

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL CHOICE & PARENTAL OPTIONS**

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Miami-Dade County NAF Academies Bring Home the Gold

Miami, FL – July, 2012 – The National Academy Foundation (NAF) began when a business leader saw an opportunity to connect young people to the increasing needs of the financial workforce. From this grew an educational model that celebrates 30 years of success to ensure students benefit from high-quality educational opportunities linked to growing industries

NAF Next: Experience Learning that Works! Is a professional learning experience that ignited innovation and spread effective practices across the NAF network through unique learning and networking opportunities. This all-encompassing conference in Washington DC, July 16-19th was attended by administrators and teachers from 22 Miami-Dade County public high schools and industry and postsecondary business partners who support the NAF Academies.

Miami brought home the gold in awards and scholarships:

- Dr. Lupe Ferran Diaz – District Director, School Choice & Parental Options won the Janet Linton Leadership Award which recognizes extraordinary contribution and leadership within the NAF network at the school, district and state level.
- Erich De La Fuente, President, EDF Communications and graduate of the first Academy of Hospitality & Tourism (AOHT) at Miami Springs Senior High School in 1989 won the NAF Alumni Award which recognizes NAF Alumni who have achieved college or career success or have demonstrated an entrepreneurial or philanthropic spirit.
- Miami Beach Senior High and Miami Norland Senior High's AOHT programs were awarded the NAF designation as Distinguished Academies for the first time – an award that recognizes programs with outstanding practices as exemplars in the network.
- Southwest Miami Senior High's Academy of Finance (AOF) received distinguished status for a second consecutive year.
- National Scholarships were awarded to Ana Medina, Graduate of G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School (Kelly IT Resources Academy of Information Technology Scholarship) and Fabiana Ferrer, graduate of Miami Springs Senior High School (Marriott International AOHT Scholarship and American Express Jesse Blackman AOHT Scholarship).

Additionally, Miami's teachers, administrators, district staff, industry and postsecondary leaders presented at 23 Academy-themed learning seminars, participated in a one-day business intensive and took leadership roles in plenary sessions, Ignite sessions and other events.

About National Academy Foundation

The National Academy Foundation (NAF) is a national network of career academies to support the development of America's youth toward personal and professional success in high school, higher education and throughout their careers. For nearly 30 years, NAF has refined a proven model that provides young people access to industry-specific curricula, work-based learning experiences, and relationships with business professionals.

During the 2010-11 school year, 500 NAF academies served more than 53,000 students across 41 states, D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NAF's national graduation rate of 90% testifies to the effectiveness of this effort. Miami-Dade County Public Schools, under the auspices of School Choice & Parental Options, has 48 NAF programs in 25 senior high schools that encompass the career themes of Finance, Hospitality and Tourism, Information Technology, Engineering and Health Sciences.

For additional information about the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' NAF programs, please contact School Choice & Parental Options at 305.995.1922 or choice.dadeschools.net.

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