr. Pat Dixon** is the PASS coach. Mr. Miller currently sponsors a PASS model at the school and two other PASS models at Hialeah Elementary. Thank you to both of these generous sponsors.

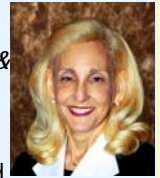
The **Annual PASS Meeting** will be held on April 16 in Tampa at the Intercontinental Hotel. PASS team members and special guests are invited. PASS is the subject of a recent book, "**PASS it on...make a difference**," that chronicles the PASS experience and provides guidelines for effective business and education partnership. Council members, staff, and PASS program participants contributed to this publication.

The newly formed **Lawyers Circle** has donated more than **\$350,000** to the Council to support our work. Started by Council Educational Advancement Chair Sue Miller, the **Circle** offers law firms an opportunity to support meaningful educational improvement through Council programs. **Circle** firms include: **Blizin Sumberg Baena, Price & Axelrod, Ferrell Law PA, Greenberg Traurig, Hanzman Gilbert LLP, Podhurst/Orseck, Gunster Yoakley & Stewart, PA, and Steve Uhlfelder & Associates**. For more information, please contact Council VP for Educational Advancement, **Dawn Wilson**, at 954.727.9909.

Based on the quality and success of the Council's **Accelerated School Administrator Program (ASAP)**, the Florida Department of Education is licensing the online ASAP program and modules to freely share them with all Florida educators. ASAP develops aspiring principals. Among its unique features are a pre/post test for participants; modules and assessments aligned to the Florida Principal Leadership Standards; and a wealth of information and resources. ASAP modules can be found on the FLDOE **William C. Golden School Leadership Development Program**, [www.floridaschoolleaders.net](http://www.floridaschoolleaders.net).

**Good luck to all Florida schools that have worked so hard to be successful on the FCAT testing!**

*A Message from  
Council President &  
Executive Director  
Dr. Elaine Liftin:*



In case you missed our last UPDATE ... in future, this newsletter will share stories about our partners who work to help students succeed. We hope you are inspired by their remarkable accomplishments. Please call us, 954.727.9909, to explore how you can get involved and support this important work.

*Thank you!*

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

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

### Mayors, Business Executives, Districts and the Council Join Forces

This piece looks at three dynamic Mayors who encourage collaborations and rally partners to help schools and districts improve education and increase student success. The Council is proud to work with them and honored that they promote our programs and models. Each of these initiatives is unique, but at the core, are all based on business leader involvement—Council executive partnership models and programs.

#### St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker & Pinellas District

Mayor Baker is relentless in pursuing educational opportunities for St. Petersburg area students, including partnerships for all St. Petersburg schools that support the Pinellas district's school improvement efforts. After hearing of Mayor Baker's work and vision, the Council invited him to be a special guest at a Council Board meeting. Before long, Council Chair Steve Saiontz, Council President & Executive Director Dr. Elaine Liftin and Mayor Baker developed a municipal PASS program. The Mayor committed to recruit CEO's for area PASS models, as well as lend support from his office. In short order, Mayor Baker lined up CEO's and community groups who were excited to sign on as PASS corporate mentors and work at the local schools. There are now 7 current PASS models at St. Petersburg schools, thanks to Mayor Baker.

#### Miami Mayor Manny Diaz & Miami-Dade District

Mayor Diaz is always seeking proven programs and new partners to support the school improvement efforts of district and school instructional leaders. The Council's PASS and Executive PASS partnerships caught his attention based on their track record and the caliber of the business leader partners who participate and support the work. The Council has a successful history of both PASS and Executive PASS partnerships in Miami-Dade with Superintendent Rudy Crew. Now Mayor Diaz is an active Council program supporter--tapping local business leaders to engage in Council executive partnerships. He has hosted and attended a number of meetings to recruit business leaders and met with great success. There are currently 14 Executive PASS and three current PASS models serving students and schools in the City of Miami.

#### Hialeah Mayor Julio Robaina & Miami-Dade District

Mayor Robaina fosters a culture of community and family at the Hialeah schools he supports, working with the Council and the Miami-Dade school district. Enhancing and initiating efforts to improve student success is a priority and hallmark of his administration. He works with the Council to engage new PASS partnerships, recruiting new executive partners and supporting existing partners. He has helped develop two new PASS partnerships in Hialeah. The Council's PASS is part of his official education agenda. Under his leadership, Executive PASS has scaled-up to six current partnerships in Hialeah. He takes an active role in supporting the Council executive partnerships at Hialeah schools. He works closely with Council Board members and PASS CEO Jeffrey Miller, who sponsors two PASS models at Hialeah Elementary. Mayor Robaina works constantly to engage community support for Hialeah schools, their improvement goals, and to foster pride and spirit.

#### COUNCIL EXECUTIVE PARTNERSHIPS:

**PASS (Partnership to Achieve School Success):** CEO, principal, and education coach work to raise achievement at an underperforming school. CEO commits \$100,000, and three years.

**Executive PASS:** CEO and principal work on focused school improvement; no formal financial commitment

**Municipal Partnerships:** Mayors involved in tapping support for business-education partnership models



Miami-Dade Mayor Manny Diaz (right) at the launch of the Council PASS model at Holmes Elementary on April 16, 2007. Jeffrey Miller is the Holmes PASS CEO and now sponsors an additional model at the school.

To learn how you can get involved, please call the Council for Educational Change, 954.727.9909