

Florida's Charter Schools News

State Board Member Visits Crossroad Academy



Seated: Inez Holt. Standing from left to right: Adam Miller, Mark Kaplan, Kevin Forehand, Commissioner Eric Smith, Millie Forehand, Michael Kooi, and Frances Haithcock.

On May 10, 2010, State board member, Mark Kaplan, along with Commissioner Eric Smith, K-12 Chancellor, Frances Haithcock; Independent Education and Parental Choice Executive Director, Michael Kooi; and Charter Schools Director, Adam Miller were given a tour of Crossroad Academy Charter School of Business in Quincy, Florida. Principal Kevin Forehand, Community and Economic Development Organization Executive Director Millie Forehand and Board Chair Inez Holt guided the Department of Education staff on the tour.

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New Resource on Job-Embedded Professional Development

Several major pieces of recent federal education regulation call for the implementation of "job-embedded professional development," particularly in low-performing schools. A new Issue Brief, [Job-Embedded Professional Development: What It Is, Who Is Responsible, and How to Get It Done Well](#) provides:

- A description of the research on job-embedded professional development
- Several examples to help distinguish this type of professional development from other valuable learning opportunities
- A detailed list of the conditions necessary for successful implementation
- Important recommendations for how states, districts, and schools can support high-quality job-embedded professional development to advance teaching and learning in *all* schools

View this resource and many other informative publications on the Teacher Quality Center website: <http://www.tqsource.org/>.



FLORIDA'S
CHARTER
Schools

Florida



Response to Intervention

Response to Intervention Workshops

The Department has scheduled five regional workshops to provide training for charter schools on the Response to Intervention (RtI) model. RtI is a process that provides intervention and educational support to all students at increasing levels of intensity based on their individual needs. The goal is to prevent problems and intervene early so that students can be successful. In addition, federal and state regulations require the use of an RtI model in order to be eligible for IDEA funding and to refer students for special education services.

The RtI workshops will provide general information, rationale, and benefits related to RtI implementation. The trainings will also explain the link between RtI and ESE and discuss critical issues related to the role of charter schools in Florida's statewide RtI implementation.

The following workshops have space available to register:

Thursday, July 8

Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC)
753 West Boulevard
Chipley, FL 32428

Monday, July 12

A.D. Henderson University School (FAU)
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Wednesday, July 21

Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership
Gentry Hall B
4019 Boulevard Center Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Registration is available on the School Choice Web site at https://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Charter_Schools/. To ensure there is enough meeting space available, **we will initially accept registrations for up to 4 participants per school**. We recommend that each charter school be represented by the leadership team responsible for implementation of RtI at the school. School district representatives are also encouraged to attend.

If you have any questions about the workshops, please contact our Charter School Training Coordinator, Tera Teders, at tera.teders@fldoe.org.

Rule Development Updates



Last month, the State Board of Education adopted Rule 6A-6.0787, F.A.C., related to charter school conversion status. The text of the rule is available at: <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/readFile.asp?sid=2&tid=8507208&type=2&file=6A-6.0787.htm>. The rule establishes a ballot process by which teachers and parents may vote to support the conversion of their public school to charter school status.

2010 Charter School Needs Assessment Results

The 2010 Charter School Needs Assessment was open from April 1-30, 2010. We collected a total of 261 responses: 39 from sponsors and 222 from charter schools (administrators, governing board members, teachers, management companies, consultants).

The ten most requested training topics by charter schools are listed below:

Training Subject Area: Specific Topic	% Requested
Authorization and Sponsor Duties: Charter School Law	76.6
Accountability: Learning Gains	73.5
State Initiatives: Differentiated Accountability	73.1
School Leadership: Professional Development for Admin	72.6
Authorization and Sponsor Duties: Performance Management	68.0
Curriculum and Instruction: Data-Driven Decision Making	67.6
Special Populations: Response to Intervention	67.6
State Initiatives: Merit Award Program	67.1
State Initiatives: Capital Outlay	67.1
Curriculum and Instruction: Sunshine State Standards	66.7

The top three most requested training topics by sponsors (school districts) are as follows:

Training Topic	% Requested
Update on legislative changes – impact on charters and districts	92.3
Providing services – what is covered under the administrative fee	84.6
Legal and policy issues and procedures related to termination/non-renewal	82.1

Based on the results of the needs assessment, the Department will prepare a training plan for the 2010-11 school year to address the needs of our stakeholders. Training will be provided in a variety of formats including regional workshops, breakout sessions at the annual charter school conference, webinars, and technical assistance papers.

If you did not take the opportunity to participate in the needs assessment this year, please look for the 2011 assessment to be released next spring. In the meantime, if there are specific areas with which you would like assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to providing continuous opportunities to improve the quality of Florida's charter schools.

