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Partners *In Education*

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS IN
BROWARD

Florida Atlantic University College of Engineering and Computer Sciences Receives Recognition

Florida Atlantic University, College of Engineering and Computer Sciences (FAU) was recognized for their commitment to Broward County Public School partnerships at the September 19, 2012 School Board Meeting. Already very involved with the engineering magnet programs at Stranahan High and Blanche Ely High, Florida FAU College of Engineering and Computer Sciences is collaborating with Broward County Public Schools six STEM magnet middle schools: Apollo, Lauderhill, Margate, McNicol, Parkway, and Silver Lakes.

This partnership has created rigorous, engaging curriculum for STEM electives and whole school STEM projects that ignite students' imagination and connects core content with 21st century skills. Students are completing projects

that emphasize solving real world problems using collaborative planning and design.

FAU hosted two summer programs at three college campuses for the STEM middle magnet schools. One hundred and thirty-three (133) teachers participated in STEM professional development instructed by engineering professors. Two hundred and seventy-five middle school students and twenty-four teachers participated in hands-on engineering projects in two, one week-long summer camps. Currently, graduate students from the College of Engineering are working with STEM elective teachers and students in a 16-week project to implement the STEM curriculum modules developed in partnership with FAU.



FAU College of Engineering and Computer Sciences faculty with the staff of Innovative Programs, Broward County Public Schools.

2013 ClueLess on Las Olas Moves To Historic Stranahan House

The 2013 **Clueless on Las Olas**, scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2013, is at an exciting new location – the grounds of historic **Stranahan House and Laura Ward Park, 335 Southeast 6th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale**, just off Las Olas Boulevard.

This year's mystery, "Komic Killer: The Final Edition," takes place at Fort Lauderdale's comic book convention, "Komic-Kon 2013." This should prove to be one of the most exciting and colorful themes yet. Registration will open on our website (browardpartners.com) beginning in February 2013.



Hunt Elementary School Continues Share-A-Pet Reading Program



Hunt Elementary School in Coral Springs began the Share-a-Pet *Pawsitive Reading Program* with second grade students last year. The program is designed to help hesitant readers improve their ability to read aloud as well as to build their self-confidence.

Two second grade teachers select 3-4 students each to read with the volunteers and the companion dogs. The teachers document each

student's reading levels at the beginning of the program and at the end. Last year, students in the program made tremendous growth.

The volunteers come once a week and spend about two hours with students. Staff at Hunt Elementary are not sure who enjoyed the experience more the students and teachers, or the volunteers and their pets!

Message from the Director

Common Core Standards and school/business partnerships are a perfect match of school and business interests. The standards are designed to be relevant to the real world and reflect the knowledge and skills students will need for success in college and in careers.

Businesses throughout Florida and the U.S. are commenting on the lack of a skilled workforce. Brad Smith, Microsoft's executive vice president and general counsel, recently stated that they have more than 6,000 open jobs in the U.S., a 15% increase from a year ago. Some 3,400 of these positions are for engineers, software developers and researchers (a 34% increase from last year). So, what is Microsoft doing? This fall, 110 engineers from high-tech companies are teaching computer science classes as part of a Microsoft program aimed at

getting high school students excited about the field.

Perhaps your business isn't able to take on commitment as big as Microsoft's, but that does not mean that you can't make a significant contribution. Allow employees to be guest classroom speakers. Invite students to the workplace to shadow employees. Provide student internships or help a teachers develop hands-on projects that demonstrate the real-world application of the skills. These are all excellent School-to-Career activities that schools throughout Broward County are requesting.

Go to <http://www.browardpartners.com/> and click on *Schools in Need of Resources* to find a school near you interested in conducting these activities with you.



Nina Randall, APR
Executive Director

TIP OF THE MONTH

Sustainability – to nourish and maintain. At coordinator training, the biggest question was, "How do I keep our school's partners?"

People volunteer for many reasons. They may want to feel needed. They may feel it is their civic duty. Or, they may be committed to the cause. Once they are in the volunteer job, however, they stay as long as they feel that their efforts are accomplishing something, that their talents are appreciated, and that they are making a difference. If they like the people they work with and are having fun, even better.

