



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Finalists Announced for 2012 Business Partner of the Year To Be Honored February 27 at Ruth Eckerd Hall

Largo, Fla. – At last night's Business Partner of the Year Reception, nine organizations were named as finalists for the 2012 Business Partner of the Year, presented by the Pinellas Education Foundation and Pinellas County Schools. Companies and organizations were nominated in three different categories: Elementary, Secondary and District.

Each year, business partners are honored by the Pinellas Education Foundation at its annual Evening of Excellence, to be held Monday, February 27, 2012, at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater to an audience of more than 1,000 community members. First, second and third place will be announced at the event, and the winner in each category will represent our county at the state level in the Elementary, Secondary and District-wide categories.

The finalists are:

Elementary

- Kiwanis Club of Safety Harbor
- Marine Corps League
- Trinity Presbyterian Church

Secondary

- Amazon.com
- Franklin Templeton Investments
- Rotary Club of Pinellas Park

District

- Achieva Credit Union
- Knology
- Raytheon

More than 50 different businesses and community organizations were nominated for the three categories by school personnel, parents and/or community members regarding the work they do that directly benefits students through financial support, other resources and/or volunteer hours.

“As educators, we do our utmost day in and day out for our students, but without the heavy-lifting provided by of our business partners, we never would be able to accomplish as much as we need

to,” Superintendent John Stewart stated. “In this day and age when we’re required to constantly do more with less, we owe those individuals in the business community a huge debt of gratitude.”

To read more about the finalists in each of the above categories and about the event, visit www.PinellasEducation.org.

About The Evening of Excellence

This annual event pays tribute to the Best Educators and the Best Business Partners who create ever expanding opportunities for Pinellas County’s children. It also celebrates the contributions of a business leader who is inducted into the Pinellas Free Enterprise Hall of Honor, in recognition of his/her community service and advocacy for education. In addition, Pinellas County Superintendent's Unsung Hero is also recognized and honored at the event.

About Pinellas County Schools

Pinellas County Schools is the seventh largest school district in Florida and 24th largest in the nation, serving more than 101,997 K12 students at 132 schools. With more than 17,000 employees, the school district is the largest employer in the county. The vision of Pinellas County Schools is 100% Student Success. We encourage parents, business leaders and community members to partner with us in our mission to educate and prepare each student for college, career and life.

About The Pinellas Education Foundation

The Pinellas Education Foundation is an independent, non-governmental not-for-profit established in 1986. The Foundation’s mission is to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students and educators in Pinellas County Public Schools. Well known Pinellas Education Foundation programs include: Enterprise Village, Finance Park, Doorways Scholarships and Teacher Classroom Grants.