

24th Annual Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards

On June 9, 2011 businesses from throughout the Sunshine State were recognized for their innovative partnerships and significant contributions of time and resources to Florida's public schools at The 24th Annual Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards (CBRA). The over 80 award recipients reflect a broad cross section of Florida business interests whose successful alliances with schools have created a unique learning opportunities, promoted academic excellence, and addressed community needs.



Bryan Boysaw & Associates, P.A. - Palm Beach District

Bryan Boysaw & Associates, P.A. has been an exemplary partner to Westward Elementary for the past seven years. The Law Firm pays travel expenses to Washington D. C. for a deserving 5th grade student who otherwise would not be able to attend the fifth grade patrol trip because of the financial constraints of the family. The Law Firm and its staff also help boost student achievement at Westward Elementary by holding a pre-FCAT assembly for all students 3rd through 5th grade to challenge the students to do their best on the test. Students who pass the test receive incentives such as \$50 gift cards and a chance to spin the money wheel for a movie and popcorn. This outstanding partnership strongly supports the School District's goal of preparing all students for academic success.

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The Home Depot #6316 - Palm Beach District

Home Depot Store #6316 has been a strong partner with Royal Palm School for more than eight years. It has assisted the school with a number of projects during the past year. Home Depot staff was instrumental in helping the school secure a \$4,000 grant to beautify the grounds in the rear of the school. The beautification project involved more than 135 community volunteers who gave up their Saturday morning to work side by side with Home Depot employees and Royal Palm School staff to accomplish this goal. Home Depot also helped to make the holiday season brighter for the school by donating Christmas trees and holiday decorations for different departments throughout the school. Home Depot employees are always there with big hearts and hands ready to help the Royal Palm School.

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Back to Basics, Inc. - Palm Beach District

Back-to-Basics Inc. has been an active partner with Grove Park Elementary and a number of other schools in Palm Beach County for 26 years. Beverly Perham, the founder of Back-to-Basics gives selflessly in an effort to help improve the self-esteem of over 10,000 children in Palm Beach County schools. During 2010 school year, Ms. Perham supplied over 6,000 students with socks, sneakers and underwear. She feels that if students do not have the basics to start school, they have already begun school with low self esteem. This valuable partnership significantly contributes to the school district initiative of developing all students for academic success.

CBRA



With Appreciation

The Board of Directors of the Florida Education Foundation commends Commissioner Eric J. Smith for his years of service and bold leadership in transforming public education in our state. Commissioner Smith significantly improved the quality of education for all students and Florida's education system has become a model for the nation. Among his many accomplishments . . .

Florida Specific

- Florida was ranked 5th in the nation in the 2010 Quality Counts report by Education Week up from 31st in 2007, which tracks state policies and performance across key areas of education.
- Florida was one of only four states in the nation to improve significantly in both fourth and eighth grade reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), with significant gains for Florida's African-American and Hispanic students outpacing their counterparts in the nation.
- Florida's graduation rate climbed to 79 percent in 2010, a new high for our state, with significant increases for minority students.
- More than 120,000 students entered kindergarten better prepared in 2010 as a result of their participation in our state's Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK) program.
- In 2010, the number of AP exams administered to Florida's public school students increased 19.5 percent and the number of students receiving a passing score on an AP exam jumped 14.5 percent. Because of this achievement Florida has the third highest number of students taking the AP exam compared to the nation and ranks fourth in the nation for the number of students scoring 3 or higher.

- At the same time, participation in Dual Enrollment coursework increased 18.4 percent, with a 12.2 percent increase in the number of students earning college credit in these courses.

Commissioner's Leadership

- In August 2010, Florida was named a winner in the Race to the Top competition, securing \$700 million in federal funds to revolutionize the state's education system.
- The Florida Legislature passed landmark legislation this year called the Student Success Act that will reform the teaching profession and allow our state to better attract and retain high-quality teachers and remove the low-performing teachers from the classroom.
- The Florida Department of Education took a leadership role nationally, developing Common Core Standards and now serves as the fiscal agent for the national consortium of states to develop assessments that will measure student performance on these standards.
- A new high school grading formula was implemented that gives parents a more comprehensive look at their student's school in terms of college and career readiness.
- Florida integrated federal and state requirements resulting in a reduction in reporting and a solid process was implemented to identify and support the state's persistently low achieving schools.

Thank You, Commissioner Smith!

District

Alachua

Florida Credit Union
UF Center for Leadership
and Service

Baker

American Enterprise Bank
of
Florida

Brevard

IAP Worldwide Services
Inc.
Wuesthoff Reference Lab

Broward

Coventry Health Care of
Florida
Haliczar Pettis & Schwamm
The Gap, Aventura Kids
and
Baby Gap

Calhoun

Ramsey's Piggly Wiggly

Charlotte

Sunrise Kiwanis
Rack Room Shoes

Collier

CenturyLink
Wells Fargo

Columbia

Martin Orthodontics

Dixie

Bryan-Co Construction
Services Inc.

Duval

ACES Advisory Board
The Jacksonville Giants
West Normandy Baptist
Church

Escambia

Center for Information
Dominance – Corry Station
Walgreens

Flagler

Craig-Flagler Palms Funeral
Home and Memorial
Gardens

Glades

Glades County Youth
Livestock
Show Inc.

Hamilton

PCS Phosphate – White
Springs

Hardee

CF Industries Inc.

Hendry

Nisbet Enterprises Inc.

Hernando

Publix Store #220
Suncoast Schools Federal
Credit
Union

Highlands

The A.D. Morgan
Corporation

MIDFLORIDA Credit
Union

Hillsborough

Chick-fil-a Westshore
Drive Time Auto Sales
Wells Fargo

Indian River

Panera Bread
Quail Valley Charities

Jefferson

Beau Turner Youth
Conservation
Center

Lake

Kohl's Store #799
Orlando Sentinel Family
Fund

Lee

Edison National
Bank/Bank of
the Islands
Miromar Development
Corporation

Leon

Awards4U
Keiser University –
Tallahassee
Campus

Liberty

C.W. Roberts Contracting
Inc.

CBRA

Recipients

Marion

Bellevue United Methodist
Church
Signature Brands LLC

Martin

Ampersand Graphics
Seacoast National Bank

Miami-Dade

Conrad Miami
Wells Fargo

Monroe

Morgan Hampson
Insurance

Nassau

First Baptist Church of
Hilliard
Rayonier Foundation

Okeechobee

Okeechobee Motor
Company

Orange

COPA Airlines
Sign-A-Rama
St. Luke's United Methodist
Church

Osceola

Central Florida Hotel &
Lodging Association
CFE Federal Credit Union

Palm Beach

Back-to-Basics Inc.
Home Depot #6316
Bryan Boysaw & Associates

Pasco

Carrabba's Italian Grill
Cutler Associates Inc.

Pinellas

Franklin Templeton

Investments
Helios Education
Foundation
St. Petersburg Times

Polk

Bosko Family Enterprises
Publix Super Markets
Charities Inc.

Santa Rosa

Clearwire Corporation
Lowe's

Sarasota

Art in My School
Peach's Restaurant

Seminole

Full Sail University
Emcor Company -
Mechanical
Services of Central Florida

St. Johns

Hydro Aluminum North
America
The National Safety
Commission

St. Lucie

Bill Shultz Chevrolet
Borders

Sumter

CEMEX Aggregates
Division

Suwannee

Suwannee American
Cement

Union

PVS Incorporated

Volusia

Florida Hospital Fish
Memorial

Food Brings Hope
**CFEF Outstanding
Partner:**

AT&T