

Bulletin Update - Florida Mentoring

November 15, 2005

Mentoring Plan for Central Florida

ORLANDO - Lt. Governor Toni Jennings joined Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty to announce a pilot program aimed at helping Florida's struggling schools improve student performance. The program, "Focus on Achievement: The Florida Mentoring Partnership's Program for Struggling Schools," involves eight Florida counties with at least one elementary school with a grade of "F." City and county mayors are leading the charge to recruit government, corporate and local leaders as mentors to help students within their own communities. Thirteen elementary schools in eight counties have been targeted for "Focus on Achievement." In the City of Orlando and Orange County, Ivey Lane and Grand Avenue elementary schools are participating in the pilot program. Organizers are partnering locally with Junior Achievement of Central Florida, Inc., to provide mentors to the schools. The "Focus on Achievement" program is the first project of the Advocacy Council of the Florida Mentoring Partnership. The council was formed this year to engage more members of the community to become a mentor, keeping mentoring at the forefront in Florida for years to come. Mayors participating in "Focus on Achievement" across the state include Jim Naugle with co-chair Judge Carol-Lisa Phillips for Broward County; John Fogg, Escambia County; Sherrie Taylor, Gadsden County; Pam Iorio, Hillsborough County; Julie Conley, Jefferson County; Manny Diaz, Miami-Dade County; Richard Crotty and Buddy Dyer for Orange County and Karl Flagg, Putnam County.

Funding Opportunities

The Volunteer Florida Foundation, through their partnership with Grant Station, now offers a complimentary weekly e-mail service that will notify your organization of potential funding opportunities. To register, e-mail Tracey Van Hook at tracey@volunteerflorida.org.

Hurricane Hero - Point of Light Award

Many Floridians have given of their time, resources and passion to help the thousands of hurricane survivors in impacted states, as well as the thousands of evacuees that have come to our state for shelter and recovery. During the weeks of December 26, 2005 through January 21, 2006, four Florida individuals or Florida organizations (one each week) will be recognized for exemplary service in hurricane recovery, performed either within our state or outside of it. To nominate visit www.volunteerfloridafoundation.org and click on Point of Light Award.

National Mentoring Month in January 2006

"Share What You Know. Mentor A Child!" is the theme for the next National Mentoring Month, scheduled for January 2006. An initiative of the Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, Mentoring Month will target America's 77 million baby boomers in a nationwide drive to recruit volunteer mentors. For information, visit: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy2006/nmm/intro.htm>.

Please forgive any cross-posting and advise us at flamentoring@aol.com if you would like names added or deleted from the Bulletin Update - Florida Mentoring. For prior issues, please visit the Florida Mentoring Partnership, under Bulletin Updates at: <http://www.flamentoring.org>.

Be a Mentor!

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