

Sept. 5, 2008

*You could be a WINNER of this year's Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award!*

If you are a Principal who has or is participating in a Council program/activity and you have raised student achievement, empowered your staff and developed meaningful business and community partnerships, you are eligible. Last year's Grand Winner won \$10,000 and the Gold Medallion Winners won \$5,000 each (more information follows on the Award and past winners follows). All award monies are for personal use. Find out more at [LMA Award](#) and access the online application (only an hour to complete) at [LMA Application](#). The Award program and recognition event is sponsored by Baptist Health South Florida, Carnival Cruise Lines, Cobb Family Foundation, Edward W. Easton, Lennar Foundation, Richard and Susan Finkelstein, and Akerman Senterfitt.

Save the date...  
**November 19, 2008**

**Leonard Miller  
Principal Leadership  
Award Luncheon**

Visit the Council website for  
highlights from last year's event:  
[www.changeeducation.org](http://www.changeeducation.org)

The Council's Executive PASS® in Orange County had its kick-off breakfast on Sept. 2 at the Hyatt Grand Cypress. It was sponsored by the hotel's General Manager and Executive PASS business leader, **Paul Tang**. There will be 9 Orange County partnerships this year. **Pam Woulard**, Senior Manager - Human Resources, Orange County Public Schools, was the speaker.

Several PASS® schools recently held special events to start off the new school year ...

...**Jeffrey Miller**, Council Co-Chair, sponsored a joint PASS kick-off event on Aug. 15 for Holmes Elementary, Principal **Dahlia Gonzalez** and Hialeah Elementary, Principal **Carolina Naveiras**. Mr. Miller sponsors both of these PASS models. The event also celebrated Hialeah's A grade. It was a C school when Mr. Miller's PASS partnership started there. Among the special guests were Council President and Executive Director, **Dr. Elaine Liftin**, Miami-Dade Region Superintendent, **Dr. Essie Pace**, and leaders from Mr. Miller's Weeks Gas Company. As is his generous tradition, Mr. Miller provided the students with supplies and backpacks.

... PASS partner **Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.** hosted a PASS Celebration Luncheon for Winston Elementary on Aug. 14 to celebrate the school's A grade. The Polk County school was a C when PASS started. Among the special guests were Publix Super Markets Charities Executive Director **Sharon Miller**, CEO mentor **Hunt Berryman**, Superintendent **Dr. Gail McKinzie**, PASS Coordinator **Sherry Clarke**, PASS Coaches **Susan Turner** and **Vivian Underwood** (retired), and Principal **Terry Strong**. Publix also generously sponsors the Council's annual Florida Leadership Academies and Assistant Principal Leadership Forums.

...Gibson Elementary in Hillsborough had a PASS Kick-Off and Open House event on Aug. 14, attended by Principal **Donna Marra**, parents, students, staff and district leaders. PASS CEO **Charles Blumenkamp** was a special guest at the event, sharing information about the partnership plans for this year. PASS Coordinator **Sherry Clarke** represented the Council with Gibsonton PASS Coach **Irene Betancourt**. The students were treated to a special musical presentation performed by their parents.

...Gulfside Elementary in Pasco had their PASS kick-off at a two day open house on Aug. 26-27. PASS CEO **Lew Friedland** of Jireh, Inc., Principal **Christopher Clayton**, PASS Coordinator **Sherry Clark** and PASS Coach **Joyce Haines** all participated.

Council President and Executive Director, **Dr. Elaine Liftin** was invited by Florida Department of Education Commissioner, **Dr. Eric Smith**, to join his new education policy advisory group which will give the Commissioner input on topics facing the state in the upcoming year. The Advisory is comprised of educational leaders around the state and will have its first meeting on Sept. 22.

