



Summer Principal's Academy Recruitment Event

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SPA recruitment event draws over 100 interested applicants.

Duval County Ranks Above Other Urban Districts Nationwide

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Nation's Report Card shows Duval County outperforming other urban districts.

TFA Teachers in QEA-Funded Schools More Likely to Be Retained

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New evaluation reveals DTO Teach for America teachers more likely to stay teaching past 2-year commitment.

Private Capital Helping Public Schools Prepare All Students for College or Career



Assistant principals from across Duval County to attend Emerging Leaders Program

An elite group of 29 current assistant principals will enter a principal training program designed by one of the nation's strongest advocacy organizations that supporting the importance of school-based leadership as a key to improved educational outcomes.

The candidates have gone through a rigorous screening process on their way to becoming members of Jacksonville's inaugural class of the Emerging Leaders Program, or ELP, which was developed by the nonprofit New Leaders, and is designed to prepare assistant principals who

show great signs of leadership and potential for the rigorous duties of being a school principal.

"It would be difficult to put into words the impact of the Emerging Leaders Program. My skills and knowledge as an instructional leader have come to be sharper and more comprehensive, in such a short amount of time," said Amy Cline, Assistant Principal at Seabreeze Elementary, one of the 29 participants in the program.

The participation of the DCPS assistant principals was funded

by a grant from the Quality Education for All Fund, and the candidates were picked through a rigorous screening process.

The program also extends the influence of the QEA Fund beyond the Duval Transformation Region, with a majority of the participants in ELP, 22, not currently serving in QEA schools.

The program will continue through summer 2016, and school district leaders have indicated a desire to continue the program in future years using school district funds.



More than 100 show interest in next class of Summer Principals Academy fellowships

More than 100 teachers and current school administrators gathered in early November to learn more about the Summer Principals Academy fellowship, a Quality Education for All Fund funded scholarship to the prestigious program at Columbia University Teacher's College in New York.

The fellowship seeks high-performing teachers who have aspirations of becoming school leaders to participate in the 15-month experience, during which the fellows will earn a master's degree in educational leadership from Columbia, all while serving as a resident under a currently high-performing principal in a QEA school.

"The SPA program has prepared me to be an effective leader by exposing me to a plethora of strategies and tools that have helped to enhance and develop my leadership style," said Erica Christina Little, one of five fellows who have completed the Academy as part of the fellowship.

The district is hoping to identify five candidates for this year's class. Four additional fellows will complete the programs and earn their degrees this summer.

The deadline for applications to the program, known as the Jacksonville School Leadership Fellowship, is December 12.

QEA Fund in the news

<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2015-07-22/story/transformation-schools-jacksonville-show-subtle-improvements-after-first>

<http://jacksonville.com/opinion/editorials/2015-10-22/story/quality-program->

[duval-schools-shows-great-promise](http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2015-10-06/story/duval-county-school-board-continues-incentive-pay-plan-teachers-36)

<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2015-10-06/story/duval-county-school-board-continues-incentive-pay-plan-teachers-36>

<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2015-07-09/story/summer-school-kindergartners-duval-superintendent-says-its-good-idea>

[15-07-09/story/summer-school-kindergartners-duval-superintendent-says-its-good-idea](http://news.wjct.org/post/duval-shifting-literacy-focus-younger-kids-school-board-take-more-public-comment)

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Duval County Public Schools ranked among top urban districts in country on national assessment

Duval County Public Schools was identified as one of the top urban districts in the country in October, based on the scores of its students on the National Assessment of Education Progress, or NAEP.

Among the 21 urban districts who took part in the national assessment, Duval County fourth graders were No. 4 nationally in reading and math, while Duval County eighth graders were in the top two nationally in reading.

“It should change the conversation in Jacksonville regarding the state of public education,” said Superintendent Nikolai Vitti.

The NAEP, often called the Nation’s Report Card, is a test given annually to a representative sample of public school students and designed to provide data on statewide performance. A subset of urban districts voluntarily receive a

district-level score as well. This was the first year that Duval County Public Schools participated in the urban sample. In Florida, both Hillsborough and Miami-Dade Counties also participate in the urban district sample.

Florida has traditionally performed very well on the NAEP as well, with the state’s fourth grade low-income students having the country’s highest percentage of students performing at or above *Basic* in reading.

As part of its work as the QEA Fund’s intermediary, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund is monitoring a number of academic measures related to the performance of the QEA Fund’s investments. With the change in state testing, moving from FCAT to the new Florida Standards Assessment, data to evaluate the investments is not expected until spring 2016.

Smith Juarez, Wright named to Duval County School Board leadership

Just before Thanksgiving, the Duval County School Board elected Ashley Smith Juarez as its chairman for the coming year, while selecting Paula D. Wright as vice-chair.

Smith Juarez, who represents District 3, serves as the Northeast Florida Regional Director for the Clinton Foundation’s Health Matters Initiative (CHMI), promoting cross-sector collaboration for a healthier community. In



Smith Juarez

her role as board chairman, she will hold a non-voting ex-officio seat on the Quality Education Fund Advisory Board.

Wright, who represents District 4, was formerly employed as an administrator in the school district’s High School Acceleration Programs Office, and previously served as a teacher, district Literacy Coach and a Specialist in the Academic Services Department.



Wright

Teach for America evaluation shows greater retention of corps members in QEA schools

A new study on Teach For America's impact in Jacksonville shows that teaching in one of the 36 Quality Education For All Fund schools significantly improves the chances that a corps member will teach beyond his or her two-year commitment to the organization.

The program recruits recent graduates from the nation's leading universities, and places them in low-income schools across the country. The organization, supported in part by the Quality Education For All

Fund, places about 100 corps members each year in Duval County.

"We have made retention a top priority," said Executive Director Darryl Willie.

Of the TFA alumni that continued to teach, the study reported that large majorities said their relationships with students and the academic impact they felt they were having contributed to their desire to stay in the classroom.

Corps members also spoke highly of the organization's summer institute that prepares new recruits to enter the classroom, saying the experience, combined with the support they receive from the organization during their first two years teaching, prepared them well.

Further evaluation of Teach For America's impact in Jacksonville is forthcoming, as student achievement results from the new Florida Standards Assessments are released in spring 2016.



DCPS launches preview of data portal system

Duval County Public Schools released the first version of its new "One View" data portal system for teachers and students at four schools in late 2015, as it prepares for a district-wide launch next year.

The system, built by Microsoft and funded by a \$5 million grant from the Quality Education For All Fund, is designed to allow stakeholders easy access to vital information they need from a large variety of individual district data systems.

The four schools that will pilot the teacher and student portals include Terry Parker High School, Alfred duPont and Mayport Middle Schools, and

Venetia Elementary School.

One of the most advanced features will allow for community partners, with parent permission, to access student data for the students they serve to facilitate data-driven decision making and strong evaluation of their programs.

One View's teacher and student portals will be ready for district-wide use in early 2016, with additional functionality for other user groups scheduled to be added in the months following.

Once complete, One View will be the most advanced data portals of its kind in the country.

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