



## Foundation Forum

March 2009

This is a monthly newsletter to keep you updated on projects and initiatives of the Pinellas Education Foundation. Please forward this to anyone you feel would be interested in learning more about the Pinellas Education Foundation.

### Doorways Scholars Approach Graduation with “Thanks”



“Because of you, I can dream big and have a chance to accomplish my lifelong dreams and goals. I appreciate all that you do for the Doorways program.”

~Charlene Nguyen, Senior at Northeast High

“I could never truly tell you how much your donations, especially in a time of financial crisis, have touched my life and my heart. Thank you again and I hope I do make you proud of my efforts.”

~Dustin Maxwell, Senior at Clearwater High



### National Board Certified Teachers Honored by Wachovia

Wachovia and the Pinellas Education Foundation honored 63 new National Board Certified Teachers at a reception this month at Tucson’s Restaurant in Clearwater. Pinellas County has more than 445 National Board Certified Teachers. In a congressionally-mandated study, National Board Certification was recognized as having a positive impact on student achievement, teacher retention, and professional development. Mark Dawson of Wachovia told the teachers being recognized, “That is precisely why your accomplishment deserves this special recognition and why it is so important to Wachovia.” Joining Mark Dawson was Deputy Superintendent Cathy Fleeger and Steve Shepard, chairman of the Pinellas Education Foundation Grants Committee. These 63 teachers joined the nearly 74,000 teachers who have received National Board Certification nationwide since 1987.





## Bridget Bohnet Named 2009 Outstanding Educator of the Year

Bridget Bohnet, 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher at Coachman Fundamental Middle School, was named Pinellas County Schools' 2009 Outstanding Educator of the Year on February 26 at the annual Ruth Eckerd Hall gala sponsored by Aetna, Bright House Networks, DITEK and the Pinellas Education Foundation. She was also named the Outstanding Educator in the Ambassador of the Profession category. Bridget Bohnet began her career with Pinellas County Schools in 1988 as a math instruction at Tyrone Middle School, moving to Coachman Fundamental Middle in 1995. Other category winners were Bill Broome from Safety Harbor Elementary, Jennifer Mekler from Lake St. George Elementary, Emily Hall from Blanton Elementary and Catherine Fahey from Lealman Intermediate. Congratulations to all of Pinellas County's Outstanding Educators!

## Your Membership Can Make a Difference

By joining the Pinellas Education Foundation as a member, you enable the Foundation to provide enhanced educational opportunities for the students and educators in Pinellas County Schools, including teacher grants and student scholarships. You will be joining a powerful network of individuals and businesses committed to ensuring Pinellas County Schools offer a quality environment and resources students and teachers need to be successful. To ask about membership, contact Amy Bodow at 727-588-4816 ext. 2115.

## Senior Expo is a Big Hit!

The Pinellas Education Foundation and Oak Manor Senior Living Community held their first annual Senior Health Expo on March 6 at the Gus A. Stavros Institute in Largo. More than 43 vendors provided a large variety of information and health screenings for more than 400 retired and active seniors attending. Leslie Gibson, the Keynote Speaker, kept the crowd laughing with her "Lighten up with Laughter" presentation. We hope to make this an annual event, so if you missed this one, watch for Senior Health Expo announcements next spring. Thanks to all who helped make this a very successful event.

## Seniors & Scholars News

Great News! We have had a price reduction on the Seniors & Scholars Fundraising Cruise. Inside cabins are now \$434 rather than the original \$499 for a \$65 savings. Oceanview cabins are now \$469 rather than the original \$569 for a \$100 savings. The cruise will sail out of Tampa, January 11 – 16, 2010, on the Carnival Inspiration. Ports visited will be Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico. A deposit of \$50 per person is due with your reservation. The reduced price includes R/T Bus Transportation, Driver Gratuity, 5 Night Cruise, Port Taxes, Government Fees, Welcome Aboard Private Cocktail Party, Farewell Private Cocktail Party, \$50 Ship Board Credit per cabin, Tote Bag, and much more. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ginger Herring, 727-588-4816 ext. 2119 or email Ginger at [herringG@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:herringG@pinellaseducation.org).



## Come See How the Pinellas Education Foundation Changes Lives

The Pinellas Education Foundation changes lives through learning by supporting the following programs:

- Enterprise Village & Finance Park promoting free enterprise and financial education for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- Doorways scholarships & mentoring opportunities for financially deserving students
- Frances Stavros Career Education Fund opportunities & the Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy
- College-bound scholarships for graduating high school seniors

- Pinellas County Outstanding Educator of the Year honoring the profession of teaching
- Teacher classroom grants that inspire innovative projects
- Walker's Rising Stars competition featuring talented high school students in the Arts
- Seniors & Scholars breakfast series and events benefiting our 55+ population

We offer one-hour informational sessions to help educate members of the community about the Pinellas Education Foundation and how our programs impact the teachers and students in Pinellas County public schools. These one hour educational sessions include a tour of our world-renowned program Enterprise Village. Won't you join us?

For information on session dates and times, or to schedule a session, contact Marilyn Browne at 727-522-4816 ext. 2112 or [brownem@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:brownem@pinellaseducation.org).

**The Pinellas Education Foundation is a member of the [Consortium of Florida Education Foundations](#) and the [National School Foundation Association](#).**

**The Pinellas Education Foundation would like to acknowledge the donors listed below for their pledges and contributions during the month of February 2009. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Pinellas Education Foundation, [please click here](#).**

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