

# Florida's Charter Schools News

## "Youth Co-Op Charter School Celebrates "A+" grade for 7<sup>th</sup> Straight Year"

Youth Co-Op Charter School celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> straight year of being an "A+" school on October 14, 2008, along with community friends and supporters. Mrs. Aragon, Principal of YCCS, pictured to the right with Hialeah Gardens Mayor Yiozet De La Cruz and State Representative Eddy Gonzalez, received the award during a celebration with the city's leaders, community supporters, and many proud parents.



They gathered along with the entire school at hand to watch the trophy presentation, which was also broadcast on local Channel 41, and heard the many chants of "Go Tigers" throughout the presentation. Also present were city councilmen, Hialeah Gardens police officers that support the school, and other business supporters, helping to remind all that it truly takes a team effort to accomplish something special.

There is a lot of hard work that has been done here throughout the years, and thanks to the dedication and support of our teachers, and students, I believe that the groundwork for something truly special has been cre-

ated", remarked the Principal Aragon. "Parents know that we are dedicated to giving our students the best education possible, and our track record shows it."

Youth Co-Op Charter School's vision was first conceived by Maria Rodriguez, Executive Director of Youth Co-Op, Inc, a nonprofit organization whose mission is also to improve and provide for the community, various opportunities for a better life and a better world. Her presence was also felt at the ceremony, as one the individuals that have been involved with

the school since its inception.

Those seeking further information about Youth Co-Op Charter School can contact Mr. Hernandez, the Assistant Principal at [to-bias@dadeschools](mailto:to-bias@dadeschools).

### Inside this issue:

2008 Charter School Conference	2
Staff Spotlight	3
Needs Assessment	3
Governance Training	3



FLORIDA'S  
**CHARTER**  
*Schools*

# A Successful 2008 Florida Charter School Conference



**Total Number of Registrations.....369**

*Attendee Work Areas*

Business/Community Representative.....30

District-based Administrator.....22

Educational Association Representative..... 4

Management Company Representative.....34

School Board Member.....30

School Support Staff.....2

School-based Administrator.....187

State Agency Official/Staff.....29

Teacher.....21

University/College Representative.....6

Other.....4

### The 2008 Florida Charter School Conference Planning Committee

A special thank you to our conference planning committee for a job well done. Without their hard work and dedication this conference would not have been such a success.

This year's committee included: Dr. Evelyn Chandler, Ms. Elizabeth Hagan, Ms. Lesley Hawkins, Mr. Paul Jungkunz, Dr. Tim Kitts, Mr. Jonathan Lewis, Mrs. Vicky Llevada, Mrs. Alicia Rodriguez-Bower, Dr. David Ross, and Mr. Larry Williams.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the 2009 Florida Charter School Conference Planning Committee, you can e-mail Noelle Bonard at [Noelle.Bonard@fldoe.org](mailto:Noelle.Bonard@fldoe.org).



## Congratulations

The 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools: Charter School of Excellence and Renaissance Elementary Charter School. (Left to right: Lisa Castro, Principal of the Charter School of Excellence, Jean Miller, Deputy Executive Director of IEPC, Ana Cordal, Principal of Renaissance Elementary Charter School, Mike Kooi, Executive Director of IEPC, and T. Willard Fair, Chairman of the State Board of Education).



## Staff Spotlight: Education Policy Director

### LaCrest McCary



LaCrest graduated from Barry University with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a Master's degree in Aeronautical Science. LaCrest has been with the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice since October 2005. She is married and active in her children's education (ages 6, 17, and 19) along with various community service organizations.

### Coming Soon: Needs Assessment

The IEPC Office will be conducting a needs assessment in January, 2009. The assessment is an effort by the IEPC Office to better understand the training and technical assistance needs of charter schools and sponsors. While participation in the survey is voluntary, we are strongly encouraging schools and sponsors to participate. The survey will be completed online through Survey Monkey®. You will be notified when the

survey is available. The results of the survey will be used by the IEPC Office to develop a statewide training plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the IEPC Office at 850-245-0502 or at [Charterschools@fldoe.org](mailto:Charterschools@fldoe.org).



S C H O O L



Florida Department of Education

### Governance Training Reminder



- All charter school governing board members are to participate in four hours of approved governance training by **December 31, 2008**.
- The names and contact information for approved trainers can be found at the following link: [http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/Charter\\_Schools/](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/Charter_Schools/).

**Office of Independent  
Education and Parental  
Choice**

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School Choice Hotline:  
1-800-447-1636

[www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)