

+ A Partnership
Newsletter
“Linking” the
University of
Florida and
Miami-Dade
County Public
Schools page 3



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UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
College of Education



The Summer Leadership Institute

The energy and enthusiasm at the 2012 Summer leadership Institute was palpable, Teachers and administrators are talking about how the work that was done there has translated into action in their schools, meeting their goals for this school year.

-Magdi Castaneda
Professor in Residence

The Summer Leadership Institute took place at Miami Edison Senior High School and incorporated a theme around "Coaching for Victory" in honor of the Miami Heat's recent championship! The first day began with a Pep Rally, which involved the high school's marching band and flagettes. In addition, participants played games in order to win UF t-shirts and joined in cheers to get everyone energized.

Throughout the institute, the agenda incorporated activities that challenged participants to reflect on their roles

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Meet Pilar Baldwin!

We're excited to welcome Pilar Baldwin to the Investing in Innovation (i3) partnership team as the, Office of Early Childhood Programs District Supervisor with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS)! You may recognize her from her former position in the county as an Instructional Support Specialist in the Division of Language Arts/Reading. Pilar has worked in the MDCPS and surrounding community for 25 years; bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge to

the i3 partnership. Pilar's experience includes teaching in elementary grades, supporting teacher at the school level as a literacy coach, and at the county level as a Language Arts and Reading Instructional Support Specialist. She has represented the MDCPS at the state level, participating in the FCAT 2.0 and PARCC assessment committees.

In her new position Pilar will be taking a leadership role in supporting the i3 grant at the

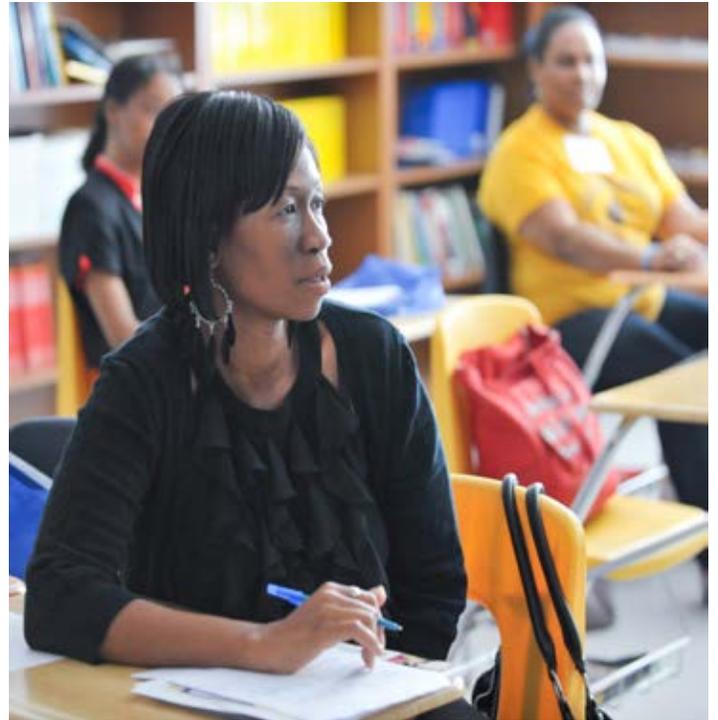
district level. She looks forward to supporting the partnership schools and the outstanding teachers and administrators who are making a difference in the lives of children everyday! Pilar has dedicated her life to the education profession in an effort to provide a positive academic experience for the children of MDCPS and she is enthusiastic about her new role!

Pilar can be reached at PLBaldwin@dadeschools.net



Summer Leadership Institute 2012 continued

as school leaders, examine issues of educational equity, and involve students using brain-based learning engagement strategies. The institute worked toward the creation of each school's "game plan" for the year, to identify a Vision for Victory. This process included describing the current Field of Play, enlisting the schools' Key Players, and outlining the schools' Play Book for each quarter of the school year. The collaboration and effort of all the schools was impressive. Finally, the institute ended with a celebratory parade to cheer schools on to victory for the 2012-2013 school year! School teams were extremely enthusiastic about the institute activities and victory theme. The UF faculty is looking forward to another successful year working with the dedicated professionals in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools!



+ Fourth Annual Miami-Dade County Learning Showcase

“The Thing I like most about the Showcase is that peoples’ hats and roles are left at the door, it’s an even playing field...”

Everyone is there to gain wisdom.”

-Raquel Munarriz
UF Professor in Residence

Eight hundred educators were in attendance for the Fourth Annual Miami-Dade County Learning Showcase that took place on May 12, 2012, at Southwest Miami Senior High School. The event was a huge success in highlighting the phenomenal work of principals, teachers, and community involvement specialists from partner elementary schools across the district. In addition to presentations by Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho from Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Professor Nancy F. Dana from the

University of Florida, there were 275 presentations by over 600 presenters. Presentations included "Two Teachers? The Pros and Cons of Team Teaching" and "Teacher Blogs...Are they an Effective Form of Professional Development?" A number of sponsors, including the Read Connigo program by Infinity Auto Insurance and the Shepard Broad Family Foundation, made the event possible. Be sure to view this brief video summarizing the day's highlights: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zpf_8qDOOhA

I Read for Me, I Read for YOU!