Archimedean Middle Conservatory



In addition to Archimedean Middle Conservatory being chosen Science Olympiad Champion for the state of Florida, we would like to share accomplishments of the student body. Shiva Kangeyan came in first place at the State Science Fair. The Brain Bowl Team, the Geography Bee Team, and the History Bee Team are the District Champions.

*Article submitted by Vasiliki Moysidis, Ed.S.
Archimedean Middle Conservatory, Principal*

River City Science Academy Celebrates International Night

River City Science Academy (RCSA) recently hosted its 3rd annual International Night, an evening celebrating people, culture and acceptance.



It was a night to explore the international scene of the RCSA community. "We like to join together and share in our diversity," said Principal Dr. Dogan Tozoglu. "International Night is an important way for our school to help spread cultural awareness and acceptance. When we can all come together without racial, religious or cultural adversity, it produces a more cohesive and comfortable learning environment suitable for all students."

The RCSA Parent Volunteer Organization, as well as staff, other parents and students, worked together to make International Night a success. Parents and staff prepared some of their favorite recipes or brought food items representing their culture.



Besides the delicious dishes, the main event of the evening was the showcase by students and teachers. The RCSA folk dance group performed two excellent folk dances and sang a song in Turkish. The RCSA folk dance group received the 1st Place award in the Southeastern

Turkish Olympiads in Atlanta this year.

RCSA music club students, coached by Mr. Teears, performed "My Favorite Things" from The Sound of Music. The choir featured Katherine Uibel, Marissa Smith, Travis Collins, Christian Ham, Kelsie Barfield and Arianna Overman.



Seventh grade student, Arianna, also performed "All the Small Things" on guitar.

Mrs. Christie Dorrian RCSA staff member and mother of two of the folk dancers, Courtney and Cameron, performed two vocal numbers: "It's a Beautiful Day" by U2 and "Yasiyorum" by Candan Ercetin.



RCSA character education teacher, Mr. Kadic performed on accordion "Moj Dilbere" meaning "My love" a traditional Bosnian song, and finished with a beautiful classical piece by Ivan, composer.

8th grade student, Allie Lewis sang a song in Japanese, called "Ayaka"

8th grade student, Anthony Franklin performed on piano "Requiem" and song "Lean on me"

6th grade students Haris and Eldina Hodzic had a wonderful juggling performance for closure.

Overall, it was a night of remembrance and fun. Students, staff and parents left with many wonderful comments such as: "The food and performances were wonderful. We should do this more often."

The cultural and traditional differences were the most beautiful parts of the whole program. While parents were eating, we could see the beauty of RCSA and harmony within the school.

PVO, teachers and staff worked very hard together to build this wonderful event and this year it has been one of the best.

Article submitted by Dr. Dogan Tozoglu, Principal, River City Science Academy

Academy of Arts & Minds Charter High School is Busy On the Plaza



Coconut Grove's only public high school is continuing to grow. With **Director William Machado's** insistence on academic excellence, the bar is consistently being raised with more Advanced Placements and honor level classes being added for next year.

As Machado and his staff strive to become Miami's premier charter high school, Registrar **Sandii Sellers** reports that more than 720 applications have been received for the coveted 150 available spots for 2010-2011. Founders **Manuel Alonso-Poch** and **Lili Renteria** are renovating and adding two more large classrooms, anticipating next year's increase in student population. Approximately 450 - 480 students will open the Fall Term.

May has brought a plethora of Saturday auditions in each of A&M's specialized curriculum areas: Art, Dance, Drama, Creative Writing, Journalism, Chorus, Band, Orchestra, Guitar and Graphic Arts/Photography.

The *Academy of Arts & Minds Charter High School* offers a small school environment on a very safe campus in the middle of Coconut Grove. As **Manuel Alonso-Poch** said, "The tuition is free. The education is priceless."

Miami-Dade County Charter School Office staff member

Director **William Machado** welcomed a very special guest Tuesday morning, May 4th. **Ira J. Paul**, a member of the Miami-Dade County Charter School Office staff, visited *Arts & Minds Charter High School* and evaluated A&M's status. Mr. Paul comes to A&M well qualified. He serves as President of the *Independent Voices for a Better Education* (I.V.B.E.), was actively involved in the *Foundation for Excellence in Education* and retired - after serving students for 30 years - from Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School where he was a mathematics teacher.

In addition, Mr. Paul was recognized by the Miami-Dade County Public School System for his many accomplishments. After spending several hours at A&M, Mr. Paul gave Director Machado the thumbs up for a "fine job."



Top Academic Student

Congratulations to one of A & M's top academic student **Victoria Marie Gonzalez** who was featured in the magazine *The First Call*, published by St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. Vicky has repeatedly proven herself not only as an accomplished artist but also as one who reaches out and gives back to the community.