The Council thanks the Hillsborough School Board Members and Superintendent **Mary Ellen Elia** for their special PASS recognition at a School Board meeting on Aug. 5. At the meeting, new PASS partnerships and participating PASS CEO's were recognized and featured, including: Leto High School, **Dick Lobo**, CEO of WEDU; Gibsonton Elementary, **Chuck Blumenkamp**; and Palm River Elementary, **Richard Waino**, Port Director of the Tampa Port Authority. Mr. Lobo, Mr. Blumenkamp, Sherry Clarke and PASS principals and coaches all attended. The Council has implemented 11 PASS models in Hillsborough. The **Community Foundation of Tampa Bay** and Council Vice Chair and Foundation member **Gene Marshall** were instrumental in forming the partnerships and tapping the PASS CEO's. Visit the Council [website](#) to see pictures of the recognition.

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### Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award

Our Council Board established the *Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award* to reward outstanding Principal Leadership. It is an *annual* recognition, now in its sixth year. It shines a spotlight on extraordinary Principal leadership and its importance in increasing student achievement and improving schools. Thanks to the Award's generous sponsors, the Grand Winner receives **\$10,000** and the Gold Medallion winners (two in 2007) receive **\$5,000** each. Following the corporate practice and model, all awards are for personal use.

This award honors the educational improvement legacy of **Leonard Miller** who was the Chair of the South Florida Annenberg Challenge from 1997-2002. Mr. Miller was also the founder of the Council for Educational Change, the successor organization to the Challenge. He firmly believed that Principal leadership--research and experience bears this out--is the catalyst to increase student achievement and to provide a quality education for all students. He generously funded many educational improvement programs focused on leadership.

The Award program has flourished with the support of the sponsors who have rewarded Principals in Council programs throughout Florida. This year's online Award [application](#) and [information](#) is now available on the Council website. It takes approximately an hour to complete. The three Award criteria are:

increased student achievement; development/empowerment of staff; and engagement of business/community partners. Last year's special Award Event was held at the Star Island home of Council Board member and Educational Advancement Chair, Sue Miller.

Below are brief profiles of last year's Grand and Golden Medallion Winners sharing just a few of their accomplishments.

#### Grand Winner: **Peggy Pearson, Mt. Vernon Elementary, Pinellas**

Mrs. Pearson led the team that raised Mt. Vernon from a "D" school for three years in a row to an "A" school for the past five years. Mt. Vernon had a very successful PASS model, with CEO mentor **Elliott Stern** working closely with Mrs. Pearson. She also helped implement and support the Council's Teachers and Teaching Initiative at her school. Under her leadership:

- raised school grade from a "D" in 2002 to an "A" for the last five years
- no teacher turnover in two years
- school has been awarded the St. Petersburg Mayor's Top Apple Award several times
- school hosts monthly parent meetings that draw upwards of 200 participants to each gathering
- energized the business community to provide mentoring opportunities for students



#### Gold Medallion Winners:

##### Dr. Jean Teal, **Miami Edison Senior High, Miami-Dade**

Dr. Teal was formerly the principal of Council PASS school Charles Drew Elementary where she led the school from a "C" to an "A". During her tenure at Miami Edison, she spurred her faculty and students to move the school from its persistent "F" to a high "D", last year. Among the other Council programs in which she participated are Executive PASS and the Florida Leadership Academy. Under her leadership:

- school achieved some of the highest Math gains in the state
- Parent Resource Center was established and increased parent participation in school site activities
- small learning communities were created for teachers to collaborate on improving student achievement



##### Randall "Jud" Strickland, **S.A. Hull Elementary, Duval Public Schools**

When Mr. Strickland took over the helm of S.A. Hull in 2004, the school was a "D." In his words, he "commenced to drive out fear of failure" and replace it with systems of data gathering and application to instruction. Last year the school earned an "A." Under his leadership:

- school made the highest FCAT gains in reading in the district
- monthly family nights include legal, health and financial clinics and math activities
- Ready to Learn Grant, earned from the local PBS affiliate, provides parent literacy workshops.



**Our thanks to the generous sponsors of the 2008 Leonard Miller Principal Leadership Award Program and Event:**

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

*Your sponsorship helps reward and inspire superior Principal leadership!!!*