

July 2010

# Florida's Charter Schools News

## Title I Distinguished Schools



*~ Nine schools honored with academic awards for exceptional student achievement ~*

The Florida State Board of Education recognized nine Title I schools for their superior performance in raising student achievement and promoting academic progress for all students. Each of the nine schools, honored as Title I Distinguished Schools, met rigorous state and federal accountability measures for five consecutive years in order to earn the awards. Title I schools receive federal funding for low-income students.

Title I Distinguished Schools serve as models for and provide support to other Title I schools, especially those identified for improvement. These schools earned the award by meeting 100 percent of federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements and achieving a school performance grade of "A" or "B" for five consecutive years.

The following schools were recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools:

- Charles R. Hadley Elementary School – Miami
- Crossroad Academy Charter School of Business – Quincy
- Fairlawn Elementary Community School – Miami
- Madie Ives Community Elementary School – North Miami Beach
- Sweetwater Elementary School – Miami
- Treasure Island Elementary School – North Bay Village
- Tropic Isles Elementary School – North Ft. Myers
- Watkins Elementary Magnet School – Pembroke Park
- Youth Co-Op Charter School - Hialeah Gardens

*Congratulations to all of these schools for a job well done!*

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FLORIDA'S  
**CHARTER**  
*Schools*

## The Academy of Arts & Minds ~ Busy on the Plaza ALL Summer



With all of the exceptional achievements attained during this past year from eight *Silver Knight* nominees garnering a prestigious Honorable Mention in speech, art awards, outstanding music, dance performances and poetry winners to Sunshine State Scholars in mathematics and science, Advanced Placement recognition for scholastic achievements and numerous community service activities such as the *Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Walk* and inner city mentoring, the **Academy of Arts and Minds Charter High School** ~ Coconut Grove's ONLY public high school ~ is not taking a hiatus just because it's summer.

Director **William Machado**, along with the support of A&M Founders **Manuel Alonso-Poch, Esquire** and Cuban patron of the arts and actress **Lili Renteria**, offered a plethora of weekly summer seminars and mini camps open to all 9-12 graders in both private and public schools around the Greater Miami area.

The end of June found A&M's dynamic fine arts chorus instructor **Christina Alexander** leading off the summer with a workshop filled not only with classical repertoire experiences and harmonically rich works, but also instruction in a palette of outstanding musical tones combined with artistic maturity on the part of the participating high school students. July kicked off with a *Money & Business Seminar*. A&M mathematics instructor **Kamal James** is adamant that our future leaders "learn about the global economy and where YOU fit in." Parents, overwhelmed by the college application process, signed up their offspring for English Department Chair **Nathalie Milian's College Planning Seminar** - a week packed full with information. Master Teacher **Dr. Susan Hildebrand** offered a *Get Rich Reading!* workshop which drew an interesting group of students seeking to enlighten themselves with action-oriented readings and discussion groups. Geared to helping students be a success in high school and life in general, the summer workshop included numerous interesting activities to increase writing skills while exploring a treasure trove of publications. Dr. Hildebrand advertised her class on the A&M website with a note: "Come and learn lots of fun ways to ensure your success."

Students asked for a summer session to help them raise SAT scores and gain confidence in test taking skills. Top notch Language Arts professor **Nathalie Milian's SAT Prep** begins August 2. Strong emphasis will be placed on both the SAT English and math sections. A&M students will be well prepared for the first SAT and/or ACT examinations which begin in the fall.

Also running for two weeks in August is A&M's *High School 101 ~ On the Plaza*. This mini-camp introduces the academic skills necessary to be successful in high school. Each day is an adventure. After an hour in the classroom, the students get to know Coconut Grove and all the "ins and outs" on the daily walking tours complete with tidbits on the village's vibrant history.



Director **William Machado** chatting *on the plaza* with summer Chorus/Musical Theatre students **Samantha Palomina** and **Nichlas Anthony**



Director **William Machado** & Founder **Manuel Alonso-Poch, Esq.** Acknowledging Top Seniors



A&M Chorus/Musical Theatre/Show Choir instructor **Christina Alexander** with students **Kristen Chi** and **Rachel Saldivar**

*Submitted by Robin L. Sarantos, Ph.D., A&M Charter High School*

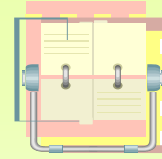


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**KEEPING US INFORMED**

We ask that if you have changes to your contact information, changes in positions, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, or e-mail addresses, please contact Karen Hines-Henry at 850-245-0502 or e-mail [Karen.Hines@fldoe.org](mailto:Karen.Hines@fldoe.org). This updated information will certainly help keep us informed as we continue to keep you informed!

**Charter in the News**

*Charting the course - Hungerford retires from ABC School helm:*  
<http://www.apalachtimes.com/news/apalachicola-8586-bay-charter.html>



**Technical Assistance is Available**

Charter School staff is available to provide technical assistance. If you need assistance, please contact staff via telephone at (850) 245-0502 or via e-mail at [Charterschools@fldoe.org](mailto:Charterschools@fldoe.org).