Moving Forward
for students, teachers and schools

Hillsborough Education Foundation
2010 Annual Report
Building on the past... to move toward the future

Centro - our new home!

Excellence in Education
Empowering Effective Teachers
Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools
Scholarships

Innovation
Leadership
Growth
Access
LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

We hope you enjoy this annual report to the community from the Hillsborough Education Foundation. Our programs, though the generous support of our donors and partners, continue to have an impact as we serve the students, teachers and schools in Hillsborough County. Exciting and groundbreaking programs are underway in our community and the Foundation is proud to be playing a role.

Chief amongst these is the $100,000,000 grant awarded from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The school board, administration, and teachers union leadership to Hillsborough County Public Schools collaborated on designing the Empowering Effective Teachers initiative which is funded, in part, by the Gates Foundation. This $100 million grant is the largest private gift to K-12 education and we appreciate the Gates Foundation’s confidence in our community’s ability to lead systemic change. The Hillsborough Education Foundation is proud to be serving in the role of fiscal agent as well as engaging the community in this initiative.

We’re also pleased to be working on new projects with the Helios Education Foundation, the Lumina Education Foundation, and Public Education Network on initiatives which will help students transition through secondary schools and be ready for postsecondary success. Enjoy the articles which discuss some of the innovative approaches being tried out.

If that wasn’t enough excitement, in the last quarter of our 2010 fiscal year, we moved all our programs under one roof for the first time. Working with the City of Tampa we obtained a long term commitment for the Centro Español de West Tampa building on North Howard Avenue. Centro Español has a rich history of being a center of support for the community all the way back to 1912 when it was the site for the mutual aid society supporting local workers. We’re pleased that we are now positioned through more space and a central location to serve even more students, teachers, and schools in the coming year and beyond!
Centro Español de West Tampa

A fixture of Tampa’s past has become the foundation for thousands of young, growing futures. The 2010-2011 school year brings more students and teachers in Hillsborough County the ability to enhance their learning experience through greater access to the programs and support of the Hillsborough Education Foundation.

In June 2010, all Foundation programs were united under one roof at our new home, Centro Español de West Tampa. Now located in West Tampa, the Foundation will be able to expand its reach and more effectively deliver its services for Hillsborough County Public Schools. An expanded Teaching Tools Supply Store will immediately serve 15% more schools, with increased warehouse space.

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity offered by the City of Tampa allows the Foundation to function with a $1/year lease, resulting in a cost savings, and provides the community with the opportunity to continue to enjoy a piece of Tampa’s rich heritage.
Excellence In Education Awards

Teaching our county’s youth is a team effort. The talents, knowledge, and dedication of each individual are critical for building the brightest futures for our students. Principals, administrators, teachers, specialists, support personnel, custodial staff, and transportation professionals all play increasingly important roles in the education process. In January 2010 the Foundation partnered with Hillsborough County Public Schools to introduce the Excellence in Education Awards, bringing together more than 2,600 guests to celebrate the accomplishments of the district’s exceptional faculty and educators. Our county’s talented students were showcased throughout the night, from catering to live entertainment, including a marching band drumline, dance team, show choir, and jazz band.

A total of 700 nominees from all elementary, middle, and high schools in the county were honored for their daily contributions to the lives of Hillsborough County students. Five finalists for each award were introduced through heartfelt stories from their students. From these finalists, the 2010 winners were announced. The Foundation was proud to bring a fresh approach to honoring the educators and school personnel who consistently bring forth their best efforts to ensure our students receive the best education possible.

Meet The 2010 Excellence In Education Award Winners!

Karen Willis-Barrett – Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year
As a part of her personal philosophy, Karen created Molding Outcomes Inc., a non-profit that connects communities, schools, and families for dropout prevention. Activities she spearheaded through this organization include: starting mentoring groups, presenting at College Board Conferences, and conducting two Community Leadership Summits. “I call myself the ‘old school’ teacher because I live in the community that I teach in and I pride myself with knowing most of my parents and students very well. My philosophy is that there must be a personal and community connection for our students to become successful citizens.”

Kelly Jean Zalaya – Instructional Support Employee of the Year
Kelly was instrumental in helping several young men who came to the school from detention centers and alternative schools, and still serves as a mentor for other disadvantaged boys. She works with them daily and engages their families and teachers in their learning experience. “Her belief in continually improving oneself is something that she hopes students will recognize in her and emulate in their own lives. She will be the first to remind a child that it takes continual dedication and daily improvement of oneself to make a difference in the world.”

Emily Marrero – Teacher of the Year
As the teacher of Philip Shore Elementary’s all-girls fifth grade class, Emily makes every effort to cultivate her students’ self-esteem. By developing a Girls’ Honor Code, her students outline how they want to conduct themselves and treat each other in class. This code is revisited and reworked as the group continues to grow together. “Excellence in education is of utmost importance to me, and I strive to nurture this value in myself, my students, and my school. I feel fortunate to be in my students’ lives and witness the beginnings of their journey to greatness.”

