



PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY: UCF Teachers-To-Be Get in the Classroom To Mentor Kids Struggling With English Language and Reading

December 1, 2005

WHAT: K-3 students who don't speak English or where English is not the primary language spoken at home are the focus of an innovative learning initiative between UCF and the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools to help enhance these students' comprehension of the English language, as well as their learning and reading abilities. The importance of this program ties to one of the recommendations outlined by Blue Ribbon Panel on Education – to provide more assistance to children with a primary language other than English.

The UCF-Foundation partnership began as a pilot program last fall, involving 30 UCF mentors and three schools. The program quickly expanded and now encompasses 150 UCF mentors who, as part of their curriculum and required service learning hours, provide one-on-one mentoring to students in 14 schools in the district. The mentors use guided reading books that the Foundation purchased through a partnership with Harcourt and that the schools get to keep.

WHEN/WHERE: Media have the opportunity to go to the following schools the week of November 28. Media must contact Jackie Kelvington for clearance into the school and facilitation:

Union Park Elementary
Monday, November 28 1-3 p.m.
Friday, December 2 1-3 p.m.

Lake Como Elementary
Monday, November 28 1-1:45 p.m.
Tuesday, November 29 1-1:45 p.m.
Thursday, December 1 1-1:45 p.m.

INTERVIEW OPPS:

- UCF student mentors
- K-3 students

- On-site program coordinators
- Nancy Peed, executive director, Foundation for Orange County Public Schools
- Dr. Kerry Purmensky, UCF Dept. of Modern Languages & Literature

About the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools, Inc.

Established in 1987, the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that provides resources and programs to the area school district. Through innovative programs and projects such as Read2Succeed, Orange County Scholars, Teach-In and teacher grants, the Foundation provides more than \$1 million annually to area schools to help create a brighter future and ensure a quality education for every student. The organization serves the 12th largest public school system in the nation, supporting more than 174,000 students, 12,000 teachers and 155 schools in the county. The Foundation is also leading a long-term grassroots initiative called Count Me In!, which is a community-driven initiative designed to reconnect our community with our schools and enhance quality education. For more, visit www.foundationforocps.org.

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