

January 2009

Florida's Charter Schools News

Perfect FCAT Score at Crossroad Academy

Alantra Austin, 12, is an avid reader, and you can often find her in the classroom reading the latest books or novels. So, it was no surprise when this seventh grade honor roll student at Crossroad Academy Charter School of Business scored a perfect score on the FCAT Reading Test last school year. The daughter of Jeffrey and Denise Austin, Alantra enjoys modeling, dancing, singing, and of course, reading. Alantra contributes her success to her sixth grade teacher, Mr. Kevin E. Forehand, who is also the current Principal. Alantra stated that through the Enrichment and Remediation (E.R.) Program, an intense session where students are drilled on Sunshine State Standards, she was able to master the skills needed to pass the test. "Extra assignments and having a great teacher equipped me with the necessary tools to excel," stated Alantra.



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The 2009-2012 Public Charter Schools Grant Program (PCSPG) Planning, Design and Implementation Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued and is posted on our Web site:

http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Charter_Schools/

Eligible applicants are charter schools that have applied to an authorized chartering authority to operate a charter school and have received approval from the chartering authority to open in the 2009-2010 school year or charter schools that opened in the 2008-2009 school year and have not previously received a project award under the PCSPG.

All applications must be received in the Department of Education's Grants Management Office by close of business on February 20, 2009.



FLORIDA'S
CHARTER
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Daring to Do D.E.A.R. Time (Lee Charter Academy of Ft. Myers)

Fresh from the heels of its impressive leap from a "D" rating to an "A," Lee Charter Academy (LCA) of Fort Myers has undertaken a crucial step to ensure it does not rest on its laurels. Under the leadership of its principal, Dr. Shirley Maxine Chapman, LCA is doing school-wide D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Time for thirty minutes every day, and starting this daring initiative with books from Coretta Scott King and Sharon Draper.

In the four months that LCA elementary and middle school students have been doing D.E.A.R. Time, students have demonstrated increased interest in reading and also greatly improved

reading comprehension skills. Adorning the walls of LCA are vivid illustrations and imaginative write-ups from students, inspired by the stories they read every day. In LCA, reading is no longer just lighting a spark but ensuring the fire of its academic success is kept burning through its reading advocacy.

School Information:
Lee Charter Academy
3637 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33916
Office: (239) 334-2235
Fax: (239) 334-2241



Staff Spotlight: Charter Schools Communication Specialist Karen Hines-Henry



This month's behind the scenes spotlight is shining on our Charter Schools Communication Specialist, Karen Hines-Henry. Karen has been with Charter Schools since its inception in 1996.

Karen possesses a wealth of knowledge about the charter school world. As a communication specialist, she is responsible for quality technical assistance to charter school operators, administrators, district contacts and other stakeholders.

Karen is married and has one daughter (age 7).

If there is a story to share about your school or students that you would like to spotlight, please contact Takiyah Randolph via telephone at 850-245-0502 or via e-mail at

Takiyah.Randolph@fldoe.org.



Florida Department of Education

**Office of Independent
Education and Parental
Choice**

**Phone: 850-245-0502
Fax: 850-245-0875**

**School Choice Hotline:
1-800-447-1636**

www.floridaschoolchoice.org



The Charter School Review Panel will meet via conference call on January 28, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to participate, please call 1-888-808-6959 and enter code 2450861. For more information, please contact Jacqueline Hitchcock via telephone at 850-245-0502 or via e-mail at Jacqueline.Hitchcock@fldoe.org.