STATEWIDE

Ellis Named Director of UCF Center for Community Schools

The UCF Center for Community Schools has a new director with a familiar smiling face. Amy Ellis, who served as assistant director for more than two years, recently accepted the position.

“I am excited about our future work together strengthening the Community Partnership Schools model and delivering the greatest support possible to our students and families,” she said. “Enhancing the great work already begun at the center, my aim will be to ensure Community Partnership School fidelity and sustainability while leading the center in becoming a premier national technical assistance, training and development center for community schools.”

Ellis earned a Master of Education from Florida State University and an Educational Leadership Certificate from Stetson University. Prior to assuming her role at UCF, she worked for five years as a senior administrator for Orange County Public Schools and co-director for Evans High School • A Community Partnership School, where she helped begin and successfully implement the first community school of its kind in Florida. Ellis is currently pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership at UCF.

Community Partnership School Sites in Florida

- Howard Bishop Middle School, Gainesville (Alachua)
- Endeavour Elementary School, Cocoa (Brevard)
- Wilkinson Jr. High School, Middleburg (Clay)
- Edward H. White Military Academy of Leadership (EWMAL), Jacksonville (Duval)
- C. A. Weis Elementary School, Pensacola (Escambia)
- Mort Elementary School, Tampa (Hillsborough)
- Sulphur Springs K-8, Tampa (Hillsborough)
- Pelican Island Elementary School, Sebastian (Indian River)
- Leesburg Elementary School, Leesburg (Lake)
- Site TBD, Tallahassee (Leon)
- Evans High School, Orlando (Orange)
- OCPS Academic Center for Excellence (OCPS ACE), Orlando (Orange)
- Gulfside Elementary School, Holiday (Pasco)
- South Woods Elementary School, Elkton (St. Johns)
- