2008 ANNUAL ISSUES SUMMIT & RECOGNITION PROGRAM
ORLANDO, FL
JANUARY 20 – 21, 2008

Florida African American Education Alliance

"Promoting educational opportunities for our students, schools & communities"

Members of the Florida African American Education Alliance (FAAEA) applauded the advancements, accomplishments, and success of minority students, teachers, administrators and community leaders in the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). FAAEA recognized and honored: high achieving minority students who are excelling in STEM; teachers and administrators who have demonstrated a commitment to advance and increase minority achievement in STEM; and innovative after-school and community programs that have proven success in serving minority students in STEM.

The Annual Recognition Award Ceremony program began with inspirational renditions by the Community Baptist Youth Choir. Steve Kohler, President of Space Florida greeted program participants with a salute. Dr. Eric Smith, the Florida Department of Education Commissioner addressed the strides that African American students have made in recent years such as increased participation in academically rigorous honors and Advanced Placement classes as well as the increase of minority students taking college placement exams and graduation from high school. He was joined by Stephanie Monroe-U.S. Department of Education, Willard T. Fair-Board of Education Chairman, and Carolyn Roberts-Florida Board of Governors Chair in the presentation of the awards to FAAEA's finalists. The program ended with spirited dance and song provided by the Academie Chrtienne Haitienne d'Orlando. On Monday, interactive and informative workshops were provided to students, parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders. Please visit our website for additional information regarding the content of the workshops provided.

The FAAEA accepted nominations from all of 67 Florida School districts, Community Colleges, and Colleges and the winners of the African American Education Alliance Awards of Excellence are:

Students of the Year

Michael Onagoruwa, a 5th grade student at Poinciana Math, Science, and Technology Elementary School, is a high academic performing student. He excels in the area of mathematics, and he has achieved above average scores on standardized tests. Although Michael was a newcomer this fall to the Math Equations Academic Games Team, he helped the team to place 5th in the district competition. He is a member of the school's Safety Patrol where he displays his great leadership and communication skills. Michael

participates in the school's Technology Club where he cultivates his avid interest and talent in technology. Michael recently completed a phenomenal project in the school's astronomy curriculum. Michael is an intelligent, well-rounded young man who is popular with his peers.

Carissa White is an outstanding Middleton High School student who has experienced academic success while taking a difficult course-load. She thrives on a challenge and does not stop until she has met every objective and goal. As a member of her school's Biotechnology program, she has studied gene splicing, genetics, and DNA. She is a well-rounded student, participating in extracurricular activities, both in school and in the community. She is a member of the Future Farmers of America, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, and Key Club. In addition to being full of energy in school, she also takes time out to volunteer with Metropolitan Ministries (homeless shelter). Within the ministry, she organizes the clothing distribution and the soup kitchen. Not only does she donate time to the needy, but she also stays abreast of the latest political issues by becoming involved in political campaigns. Her talents also extend to playing piano, softball, and volleyball. Within the next few months, she will be representing Middleton in the Miss Teenage Tampa Pageant. If Carissa had to name one weakness, she would say that it is math, although no one would believe it because she strives to maintain academic excellence regardless of the task. When she was experiencing trouble in math, she made it a point with the encouragement of her parents to seek help. She attended math labs at her local community college to ensure that her grade did not fall below her own expectations. Her current grade point average is a 4.4. As one can see, she does not allow a "can't do" attitude to penetrate her spirit.

Daryl Bagley, Jr. is a 6th grade student at Burns Middle School in Hillsborough County who excels in math, science, and technology. Daryl not only excels in academics, but he also is a leader in his extra-curricular activities. Daryl has been in the Advanced Gifted Program since 1st grade, where he has consistently made A's. Last year, Daryl made a perfect score on the Math portion of the FCAT and he has scored in the top 5% of all students in the state. Daryl participates in the First LEGO League Robotics Competition where he is a leader on the team and consistently shows team spirit, leadership, and a drive for success. This year's topic is Alternative Energy Sources and Daryl's team recently came in 2nd place when competing against other Hillsborough County School Robotics Teams. Daryl is also a member of his schools' Odyssey of the Mind Team, Boy Scout and a member of his church's Lads to Leaders Program. He is a responsible and respectful young man who dreams of becoming a video game creator and then a scientist. He attends an after school program, TechPlayzone, which allows him to flourish in these areas. He has consistently shown outstanding academic performance and shows leadership in a wide variety of community-based, and faith-based activities.