Excellence In Education Award Winners with Bill Hoffman, Foundation President and Emcee Gayle Sierens.
Empowering Effective Teachers

Over the coming seven years Hillsborough County Public Schools will make important strides in improving the quality of education in the district. Last fall the district made history when it was awarded the largest single gift towards K-12 public education, a $100 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to fund the Empowering Effective Teachers initiative.
The School Board, Hillsborough Classroom Teachers’ Association, and the school district are collaborating on programs and strategies to assure the most effective teachers are in the county’s public schools. This fall more than 100 experienced and trained educators will take to the schools to serve as mentors and peer evaluators for the county’s teachers.

The Foundation is honored to serve as fiscal agent in this process, and will also work to engage and communicate with the community about the progress made through this opportunity. We are appreciative of the confidence from the school district and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in our ability to serve in this capacity. We fully support the district in their efforts to implement an initiative that will directly benefit our teachers and students. This work could change the face of education in Hillsborough County Public Schools, and ultimately around the nation.

Educator Spotlight:  Sara Kay Bonti
Empowering Effective Teachers – Peer Evaluator

When the school doors open for the 2010-2011 school year, more than 100 educators will walk through in a new role – as a peer or mentor evaluator. These individuals will work with teachers throughout the year as part of the Empowering Effective Teachers initiative, providing ongoing feedback to be used in a revamped evaluation system, and offering guidance to new teachers. Chosen from a pool of more than 650 applicants, one of these evaluators will be Sara Kay Bonti from Freedom High School.

Over the course of her two- to three-year rotations, Sara will serve as a peer evaluator, collaborating with teachers to bring new insight to, and creating discussions based on observations in, the classroom. “Each time I collaborate with other teachers at the school or district level, I am amazed at the talent level that exists in Hillsborough County classrooms,” she says, “Being a peer evaluator is an opportunity to work directly with teachers to assist in reaching their own professional development goals and objectives, thereby enhancing the quality of instruction for children.”

It could be said that Sara has been preparing for this new role throughout the length of her career. Since she began working as a teacher she has been drawn to mentoring, peer coaching, supervising interns and new teachers, and holding leadership roles within the school and the district, focusing specifically on improving the quality of classroom instruction. “Teaching is a science as much as it is a combination of talent and art,” she explains, “There are fundamental, identifiable qualities of effective teaching and I look forward to working with others in developing towards high standards of excellence.”

At the end of her rotations, Sara will return to her students in the classroom. “I have no doubt that having the opportunity to observe hundreds of teachers and working with the evaluative instrument on a daily basis will place a greater emphasis on assessing my own performance level as a teacher,” she says, “and will help me to define areas for my own professional growth.”
The present is the perfect time to prepare for the future.

As our students begin to formulate their ideas for their future, it is important they have the resources to make a plan to make their dreams come true. Hillsborough County Public Schools already has an invaluable resource positioned in all 25 high schools in the county, the Career Academy. Career Academies are workplace-oriented classes that include considerable hands-on work by the students. They offer careful and pertinent curricula that improve students’ performance in high school, while encouraging them and providing a trouble-free transition into postsecondary education.

The value of Career Academies is undeniable; however they do require additional resources the students need to participate, including: personal equipment, membership dues to industry organizations, and workbooks. The SUCCESS Fund was established so that students’ incidental expenses will not keep them from taking full advantage of a successful Career Academy experience.

“What I like about KnowHow2GO is how it connects the dots about college. It provides information and answers questions that, as a student, you may not even think about.”

Valeria, Foundation Florida
Prepaid Scholarship Recipient
Also helping students prepare for a postsecondary education is the national KnowHow2Go campaign. Selected as one of five local education foundations across the country, the Foundation is working with Hillsborough County students to educate them on the four essential steps they need to take to reach their dreams of a college education. Over the past year the Foundation has begun its support of this program by incorporating it in the Take Stock in Children mentor trainings and student workshops, and developing curriculum and workshops for community resource centers. For more information, go to: www.educationfoundation.com/Scholarships/KnowHow2Go_campaign
Financial Support

INITIATIVES FUNDED

Teaching Tools 45%
Scholarships & Mentoring 12%
School Enrichment Programs 17%
Excellence in Education 17%
Career & Tech. Education 5%
Management 4%

SOURCE OF SUPPORT

Businesses 44%
Foundations 23%
Organizations & Agencies 14%
Individuals 8%
School District 11%

Investment In Students, Teachers and Schools

$75 M
$50 M
$25 M
$10 M
$1 M

We extend our deepest appreciation to these contributors who are helping to ensure that the Foundation’s programs will benefit generations of students to come.

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Mary Sue Rothenberg
Community Volunteer

Amy Shimberg
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