

Feb. 6, 2009

There's a lot happening with the Council's Executive PASS® model, which now has 31 active partnerships in Miami-Dade, eight in Hillsborough and five in Orange schools, with interest from other schools, districts and partners growing everyday...

...On Feb. 7, Executive PASS business leader **Art Noriega** will participate in a panel at the Leadership Miami's Education Fair at the NSU South Campus, presenting information to some 100 participants with an interest in business-education partnership and involvement. Mr. Noriega is an Executive PASS partner with Miami Northwestern Senior High. He is also the Executive Director of the Miami Parking Authority. Executive PASS Coordinator **Boots Richards** will also attend and share information.

...on January 22, Boots Richards presented Executive PASS information to government, education and civic leaders at the City of Homestead Education Committee meeting. The Council was invited by Homestead Council person, **Nazy Sierra**. The Committee is exploring a possible connection to, and participation in the model, for their area schools.

...Miami-Dade Executive PASS partners—business leaders and CEO's—will participate in a special networking meeting on April 1. The meeting at Mellon Bank is sponsored by its Managing Director **Charles Porter**, a Council Board Member and a founding Executive PASS business leader. The meeting will be a working session with exchanges of ideas and best practices.

The Council welcomes **Victor Fernandez**, who is the new Principal of Leto High, Tampa, to the PASS® network. Leto is a PASS® model school, sponsored by the **Community Foundation of Tampa Bay**. **Dick Lobo**, who is the President and CEO of WEDU, is the PASS CEO who worked with the former Principal. Mr. Lobo, Mr. Fernandez, and PASS Coordinator **Sherry Clarke** held a transition and planning meeting on Feb. 4. Mr. Fernandez was the Principal of W. G. Pierce Middle School, which feeds into Leto High and knows many of the students and parents. There are now 80 active and alum PASS models in schools throughout Florida.

The Central Florida PASS CEO Networking Meeting was held in Tampa, Jan. 29. Among the PASS CEO's attending were: Council Board Vice Chair **Gene Marshall**, Council Board Member **Bob Graham**, **Dick Lobo**, **Chuck Blumencamp**, **Tony Coleman**, **Hunt Berryman**, and **Lew Friedland**. Attending from the Council were President & Executive Director **Dr. Elaine Liftin**, VP of Educational Advancement **Dawn Wilson**, and PASS Coordinator **Sherry Clarke**. The Central Florida PASS Coaches met on Jan. 7, in Tampa. Attending were PASS coaches **Dr. Joyce Haines**, **Susan Turner**, **Lori Matway**, **Irene Betancourt**, and **Sherry Clarke**. At both meetings PASS updates, best practices, success strategies and recent activities were shared and explored.

**Lew Friedland** is providing extra opportunities for the students of Gulfside Elementary in Pasco County where he is the PASS CEO. He is sponsoring a field trip for the school's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to Enterprise Village, to bring a recent economics lesson to life. He also provided refreshments for an All Pro Dad (fatherhood skills group) event. He works closely with Principal **Christopher Clayton** to increase student achievement. Gulfside's PASS is generously funded by the **Community Foundation of Tampa Bay**.

On Jan. 15, **Dr. Elaine Liftin**, attended the first meeting of a national group of educational experts which is developing a national standard for the Professional Certification and Recognition of high-performing Principals and other educational leaders.

Please go to or follow this link <http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20090129/OPINION01/901290318/1006/OPINION> to the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper to read an editorial on the importance of mentoring. It cites Council Board Member Steve Uhlfelder, the Chair of the Florida Mentoring Partnership. Dr. Elaine Liftin is also a member of the Mentoring Partnership.

The Council wants to acknowledge all the hard work that its program schools, staff and students have undertaken to prepare for the upcoming FCAT tests. We also want to appreciate the support of the partners of our program schools, including the PASS and Executive PASS CEO's and business leaders who work hands-on with the schools to raise student achievement. Good luck!

*Mark your calendar.* The Annual PASS Meeting is slated for April 15 in Tampa. The Council thanks WEDU President and CEO and Council PASS CEO **Dick Lobo** for generously sponsoring the event at his station's studio. **Raymond James Financial** is the statewide PASS sponsor and the Wachovia Foundation also supports PASS. Please continue reading for a story that highlights the long and wide range impact of PASS. The next Council Board Meeting will be telephonic and held on January 21, at 10:00 a.m.

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3265 Meridian Parkway Suite 130 Weston, FL 33331 phone: 954.727.9909 fax: 954.727-0990 [www.changeeducation.org](http://www.changeeducation.org)



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**Mission: LEADING THE WAY TO BETTER EDUCATION**

**Students achieve when their leaders are empowered**

Let's take a look at Principal Bart Christie's track record.

In 1999, he started as Principal of Bent Tree Elementary in Miami-Dade, a D school. Next year, it climbed to a B. It earned an A next year, and the next, continuously up to 2008, even after Christie left to lead a different school.

How did it happen? **Sound and inspired leadership.** And according to Principal Christie, his leadership was developed and empowered through the Council's PASS© (Partnership to Achieve Success) model and work with Armando Codina.

"PASS isn't a quick fix. It's a thoughtfully designed model," says Christie. "That's why it's such a longstanding success. PASS develops leadership and then channels it to increase student achievement. That's how you get continuous improvement."

Christie shares that the PASS CEO,—a successful business leader—brings a new dimension to the "business" of educating students. PASS CEO Armando Codina inspired Christie to be a better leader. "Without a doubt, PASS percolates change and a new direction. The PASS CEO brings new strategies and tools that help you focus on your student performance mission and implement activities that move the achievement needle."

Soon, he continued, that change becomes entrenched in the school culture, and equally important, in the behavior of the Principal. It drives sustained performance and achievement.

"My PASS partnership ended in 2002, but there's no expiration date on what I learned and how I apply it. It's part of me and will be as long as I serve as an educator," Christie states. Over three years, Christie worked with PASS CEO partner Armando Codina, who Christie shares, was equally generous with his hands on-involvement and his financial support. Examples of standout leadership skills that Christie gained from PASS and his partnership with Codina include:

- consistent and informed use of drilled down student performance data to guide the instruction of every student
- business approach—meeting and exceeding the customers' (students') needs
- incentives and rewards for performance—staff, parents, students
- trifold involvement that engages and unites the school, parents and community in educational goals

Bart has been the Principal of Leewood School, a K-8 school in Miami-Dade, for the past five years. When he started, it was an A school and he has maintained that A, despite the achievement bar being raised over the years.

He observes that funding cuts will make it harder to provide the same quality of education and achieve the same results, but he is determined to find ways to keep students engaged, learning and achieving.

"It's not just our school budget. Financial worries and uncertainty are pervasive—staff, the families of students, and our community. PASS model schools are so fortunate," says Christie. "You have no idea of the profound and positive effect PASS has on everyone in a school and your outcomes. The students get it better than anyone—someone cares, someone is helping, someone is proud of me, something wonderful is around the corner. I applaud all of the PASS CEO's and funders who are doing such an outstanding job and making such a significant contribution."



**"Our students and their families are our customers. They deserve the best that we can all give them," says Principal Christie shown here with students.**