Christopher Brown is a 12th grade student at Pine Ridge High in Deltona who excels in academic and extracurricular activities. He embodies the true characteristics of a leader. He has a 4.166 grade-point average and is currently ranked 8th in his class of 484 students. Christopher attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science program for 6 weeks during this summer. AT MIT, he was distinguished as the Top Digital Design Student for the work he did to build a social networking site called MITESpace. Christopher takes AP classes in Statistics, Physics, Calculus, Economics, Government, and Human Geography. With the Career and Technical Education classes he has taken, he is poised to earn a Gold Seal scholarship in Computer Science Engineering. He is President of the National Honor Society, Positive Panther Chairman of the Student Government Association, and the "Voice of Pine Ridge", the weekly Panther PAWDcast. Christopher helped establish and produce the pod cast that now serves to inform students of the latest news and events at Pine Ridge. As involved as he is at school, he is equally committed to and involved with his church. At Deltona Seventh Day Adventist Church, Christopher is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Adventist

Youth Society and the Director of the Media Ministries Department. He uses his technological skills to record sermons, troubleshoot audio-visual equipment problems, and help his church with all of their sound engineering needs. Christopher's technical aptitude and his infatuation with new gadgets and advancements in technology propel him to excel in this area. In his spare time, he likes to build and rebuild computers. He believes that his peers can become motivated to enter STEM areas by "gaining an understanding of the concepts and learning about the amazing opportunities that are available for them to do great things.

Zayd Pollins is a senior at Marion County Marine Institute. While faced with and overcoming many obstacles in his school years, he has used these lessons as stepping stones and not stumbling blocks which has placed him on the road to success. He has refused to be a statistic, and completed a program that focused on using the unified approach to turn students' lives around. After realizing that he could one day be successful, he did not let his past choices determine his future. He is a committed student who now has a 3.2 grade point average. He has displayed remarkable dedication to becoming a student of excellence and now plans to attend the University of Florida, and major in Business and Computer Technology. He uses his free time to play basketball, work in the youth ministry and design clothes. He was nominated because he "expects more than others think is possible; dreams more than others think is practical; and he risks more than others think is safe."

Teachers of the Year

Ms. Ruth Robert is a SECME Star Site Coordinator and **Ms. Katya Barrett** is SECME Star Coordinator for SECME Stars of Miami-Dade County, a 21st Century Community Learning Center Program. This program which operates before-school and after-school, is designed to meet the needs of underserved, underrepresented at-risk population of Miami Dade County elementary schools students and their families. The Dynamic Duo, also known as "Batman and Robin" by the staff of the program, have worked hard to help all students succeed. As coordinators, they are constantly thinking of innovative ways to incorporate science, math and technology into students' daily activities. They also provide parents with science, mathematics, and technology resources to improve their child's overall performance in school. The Dynamic Duo understand the importance of capturing young minds and their general love of learning has created a can do attitude for students to excel in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. They throw negative stereotypes out the window and prove what can be done when given the opportunity and encouragement.

Katya Barrett has spent ten years in education. Using fun, hands on activities, excursions and professional interaction, she motivates her students to excel. She was propelled toward science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) when she noticed the lack of minorities currently working in these areas. She constantly expands youth's minds and encourages the possibilities of careers in STEM fields. Some best practices that she would like to share include: be creative always; think outside the box; and share ideas with others-they may have a way of making it better. Ms. Barrett practices what she preaches as she is pursuing a doctorate in leadership and technology. An avid reader, Katya's hobbies also include writing poetry, writing science fiction stories and illustrating.

Ruth Robert has been in education for three years. She inspires her students to learn math and science by using real world examples and relating it to her student's experiences. The force that has driven her to the areas of science, technology, engineering and math is simply her students. She feels that her purpose in the classroom is to tap into each of these areas to help students become involved in what's happening in the world. She is continually expanding her research in STEM instruction to effectively reach all types of learners. Some best practices that she would like to share include: believe in yourself and encourage others; spend time with children discussing and exploring the world around them; and establish a support

system as you work with children. Her hobbies include reading, listening to music, and working with her local community tutoring programs. Her future goals include obtaining a doctorate degree in instructional leadership. She would also like to continue her pursuit of helping students with various learning abilities.

Adrienne Bledsoe is a dedicated, enthusiastic teacher at Poinciana Math, Science, and Technology Elementary School in Boynton Beach. She researched and implemented a hands-on, science-based curriculum that has created excitement and spurned creativity in her classroom. She is a National Science Teachers Association presenter and a Science Ideas Leadership Cadre member (teaching teachers how to teach science), a former grade chairperson, a summer reading academy instructor, a tutorial instructor, a member of the SAC committee and the grant writing committee. She coached the Odyssey of the Mind Team and gave a presentation at the FAST and National Science Teachers Association Conventions. Mrs. Bledsoe believes that "science is the great equalizer. A student's socioeconomic background does not play a part. A student only needs a desire to investigate and wonder why." Ms. Bledsoe knows that science is a way for students to explore their world and she utilizes hands-on opportunities to meet the needs of different learning styles. Adrienne Bledsoe is an asset in fostering students' interest in science with her knowledge and creativity.

School Administrators of the Year

Linda Harrison is an extraordinary Principal with children at the center of her heart. She is currently serving in her 5th year as Principal of Skyway Elementary School, and in those five years, she has done remarkable things for the students, teachers, and staff as a whole. With an emphasis placed on Science in the 2006-2007 school year, Linda Harrison implemented the Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) Program at her school. This program allows the students to explore hands-on science and engages them in a variety of activities geared towards space, the planets, and the five science benchmarks as a whole. As a result of her relentless focus on ensuring that her students receive a balanced education in all of the core subjects, Skyway Elementary School scored the highest Science percentage in Regional Center 1 Miami-Dade County Public Schools-a whopping 51% of the 5th grade students scored a Level 3 or higher in Science! Her hard work along with the teachers' dedication and commitment definitely paid of! Additionally, Linda Harrison believes that staff morale plays a significant role in student achievement; therefore, she ensures that teachers are shown appreciation as often as necessary. The Teacher of the Month and Employee of the Month Program that she has implemented highlights teachers and non-instructional personnel each month. Their information is displayed on the Teacher Feature Bulletin Board and remains there for one month until the new names are randomly selected. Mrs. Harrison is a great instructional leader and deserves to be acknowledged for it!

Vickie Presley is principal of Campbell Middle School in Daytona Beach, where she has been the instructional leader since November, 2003. Mrs. Presley was instrumental in establishing a partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to increase sixth grade students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This program seeks to motivate underrepresented students and women to pursue careers in these areas. As Campbell Middle school is an inner city school with a large minority population, this partnership will provide students offers an incredible opportunity for students to rise against their current social and economic conditions through science, technology, engineering, and math. Prior to being appointed to Campbell, Mrs. Presley served as principal of Galaxy Middle School in Deltona, Florida, and Edith I. Starke Elementary School in Deland. In addition, she is the immediate past president of the Volusia Association of School Administrators and a member of the Florida Association of School Administrators and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Mrs. Presley is very active in her community and church. She engages her students in a rigorous curriculum with high quality instruction despite the students'

circumstances and background. Mrs. Presley leads with love and her passion and commitment to students and teachers has made a difference in numerous lives.

Community College Student of the Year

Carl Runyon is a young African American male who currently attends Seminole Community College where he has maintained a 4.0 GPA in Pre-Engineering. He started in developmental mathematics classes, and he has done such a good job in his math classes that he is now pursuing a degree in engineering. He was awarded a CSEMS scholarship due to his outstanding performance in all academic areas, but especially in mathematics. His hard work and dedication have allowed him to pursue the highest math courses available. He is an outstanding student with tremendous potential. He is exceptional in all his classes, and his personable and helpful spirit has allowed him to be a role model for other students.