So, what does that mean for School Partner Liaisons? It means we need to do a better job

communicating to our partners just how the partnerships affect students.

When writing a thank you letter, it's not "Thank you for sending us four tutors." That is commenting on outputs – four tutors. The correct communication is, "Thank you. All eight students that were tutored once a week by your four employees improved on their FCAT reading assessment. Indeed, each student is now reading at or above grade level. What a difference this will make to the lives of these students. Again, thank you for a job well done." This thank you comments on the outcome – improved grades, improved lives.

Obtain
Engage
Retain

Motorola Solutions and Dillard High School's Emerging Technology Magnet Program

Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale is grateful and privileged to work with Motorola Solutions and the Motorola engineers who mentor students in the Emerging Technology Magnet Program. This 15-year partnership is not only rewarding and inspirational for students, but also for the engineers involved.

Through Motorola's participation with the robotics and technology program, engineers share their knowledge of science and technology, impart on-the-spot problem solving skills, and show students ways to apply their class work to real life situations.

As part of the FIRST Robotics Competition Program, students work side-by-side with Motorola engineers in the 6-week program each year. They collaborate to understand the annual published robotics game challenge, devise a large-scale robot that accomplishes the teams' goals, and fabricate a fully functional 5'

tall robot. Students then travel the country with the 120-pound robotic creation to compete against other high school/corporation partnerships. Besides being a very engaging method to show students the basics of engineering and design, the program teaches students how to work in a multi-disciplinary team, practice "gracious professionalism" towards others, and accept that winning is not always the end-all goal of competition.

Motorola has stated the following about their participation, "We hope that through our involvement over the years we have inspired students and sparked an interest in pursuing careers in high-tech industries. We look forward to each year that we are able to guide the students with hands-on, real-life, STEM oriented projects and hope to continue our relationship for years to come."



Cassandra Robinson, Dillard Principal with Emerging Technologies staff Esther McKee-Savage, Coordinator, André Meyers, Instructor and two Emerging Technologies students.



Dillard High School staff at School Board Meeting Partnership recognition on November 7, 2012.

McGladrey Employees Beautify Stranahan Campus

Many thanks to a local accounting firm, McGladrey, and the employees who volunteered to beautify the Stranahan High School campus. Their green thumbs and elbow grease left a nice impression on the front of the school as well as on a little knoll behind the art room. Faculty and students commented on how nice the school looked as they made their way to class.

Your commitment to helping the campus come alive with greenery is much appreciated by the entire Stranahan High School family.



The McGladrey Team



Working on the center courtyard



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Deerfield Park Elementary School Celebrates Partnerships

“The Links, Inc.” (The Links) is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The North Broward County Chapter has been an outstanding Partner In Education at Deerfield Park Elementary School for the past nine years. Members served under three principals and are now serving with zeal with the new principal, Jocelyn Reid. As anyone involved in school-based partnerships knows, it is often difficult for partners to transition to new school leaders, but not at Deerfield Park and not with The Links.

The North Broward Links is comprised of outstanding professional women of color who have a positive impact on their community. They are retired educators, lawyers, pharmacists, healthcare workers, CEO’s, business owners, and arts leaders. The local chapter also includes The National President, Margot James Copeland as well as Deerfield Beach’s former Vice Mayor, Sylvia Poitier.

Under the leadership of retired educator, Bernice Bailey, The Links donated

approximately 100 hours of service last year. They served as tutors committed to improving students’ reading and fluency skills. They worked with students every Tuesday beginning the second week of the school year. They also donate age appropriate summer reading books, uniforms, socks, belts, under clothing and school supplies for the children in need each year.

Another exciting new partnership at Deerfield Park is with Scholastic Books and the Kiwanis Club. The school will receive \$10,000 to create a Reading Oasis Room on campus. The room will provide a location to promote literacy for students and families. Through the partnership, the room will receive a complete makeover and receive more than 1,200 books, bookshelves, furniture, a listening library and a smart board. This is a huge opportunity for the students and families of Deerfield Park.



Ms. Bernice Bailey of The Links tutoring a Deerfield Park student



Ms. Jan Muenzenmaier, Kiwanis Club and Ms. Jocelyn Reid, Principal