

## Duval County Public Schools and the Bridge of Northeast Florida Hold Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Newest School

Jacksonville, FL – Duval County Public Schools and The Bridge of Northeast Florida held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the recent opening of Schools for the Future Academy. Schools for the Future Academy opened its doors on August 22, 2011 to 102 students.

Schools for the Future Academy is a grade 8-12 public school developed through a public/private partnership

with Schools for the Future Inc., The Bridge of Northeast Florida Inc. and Jacksonville Public Education Fund, and is operated by Duval County Public Schools. The student body is comprised of students who last attended sixth-, seventh- or eighth-grade and were retained two or more times in elementary or middle school.

**E** “Our top priority is to provide a high quality education to our students, and this school will allow them to receive specialized instruction in a creative and innovative way,” said Superintendent Pratt-Dannals. “Schools for the Future Academy offers several programs:

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entrepreneurship training, internships, dual-enrollment college courses and web-based instruction that provide invaluable experiences to these students.”

Superintendent Pratt-Dannals, School Board members, Ephraim Weisstein, founder of Schools for the Future Inc., Davy Parrish, President/CEO of The Bridge of Northeast Florida Inc., and other dignitaries spoke during the ceremony. The ceremony was also held in



recognition of the 100th birthday of The Weaver Zone building, previously the Beulah Beal School built in 1911. Through this partnership, The Weaver Zone building has returned to its original purpose, to provide opportunities for extended learning to students.

“As partners, we are mobilized to access every opportunity to create success for the students at the Academy,” said Dr. Davy Parrish, president/CEO of The Bridge. “It is an adventure in learning based on the best practices and efforts in education.”

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests were invited inside to enjoy refreshments and tour the school. Slideshow presentations



were running throughout the school for guests to view as they made their way through the halls to the cafeteria.

Duval County Public Schools operates 177 schools and serves approximately 125,000 students. The school district is committed to providing high quality educational opportunities that will inspire all students to acquire and use the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in a global economy and culturally diverse world.

## FAU and FAMU Partner to Establish Medical Honors Program for Outstanding High School Seniors

**BOCA RATON, FL** —The Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University has partnered with the Florida A&M University (FAMU) in Tallahassee to establish a first-of-its-kind Medical Honors Program (MHP) between the two institutions. FAU and FAMU have signed an affiliation agreement to formally establish the MHP with the overall goal of attracting and enrolling outstanding high school seniors who have made an early and informed decision to ultimately pursue a doctoral degree in the field of medicine. The primary goal of this program is to admit academically talented high school students to the MHP at FAMU, with a conditional acceptance to FAU’s College of Medicine. The students will have to successfully complete the MHP and satisfy the requirements of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) and FAU’s College of Medicine.

“We are very pleased to be working jointly with FAMU on the Medical Honors Program, which is distinguished by the strength of both our institutions,” said FAU President Mary Jane Saunders. “We will be able to offer aspiring doctors who excel academically with a competitive program that ensures a seamless route from undergraduate study to medical school.”

The MHP is a four-year curriculum, which will focus on professionalism, ethics, problem-based learning and inter-professional (team building, communication and leadership skills) education. MHP students will also be required to fulfill non-classroom extracurricular requirements such as clinical education, physician shadowing, working with patients in a hospital, clinic or physician’s office, and participating in health related community service. The program is designed to enable students to gain an understanding of the intellectual, emotional and physical demands incumbent upon medical students, and to train socially conscious and humane physicians.

“Florida A&M University is excited to join forces with Florida Atlantic University in this endeavor,” said FAMU President James H. Ammons. “The Medical Honors Program reinforces the commitment of both universities to identify and engage in strategies to meet the health needs of underserved populations. Through this program, the citizens of Florida will benefit as well as the MHP students.”

To be eligible for the MHP at FAU/FAMU, applicants must have an un-weighted

high school average of at least 3.50, an SAT 1 composite minimum score of 1100 and must be in their last year of high school at the time of application. Up to ten total FAMU students will be admitted each year beginning in fall 2012. A MHP committee jointly composed of faculty from FAU and FAMU has been established to oversee the administration and admissions of this cooperative and integrated program.

“Educating and training underrepresented students who are outstanding academically is critical to helping address our physician shortage in Florida and the U.S., and ultimately providing first-rate medical care among our underserved populations,” said Julie C. Servoss, M.D., M.P.H., assistant dean



FAU President Mary Jane Saunders with FAMU President James Ammons.

of diversity, cultural and student affairs in FAU’s Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine and chair of the MHP committee.

According to the American Medical Association (AMA) in 2008, the total number of African-American physicians in the U.S. was 33,781 or 3.5 percent of the total physician population. Hispanic physicians in the U.S. total 46,507 or 4.9 percent of the total physician population.

One of America’s newest medical schools, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU welcomed its inaugural class of 64 students in August. The College has developed a new and innovative curriculum, which features early and continuous community-based clinical experiences and problem-based learning with emphasis on small-group and self-directed learning. The curriculum includes a student-centered and patient-focused approach and clinical experiences with local physicians, health departments and hospitals, and a state-of-the-art simulation center. A key component of the innovative curriculum is early exposure to patients and the actual practice of medicine. To that end, the College has established relationships with several prominent area hospitals that are serving as sites for clerkships, hospital-based electives and residencies. During clinical trainings, students have the opportunity to work side-by-side with physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of patients, applying knowledge learned from the first two years of study to real-life situations.

### Jean Ribault High School Host Annual International Baccalaureate Pinning Ceremony

Jean Ribault High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme hosted its annual Pinning Ceremony for the 2013 candidates on Thursday, December 15, 2011 in the school’s media center. The school’s IB Programme provides students the opportunity to participate in a rigorous course of study, practice critical thinking, get involved in the community and develop their special talents. Students can participate in the Middle Years Programme during their freshmen and sophomore years. They may also apply for the Diploma Programme to continue in IB during their junior and senior years.

Ribault High School also offers an Early College Program, academic coaches and an Academy of Business and Finance, as well as a Marine Corps Junior ROTC.