Community College Faculty of the Year

Dr. Heather Edwards of Seminole Community College has worked with colleagues at other community colleges and UCF to develop mathematics experiments as a means to interest middle school girls in science, technology, and mathematics. Dr. Edwards is active in organizations that have at their core the inclusion of women and minorities in science, mathematics, and technology.

Sybil Brown, M.S., is on the faculty at Lake Sumter Community College in Clermont, Florida. Prior to her current faculty role, Ms. Brown worked as a Court Statistics Consultant for the Florida State Court System, where she worked on projects ranging from certifying the need for additional judges to optimizing the jury selection process. Her consulting experience includes serving as a consultant to the National Center for State Courts, the Center for Governmental Responsibility in Gainesville, Florida, the Centers for Disease Control, Spelman College, and other researchers and research agencies. She continues to provide limited consulting services, primarily to minority graduate students seeking assistance with study design and data analysis for theses and dissertations. She has been a presenter at Statfest several times over the last few years including two years ago at FAMU and at Ely-Lilly in Indianapolis this year. The goal of StatFest is to alert minority students to the tremendous opportunities in statistics by: exposing students to statisticians who can serve as role models; introducing students to the many types of exciting careers and research in statistics; and providing students with information on graduate programs in statistics. Minorities, especially African-Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, and Native Americans, are under-presented in the field of Statistics and the ASA Committee on Minorities in Statistics is making efforts to inform such groups of the advantages and opportunities in the field through StatFest.

Community Leader of the Year

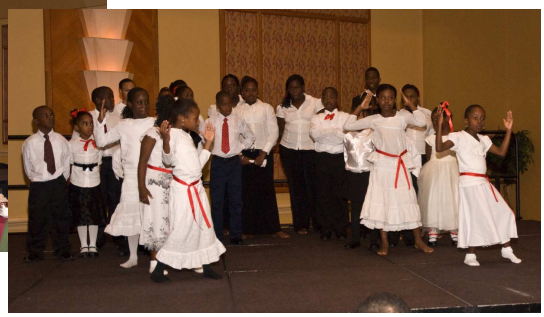
Honor Bell is a former Corrections Program Manager for the US Navy and former Special Assistant to the Chief of Naval Education and Training for Community Service and Outreach, which helped to strengthen his passion for community service through committed involvement with the military. As a dedicated servant

of the community, he has devoted countless years of service to Florida's youth. As a supporter of youth with disabilities, he has participated in Disability Mentoring Day (DMD). DMD is a one-day job shadowing opportunity for high school students and job seekers with disabilities. More than 1,300 high school students and job seekers with disabilities and career professionals participated in DMD in Florida this past year. In 2005, Bell teamed up with The Able Trust and Darlene Maynard, of the Panhandle High School/High Tech Program, to launch the first-ever DMD event in Pensacola. Bell assisted with partnering students and job seekers with disabilities with professionals and even hosted mentees for the day himself. Bell also assisted with organizing the first DMD Pensacola kick-off that year at the National Naval Aviation Museum- located in Pensacola. Since then, nearly 80 students and job seekers with disabilities have participated in the Pensacola DMD. Bell continues to participate in DMD to this day—touching the lives of numerous students and job seekers with disabilities. This year for Disability Mentoring Day, Bell shared his story of hope and inspiration to student participants- empowering more than 20 students to go after their career dreams and giving them hope to reach their goals. His commitment for mentoring does not end there. He established a mentoring program at the Pensacola Boys Base—a moderate risk 6 to 9 months juvenile prevention residential half-way house program located on an active military installation in Pensacola. Mr. Bell has also mentored African-American youth, for the past three years, through the Florida Mentoring Partnership.

