



## Foundation Forum

September 2008

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.

### Apply Now to be a Walker's Rising Star

The Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship Competition provides college scholarships to Pinellas County public high school juniors and seniors. Sponsored by noted neurosurgeon, Dr. Jeffrey Walker, scholarships up to \$10,000 will be awarded to solo performers in the areas of dance, drama, vocal music, instrumental music, and visual arts students. In addition, a new category has been created and a special honorary award of \$1,000 will be presented to the winning student team in the digital video category. The competition begins with an application and essay and will conclude with finalists being invited to display their works or perform at the Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship Gala in the spring.



Applications for performing arts students are due to the Pinellas Education Foundation office no later than November 7, 2008. Applications and portfolios for visual arts and digital video students are due to the Pinellas Education Foundation office no later than January 9, 2009. **Juniors or seniors who wish to apply may download a printable application by visiting [www.PinellasEducation.org](http://www.PinellasEducation.org) and clicking on Walker's Rising Stars.**

### Four High School Programs Named as County's First Centers of Excellence

A standing-room-only crowd attended the September 9, 2008 Pinellas County School Board Meeting to celebrate an historic moment for Pinellas County Schools, the business community and the Pinellas Education Foundation as the following programs were named Centers of Excellence for the 2008-2009 school year:

**Dunedin High School's Academy of Architectural Design and Building Technologies**  
**East Lake High School's Academy of Engineering**  
**Northeast High School's Academy of Finance**  
**Pinellas Park High School's Academy of Criminal Justice**



Each of the four programs enables students to earn high school credit, college credit, and nationally recognized industry certification. Each has met demanding criteria to achieve this accomplishment, including creating strong post-secondary partnerships, establishing active advisory boards comprised of industry, corporate and post-secondary partners, and teaching curricula that leads to certifications in high skill, high wage, high demand jobs in Pinellas County.

"These programs offer rigorous, relevant and challenging academic courses that keep students interested, engaged, and enrolled in high school," said Gerry Hogan, Chairman and CEO of Canna Capital and Co-chair of the Career Education Fund Board. "My colleagues and I had the opportunity to meet some of the students and teachers in these programs, and we saw firsthand their high level of enthusiasm and active learning taking place."

Bob McIntyre, Chairman and CEO of DITEK and immediate past chairman, Pinellas Education Foundation, awarded representatives from each program with a Centers of Excellence flag for display outside the school. Hogan closed the flag

presentation ceremony by recognizing the strong support from the School Board, Superintendent and leadership of Pinellas County Schools for this critically needed career education initiative. "Centers of Excellence will prepare all of our students for life, work and education after high school." To learn more, visit [www.centersofexcellence.net](http://www.centersofexcellence.net).

## "Fifty / Fifty for Fall" at the Tradewinds

Are you ready to enjoy a tropical getaway that's not so far away? The TradeWinds Island Resorts is giving you fabulous beach vacation savings while helping the Pinellas Education Foundation. **Stay between now and December 26, 2008 and you save 50% off room rates and the TradeWinds will donate \$50 to the Pinellas Education Foundation!**



It's a great time of year to get pampered with personal service, sand-in-your-toes beach bars, or just stroll a white sandy beach and enjoy a glorious sunset. Whether it's an active and family-friendly stay with tons of fun in the sun and kids activities galore, or the more relaxed escape with the tranquil setting for adults, you choose and TradeWinds will deliver!

Just visit [www.PinellasEducation.org](http://www.PinellasEducation.org) and follow the TradeWinds link. Book now while availability lasts!

## Meet Torrance Herman - Senior, East Lake High School



Bright, confident and talented are just a few words to describe Torrance Herman. A leader in the classroom and on the football field, Torrance is one individual to watch. Maintaining a 3.5 GPA, he is no stranger to hard work. As the stats rack up, Torrance is preparing college admissions applications to University of Miami and University of Georgia. While football is an important part of his life, Torrance makes academics top priority.

This future chiropractor or physical therapist welcomes the support he receives from the Doorways Scholarship Program. "The support and encouragement that I get is priceless," shares Torrance. Not only does this refer to the academic support but also the moral support from his mentor. Torrance puts this support to good use as he models strong leadership to his peers on and off campus.

As he practices the positioning of his cap for graduation, he leaves these words of advice (with a smile), "Don't get in trouble and always show self respect." Now that's a mouthful! Congratulations Torrance. We're expecting great things from you.

## Bright House Networks Salutes Volunteer Youth Service Award Winners

The Bright House Networks Volunteer Youth Service Award is designed to honor high school students in the Tampa Bay area for exemplary volunteer contributions that demonstrate leadership and a long-term commitment to the community. Application forms are sent to each high school in the Bright House Networks service area at the beginning of the school year. In 2009, Bright House Networks will select twenty winners region-wide to each win a laptop computer. Applications will be available at Pinellas County high schools.

### 2008 Bright House Networks Volunteer Youth Service Award winners from throughout Tampa Bay are:

Bharath Alamanda, Sickles High School, Hillsborough Region  
Elizabeth Amigdon, Lake Gibson Senior High School, Tri-County Region  
Elvia Arce, Hernando High School, Tri-County Region  
Chanel Donaldson, Wiregrass Ranch High School, Tri-County Region  
Chelsea Hall, Plant City High School, Hillsborough Region  
Stephanie Hall, Lakewood Ranch High School, Manatee Region  
Jeremy Jensen, Citrus High School, Tri-County Region  
Megan Kelly, St. Petersburg High School, Pinellas Region  
Katlin Kenney, Southeast High School, Manatee Region  
Jennie Lee, Palm Harbor High School, Pinellas Region  
Matthew Meador, Bayshore High School, Manatee Region  
Matthew Moore, East Lake High School, Pinellas Region  
Maritza Mulkay, Gaither High School, Hillsborough Region

Bridget Plimley, Spoto High School, Hillsborough Region  
Joseph Silvestri, Nature Coast High School, Tri-County Region  
Jasmine Stafford, Dunedin High School, Pinellas Region  
Priyanka Surio, Bartow International Baccalaureate High School, Tri-County Region  
Jared Tyler, home schooled, Tri-County Region  
Cassandra Yoder, Lakewood Ranch High School, Manatee Region  
Catherine Yu, Land O'Lakes High School, Tri-County Region

## **Class of 1989 Seminole High School Scholarship Fund**

It's probably the biggest and most important "class project" ever tackled by the Seminole High School alumni. They hope to raise \$5,000 to help make a difference in the life of a deserving 2009 graduating Seminole High School student.

The Seminole High School Class of 1989's Scholarship Fund will empower a high-achieving, financially-challenged student with the resources to realize his or her academic potential. Many Seminole High School alumni depended on scholarships to help fund their postsecondary educations and they would like to help another deserving student on the road to a college education. You may choose to donate in honor of a fellow student, family member, teacher, or simply in support of a student's future. You will receive a letter of appreciation and acknowledgment, for tax purposes. Both individual and corporate donations are appreciated.

To donate or for more information, log onto the Pinellas Education Foundation's web site at <http://www.pinellaseducation.org/> or mail your check directly to the Pinellas Education Foundation, 12090 Starkey Road, Largo, FL 33773. Please note in comments section of the web form, or on your check "SHS c/o 1989 Scholarship Fund"

We look forward to working together on this "class project" and helping a future Seminole High School grad realize his or her educational dreams!

## **Seniors & Scholars Get Tips on Travel Safety**

The first Seniors & Scholars Breakfast for the 2008-09 school year was a huge success. Attendance surpassed all previous September breakfasts with 129 registered seniors. We welcomed 20 newly-retired educators and more than 100 of our regular Senior & Scholars. The program on travel safety, tips and tidbits was presented by Marie Emmerich, owner of Advantage Cruises & Tours and sponsored by Valpak, a Cox Target Media Company. Our thanks to Marsha Strickhouser, Public Relations Liaison for Valpak, for assisting with the program. The next Seniors & Scholars Breakfast is October 8, in the Lighthouse Conference Room at the Gus A. Stavros Institute. The program is Health and Nutrition, presented by Barrington Terrace and sponsored by Achieva. For more information or to attend a breakfast program, contact Ginger at 727-588-4816 ext 2119.

## **Visit Us and Learn How You Can Change a Life**

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

- Enterprise Village & Finance Park promoting free enterprise and financial education for 5th and 8th 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 months of August 2008. If you would like to contribute to the work of the Pinellas Education Foundation, [please click here](#).**

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