<http://www.wegivebooks.org>

Classroom teachers strive to teach their students to develop a love for reading. They fill their classroom libraries with their favorite texts and enjoy sharing those stories with their students year after year. Books are powerful tools for building classroom communities and facilitating language experiences. Books can provide opportunities to grow our imaginations and our knowledge about the world. Yes, books are powerful tools for teaching!

Have you heard about the Pearson Foundation Initiative? Now you can have access to an endless supply of online picture books for FREE! Just visit <http://www.wegivebooks.org>.

You can choose from featured texts, New and Releases, Popular texts, and Classic texts. You're sure to find many of your familiar favorites, in addition to new titles you'll just love!

When you share one of these online texts with your students you're also giving a brand new book to a child in need. This project supports national and international literacy programs and it's a wonderful opportunity to talk to you students about taking action. Even the youngest students have the power to play a role as a global citizen and to help others in need. There is a 3 minute video on the website that's great for showing kids who they're helping when you read books online in the classroom or even at home.

Take some time to discovery what this website has to offer as an innovative way to share books with your students and as a platform for discussing what it means to help others on a national and international platform.

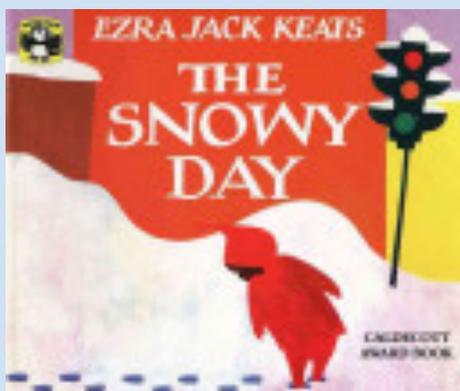
Happy Reading!!!



“A wonderful new initiative that’s going to transform the landscape of reading for children and families and schools and all people who love books.”

-Pam Allyn

Executive Director of LitLife



You might consider adding Ezra Jack Keats's classic collection to your library. *Keats's Neighborhood: An Ezra Jack Keats Treasury* (2002) was published in honor of the 40th anniversary of the publication of *Snowy Day* (Caldecott, 1963). Keats gained a level of notability 50 years ago when he introduced multiculturalism to the genre of picture books by writing and illustrating “the first picture book to feature a black child.” (Introduction by Anita Silvey, p. 8)

Upcoming Professional Development



Teacher Fellow Facilitator (TFF) Planning Meetings

Tuesday, Oct. 2: Central Region TFFs, United Way Building- Ryder Room: 12-3:30pm

Wednesday, Oct. 3: North Region TFFs, Palm Springs Elementary: 12-3:30pm

Thursday, Oct. 4: South Region TFFs, Dr. Edward L. Whigham: 12-3:30pm

Who? ONE or more teacher leaders will be selected from each partner school by UF staff to facilitate the Teacher Fellows program throughout the year. This teacher is expected to attend.

What? Planning meeting to disseminate materials and orient facilitators for the Teacher Fellows inquiry program that will take place at their school sites.

Oct. 9-10: UF PD 102: Revamping Data Chats

Tues., Oct. 9 & Wed. Oct. 10 8:30am-3:30 pm

Who? Interested schools should send 2 teachers, coaches, or administrators who have proven themselves as leaders or have strong leadership potential.

What? This initial training will prepare participants to use conversation protocols to collaboratively examine data within grade level or leadership team meetings.

Where? North: David Lawrence K-8 Center
Central: Lillie C. Evans K-8 Center
South: Coral Park Elementary

Oct. 23-24: UF PD 103: Measuring Student Engagement

Tuesday, Oct. 23: 12pm-4pm,

Wednesday, Oct. 24: 8am-12pm

Who? Partner schools are required to send one instructional coach who has experience conducting classroom observations and will not require coverage in order to conduct observations for one full day in both Fall and Spring. Because the IPI data collection is a full day experience, participants should be able to walk comfortably.

What? This course, delivered over two half-day sessions, introduces participants to the Instructional Practices Inventory (IPI). The IPI is one of the instruments used at UF Partner schools to collect formative data on student engagement. The data tracks progress towards the implementation of classroom instruction specifically designed to increase student engagement (e.g., higher order thinking, learning conversations, inquiry-based approaches). Formative data collections will be organized in the fall and spring.

Where? North: Miami Shores
Central: Register at North or South
South: Miami Heights Elementary

Oct. 29-30: Assistant Principal Professional Learning Community

Mon., Oct. 29 & Tues., Oct. 30: 8:00am-3:30pm at Joe Hall Elementary

Who? UF Partner School Assistant Principals are invited to attend a two-day Facilitator Training.

What? During the two days, there will be intensive training on the use of protocols in order to help build community at each participants work site. Assistant Principals will learn how to build a collaborative context and guide reflective conversations around teaching and learning. Beyond the training, there will be regular learning community sessions for U.F. partner school Assistant Principals. to participate in a PLC and collaborate across regions.

+ Want to be featured in the next issue?

We hope you enjoyed our first newsletter and that you'll keep it in mind as you accomplish tasks and meet your goals through out the year! We're always looking to spotlight what's going on in the Miami Dade schools to share stories of success!

If you're interested in sharing a story, photos or have a topic you'd be interested in reading about please contact Darbi Shannon our UF Graduate Assistant at shannon.darbi@ufl.edu.

