

Florida's Charter Schools News

New Dimensions High Named State's Literacy Leadership Team of the Year



Standing left to right: Dr. Jackie Grimm, Director of Operations; Dr. Tina Cafiero, Director of Instruction; and Dr. Evan Lefsky, Executive Director of Just Read, Florida!

Just Read, Florida! annually recognizes literacy leaders from each school district in Florida. Teachers, administrators, reading coaches, and literacy leadership teams are recognized according to their ability to foster excellence in literacy education, leadership, and their contributions to the continuous improvement of student learning, professional development, and the school environment.

On May 15, 2009, Dr. Evan Lefsky, Executive Director of Just Read, Florida!, visited New Dimensions Charter High School in Osceola County to announce the school as the winner in the 2009 High School Literacy Leadership Team category.

New Dimensions will be honored at an awards reception this summer.

"Reading is the most powerful common denominator in education and paramount to an individual's success," said Superintendent Michael A. Grego. "I am extremely proud of New Dimensions, as all our Osceola schools continue to work on innovative, creative, and effective strategies to help children learn to read proficiently."

Article submitted by Dr. Tina Cafiero, Director, New Dimensions High School

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2009 FLORIDA CHARTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Charters – Not just another public school! is the theme of this year's conference which will be held November 16-18, 2009, at the DoubleTree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando in Orlando, Florida. Visit <http://www.charterschoolconference.com/> for additional information.

Rule Development

The Florida Department of Education Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice will initiate rule development this summer. The proposed rules will address: capital outlay funding, the conversion process, model forms, financial recovery and corrective action plans, govern-

ance training, new applicant training, and student performance data. All rule development notices will be published in the Florida Administrative Weekly, and information will be posted on the Department's Web site at www.floridaschoolchoice.org.



FLORIDA'S
CHARTER
Schools

Congratulations!!!

Linda Terranova, Innovation Principal of the Year!



Linda Terranova, Principal of Western Academy Charter School in Royal Palm Beach, Florida, received the 2009 Innovation Principal of the Year Award at the Project CHILD National Conference held in Orlando, Florida on April 18, 2009. This two-day event is hosted annually by the Institute for School Innovation (ISI), and was attended by educators from around the country.

Dr. Sally Butzin, President and Executive Director of ISI, presented the award at a gala awards luncheon held at the Lake Buena Vista Royal Plaza Hotel. Dr. Butzin noted that, "In 2003, Linda was among a group of parents who were distressed about the educational services and programs made available to their children at their local schools, so they opened Western Academy as a Project CHILD school in renovated space in a commerce park facility. Under Linda's leadership the school has continued to grow and expand. Construction is currently underway for a new 13,000 sq. ft. facility which will add more space next school year and allow them to offer the CHILD program to more families in the community."

Western Academy is a full inclusion school that welcomes all children. They have successfully served

students with special needs through Project CHILD and have been continually improving to serve a diverse population of students. They received an "A" grade again last year and look forward to many more successful years ahead.

Project CHILD which stands for "Changing How Instruction for Learning is Delivered" is a unique three-dimensional learning system that incorporates technology and active hands-on learning into daily instruction. Classrooms are organized into cross-grade triad "clusters" using a team-teaching approach. Teachers receive special training to become subject-focused specialists in one of



the core academic areas: reading, writing, or mathematics. Classrooms utilize six different learning stations to incorporate computers, textbooks, and hands-on activities. Teachers work with students for three years to build basic competencies throughout the primary grades (K-2) and intermediate grades (3-5).

The CHILD system was originally developed in 1988 at Florida State University. Numerous research studies over the years have shown that CHILD students have higher test scores, better behavior, and are more involved in learning than are comparable students in traditional classrooms. More information and evaluation data are available on the

ISI Web site at www.ifs.org. Project CHILD is currently being implemented in schools in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Connecticut, and New York. Nearly 16,000 students are involved.

The Institute for School Innovation (ISI) is a private, non-profit educational organization located in Tallahassee, Florida that was established in 1995 as a vehicle to continue the CHILD research and development, and to promote its growth to reach more students and teachers. The mission of the Institute is to redefine classroom instruction through technology and active learning. ISI engages in research and development, along with professional development, to transform teaching and learning to better meet the educational needs for the 21st century. ISI is the sole source provider of the CHILD instructional system.

Contact Linda Terranova at 561-792-4123 or via e-mail at terranova@palmbeach.k12.fl.us.



Dr. Sally Butzin and Linda Terranova

Article submitted by Jeannette Merced, Palm Beach School District



Staff Spotlight

Rhonda Forbes



Rhonda works in the Office of Education Information & Accountability Services at the Florida Department of Education (DOE). Her chief responsibility is oversight of the public schools Master School Identification (MSID) file. Rhonda is the person who assists districts with the application process for the assignment of school numbers. She is also the liaison for school districts regarding school status and school demographic information.

Rhonda is a native Floridian and has served the State of Florida in the Education Information Office for 6 years.



2009 Conferences/Workshops

Date(s)	Conference/Workshop	Location	Contact Information
June 21-24	9th Annual National Charter Schools Conference	Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC	http://www.nationalcharterconference.org/welcome.php
October 29-31	Florida School Counselor Association 2009 Annual	Renaissance Orlando Resort at Sea-world, Orlando, Florida	http://www.flaschoolcounselor.org/
November 16-18	2009 Florida Charter Schools	Orlando, Florida	http://charterschoolconference.com/





REMINDER




Governance Training

The deadline for board members to receive training is August 1, 2009 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Technical Assistance is Available

Charter school staff is available to provide technical assistance or assist with any questions you may have. If you need assistance, please contact staff via telephone at 850-245-0502 or via e-mail at Charterschools@fldoe.org.

SCHOOL



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