

Dec. 5, 2008

Congratulations to **Principal Douglas Rodriquez** of Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High School in Miami-Dade. He is the winner of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual \$10,000 Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award, bestowed by the Council for Educational Change at a special event on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. The Gold Medallion Winners were Principals **Dr. Rosann Sidener** of Miami Beach Senior High in Miami-Dade and **Terry Strong** of Winston Elementary in Polk County. The Council extends our deepest appreciation and thanks to our fantastic guest speaker, **Gloria Estefan**. Read more about the Award and event following.

Miami Gardens Mayor **Shirley Gibson** is partnering with the Council to bring its Executive PASS<sup>®</sup> model to every school in the Mayor's municipality. On Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, she hosted a meeting to match Principals and business leaders and initiate the Executive PASS model. Some 35 business leaders, Principals, and Council leadership attended, including President and Executive Director, **Dr. Elaine Liftin**. Partnership development is now underway. There are currently 41 Executive PASS models in Miami-Dade, Orange and Hillsborough. In Miami-Dade, they are sponsored by the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**, the **South Florida Youth Foundation** and the **Florida Legislature**.

On Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, Executive PASS business leader **Roger Slade** arranged a special learning experience for students in the business law class at South Miami High. Mr. Slade is an active Executive PASS partner, working with Principal **Gilberto Bonce** at the school. The students observed the proceedings in the courtroom of **Judge Alan Gold** from the US District Court. They also met with Judge Gold and learned about court processes and procedures for becoming a Federal Judge. Later, the students observed an evidentiary hearing. Mr. Slade is a Council Board Member and attorney with the firm Pathman Lewis, LLP.

PASS<sup>®</sup> CEO **Lew Friedland** and PASS Coach **Max Ramos** shared some of their background and enriching travel adventures with students from Gulfside Elementary in Pasco where they are part of a PASS team with Principal **Christopher Clayton**. The occasion was the *Great American Teach-In* on Nov. 19 which brings community members into classrooms to share personal and workforce experiences. The Gulfside PASS model is sponsored by the **Durward and Janet Siville Fund** through the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay.

At the Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Council Board Meeting, the Evaluation Committee, led by Board Member **Lynne Wines**, presented information showing that Council programs help raise student achievement and develop the leadership skills of educators.

Happy Holidays and the very best in the upcoming New Year to all of our educational stakeholders and partners. We are very proud to have impacted the education of more than one million students and 5,000 school leaders. We are also very thankful for the generous donors and partners who make our work possible. The next UPDATE will honor and list all of our 2008 donors.

*"Developing school-based leaders--the Council focus--is the most efficient and effective use of philanthropy dollars. It reaches every child in a school, offers them opportunities to succeed and raises the performance of schools." -Gene Marshall, Council Vice Chair*

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award event: front row, from left, Council Educational Advancement Chair Sue Miller who hosted the event at her Star Island residence; Special Guest Speaker and educational activist, Gloria Estefan; and Award Winner Principal Douglas Rodriquez of Ronald Reagan High in Miami-Dade. Back row, students from Reagan's first graduating class (2009) surprised Principal Rodriquez at the event.

### Spirit of Giving

**As you make year-end gifts to charity or plan your 2009 philanthropy, please remember the Council for Educational Change.**

**... WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

**If you participate with United Way, you may designate gifts to the Council for Educational Change via the "donor select option." Please contact Dawn Wilson at 954-727.9909 for more information. The Council and the million students we serve, thank you!**

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# Miami-Dade Principal Douglas Rodriguez Wins Statewide \$10,000 Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award



The three finalists for the Award are designated Gold Medallion Winners. They are, at the event, from left: Principal Terry Strong, Winston Elementary, Polk; Principal Douglas Rodriguez (Grand Winner), Ronald Reagan Senior High, Miami-Dade; and Principal Dr. Rosann Sidener, Miami Beach Senior High, Miami-Dade.

Douglas Rodriguez, Principal of Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High, is the winner of the \$10,000 Annual Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award, bestowed by the Council at a special event Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, where the winner received his award from the event's special guest speaker and educational advocate, **Gloria Estefan**.

"This event shines a bright spotlight on outstanding Principal leadership," said Gloria Estefan. "During difficult financial times, these Principals find creative ways to do all the right things for the right reason—our children."

The statewide Award is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year. It recognizes and rewards outstanding Principal leadership and is presented annually to a high-performing Florida Principal. The \$10,000 is for personal use. Former Principal winners include: **Bart Christie**, Miami-Dade; **Dr. Pat Dixon**, Broward (now with the Council); **Jackie Byrd**, Duval; **Linda Geller**, Hillsborough; and **Peg Pearson**, Pinellas.

It honors the late **Leonard Miller**, Council founder and Chair of its predecessor organization, the \$100 million South Florida Annenberg

Challenge. The winners were chosen from statewide applicants who demonstrated *extraordinary leadership*—the Award's focus and reflective of Mr. Miller's vision—in a statewide Council program(s) in these three criteria: raised student achievement, gains and growth; empowered and developed staff leadership; and formed meaningful partnerships with business, parents and community.

Principal Rodriguez participates in the Council's Executive PASS model, partnering with **Eugenio Jaramillo** from **MCM Corp**. He also participated in Executive PASS when he was the Principal of Miami Springs High. Executive PASS is the brainchild of Council Chair **Steve Saiontz**. The model teams a business leader and Principal who partner on targeted school improvement. There are currently 41 Executive PASS models—with 23 in Miami-Dade and the rest in Hillsborough and Orange.

The event was hosted by Sue Miller, Council Board Member and Educational Advancement Committee Chair, at her Star Island residence. All three Principal finalists, including Mr. Rodriguez, **Dr. Rosann Sidener**, Miami Beach High in Miami-Dade, and **Terry Strong**, Winston Elementary in Polk, were designated Gold Medallion Winners. Both Sidener and Strong received \$5,000 each, for personal use.

Attending the event were: Ambassador **Chuck Cobb**, Senator **Dan Gelber**, Miami Mayor **Manny Diaz**, Miami Beach Mayor **Matti Herrera Bower**, Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Board Member **Roberto Martinez**, FLDOE Deputy Chancellor **Pam Stewart** and Council Board Members and leadership. Miami-Dade Supt. **Alberto Carvalho** was on the program and Senior Director of Polk Elementary Schools, **Diana Myrick**, represented Polk Supt. **Dr. Gail McKinzie** at the event. Many former Award Winners also participated.

The event was sponsored by **Baptist Health South Florida**, **Carnival Cruise Lines**, **Cobb Family Foundation**, **Edward W. Easton**, **Lennar Foundation**, **Richard and Susan Finkelstein**, and **Akerman Senterfitt**.

The Council's mission is *Leading the Way to Better Education*. Council programs and activities have benefitted more than one million students and developed the leadership of some 5,000 school leaders.

Please visit the Council website for more information about the Council and our work: [www.changeeducation.org](http://www.changeeducation.org)

## Accomplishments, Principal Rodriguez:

- opened Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High in Miami-Dade as a new school
- achieved and maintained an A grade since opening the school, for the last two years
- met AYP graduation criteria this year
- establishing work partnerships which will provide internships for 150 students
- provides individual support--tutoring, small classes, and computer assisted instruction--for special needs students
- promotes student access to, and success in, advanced placement courses; involves students in planning future course offerings
- named Florida State and Miami-Dade County Principal of the Year in 2008
- raised grade from a D to a B in former school of Miami Springs High