Organization of the Year

The Academy of Scientific Inquiry at Mainland High School offers a special program for students with career interests requiring a high level of knowledge in science and mathematics. This school-within-a-school integrates language arts, computer programming, multimedia technology, scientific image processing, and research into a rigorous academic program. Students enrolled in the program are able to complete as many as eight science courses and five mathematics courses. Students conduct research by gathering and analyzing data and by conducting frequent laboratory experiments. Field studies, job shadowing, and internships also enrich classroom experiences. Students are expected to select electives directly related to their career interests. Ninth grade students explore career opportunities such as medicine, engineering, and environmental protection. As students progress through the program, they are involved in authentic learning and working experiences that are guided by university and business partners. Junior and senior students enjoy shadowing, mentoring, externships, dual enrollment programs, and the senior research class. Additional courses in science and mathematics are available through the Florida High School to enhance Mainland's current program. All students create a four-year high school career plan that supports the students' goals for the future. Academy students who complete the required coursework, a portfolio, and the senior research project are honored with an Academy of Scientific Inquiry graduation ceremony in addition to their Mainland High School graduation ceremony. Whether they choose to enter the work force, a two-year post secondary program, or a four year college after graduation, students will have a clear vision of the career opportunities available to them and how they can best prepare for future success.

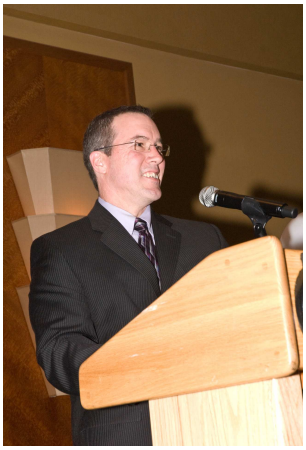
FAAEA Annual Recognition Dinner
January 20, 2008



Academie Chrtienne Hatienne d'Orlando Choir

T. Willard Fair,
Florida Board of Education Chairman

John Winn, Chief Program Officer of the National Mathematics & Science reciting the STEM Pledge



Steve Kohler, President of Space Florida
Saluting Finalists

Dr. Eric Smith, Florid Department of Education Commissioner giving Keynote Address

Florida African American Education Alliance

FAAEA was formed to partner with minority students, parents, teachers, educational institutions and communities to improve educational opportunities and student achievement. FAAEA seeks to: promote open dialogue and collaborative efforts between parents, administrators, educators, students, lawmakers and the community to ensure quality education for minority students; provide information to the public on issues related to education; provide access to tools and resources needed to ensure real gains and success for all students; and develop strong, informed communities that will provide the backbone and support structure for a skilled workforce.

As an active outreach not-for-profit organization, FAAEA encourages partnerships with businesses to create programs that will prepare our children to become a world-class workforce. This year, FAAEA has created a program that would attract minorities to the field of aerospace and motivate them to enter and participate in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. FAAEA and its program offerings will change minority students' perception regarding their abilities and potential in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Through the showcasing of the achievements of minority students, introduction to opportunities in the technological industry, and provision of support, minority students will be inspired to become future technological leaders.

FAAEA has adopted the following goals and objectives for 2008: Attract the best and brightest minority students into the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. These students will serve as a beacon to encourage other students to follow their pathway into the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math; Encourage minority elementary, middle and high school students to take higher-level math, science, engineering, and technology courses; Inspire minority high school seniors to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; Increase middle and high school minority students' awareness of appropriate classes, extracurricular activities, and community involvement that would better prepare them for college entrance in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics program; Educate FAAEA's members about Space Florida's vision, objectives, job opportunities, and programs; Engage minority students in various hands-on/interactive workshops to learn about the aerospace industry; Educate parents on how to remain involved in and support their child's education. Inform parents about the necessary requirements for college admission as well as assist parents in obtaining financial assistance to fund their child's college education; Collaborate with universities and industry representatives to provide leadership workshops for K-12 educators on emerging technologies and techniques in incorporating science, math, technology, and engineering activities in the classroom; Recognize outstanding leadership and performance in math, science, engineering, and technology among K-12 educators, students, and after-school programs. For more information on the Florida African American Education Alliance visit www.aaedalliance.org.