

“Connecting for Success”

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Business Partnerships Surpass 1,000 Mark

School District, Business Community Unite To Support Students, Teachers

Business partnerships in the schools and departments of the school district topped the 1,000 mark for the first time, as schools and departments vigorously recruit documented business and community partnerships for school year 2010-2011.

Those partnerships are providing a broad array of resources to schools, including cash and other financial support, supplies, equipment, volunteers, mentors, school and student services, instruction and expertise to benefit student achievement and safety, at a time when education funding is being slashed. The annual, estimated dollar value of the partnerships is approximately \$4 million.

“The district business partnership numbers are growing rapidly,” said Jimmy Peterkin, District Business Partnership Coordinator. “The current economic environment has stretched school budgets, and schools and their students need all of the assistance that community businesses can provide. School-based and departmental partnerships for Palm Beach County increased 51% during school year 2009-2010,” he said.

Anticipating the devastating effects the recession would have on schools, district staff began planning to assist schools in raising funds and finding resources to close the gap between what schools need and what tax dollars can provide. Partnership recruitment training for school-based staff was increased to reflect the need to further engage an already generous business community- one that has a history of involvement in the schools in Palm Beach County.

The dramatic growth in business partnerships is attributed to the district Partners In Education initiative that focuses on building partnerships that are directly aligned with specific education goals and Board policies for individual schools and departments in Palm Beach County.

To ensure stability in partnerships, for the first time, district staff recently recruited and assembled a high-level Business Partnership Advisory Group, consisting of some of the largest businesses and industries in the county. This group is now providing business expertise in giving direction, planning and specific strategies for schools and departments to further leverage the resources in the business community.

To learn more about Partners In Education and how your business can become involved in Palm Beach County's dynamic, high-performing school district, click on the link below.

<http://www.palmbeachschools.org/pao/BusinessPartners/index.asp>

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