She has graciously donated her long, beautiful hair three times to *Locks of Love*, which makes wigs for children undergoing cancer therapy. In addition, Vicky is historian for the Greek youth organization GOYA, and each year has participated as a traditional Greek dancer in the St. Andrew Greek Festival, volunteering many hours.

Recognized as an "Artist You Should Know," Victoria has been a *Bose Art Finalist* and a recipient of the *American Legion Award* as well as the *President's Award of Excellence*. In August, Vicky - - an art student with A & M teacher Mrs. Mary Abreu - - will move to Sarasota to begin her intensive studies at the **Ringling College of Art & Design**. Director William Machado stated, "It has been a true pleasure to have such

an outstanding young woman at the *Academy of Arts and Minds Charter High School* and we wish Victoria good luck as she pursues her dreams during college years."

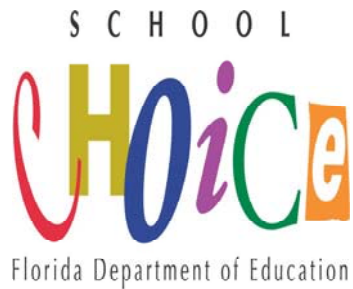
Finalist in Poetry Competition

May 12th was the BIG day for A&M 11th grader **Andrew F. Chalotis**. Andrew was a finalist in a poetry competition. From 2000 contestants, his powerful piece entitled *Score* was selected. He competed with 16 others and as a member of a very prestigious group. Andrew took center stage at the *Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts* when he delivered his original works. With superb command of the English language, Andrew exhibited great versatility, a mature style and evocative interpretation of his personal thoughts after listening to the musical work *Recuerdos* as part of the competition.

At the *Academy of Arts & Minds Charter High School* ~ Coconut Grove's ONLY public high school ~ Andrew studies Creative Writing with Instructor **Andrea Dehann**, and Honors English with **Nathalie Milian**.



(continued next page)



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Education and Parental
Choice**

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1-800-447-1636

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Academy of Arts & Minds *(continued)*



A&M's *Silver Knights* have done it again. Not only have our hard working, outstanding Knights reached out and given back to the community while maintaining stellar grades, but the *Academy of Arts & Minds Charter High School* received it's first Miami Herald Silver Knight Honorable Mention with **Ashley Noelle Everett** being called onto the stage at the James L. Knight Center in downtown Miami to re-

ceive a beautifully engraved plaque for the Speech Category and \$500 to the applause and adulation of a filled auditorium.

Ashley's service activities include her ongoing volunteer work at the University of Miami's Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and her 750+ hours she has donated in her leadership role as planner, organizer, speaker and implementer of A&M's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Club. As president and creator, Ashley has been in charge of an association that provides a safe and understanding environment for all students. This particular service endeavor has had a tremendous impact on the school's tolerance towards diversity.

Sitting in the audience was proud Academy Founder **Manuel Alonso-Poch**, Esquire, Director of A&M **William Machado**, Math Instructor **Adhar Mohamed** and Silver Knight Sponsor **Robin L. Sarantos**, Ph.D.

Articles submitted by Robin L. Sarantos, Ph.D., A&M Volunteer

Informational Items

Race to the Top – The Florida Department of Education is pleased to report that we received a Memo of Understanding (MOU) from 65 districts, 3 lab schools, and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (95.8% of all Florida LEAs). Of these, 54 had union support (79.4%). This is incredible and positions us well for Phase 2 of Race to the Top. A list of participating LEAs can be found at www.fldoe.org/arra/racetothetop.asp.

Link: www.fldoe.org/arra/racetothetop.asp

Accessible Instructional Materials Questions and Answers – The Department of Education has issued the following technical assistance paper regarding the DPS: 2010-70 Accessible Instructional Materials Questions and Answers. The technical assistance paper may be viewed at: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5764/dps-2010-70.pdf>.

Link: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5764/dps-2010-70.pdf>

Waivers Regarding Differentiated Accountability – The Department of Education has issued the following memorandum on Waivers Regarding Differentiated Accountability. The memorandum may be viewed at: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5765/dps-2010-82.pdf> (Memo); <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5766/dps-2010-82a.pdf> (Attachment A); <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5767/dps-2010-82b.pdf> (Attachment B); <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5768/dps-2010-82c.pdf> (Attachment C).

Link: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5765/dps-2010-82.pdf> (Memo)

Link: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5766/dps-2010-82a.pdf> (Attachment A)

Link: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5767/dps-2010-82b.pdf> (Attachment B)

Link: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5768/dps-2010-82c.pdf> (Attachment C)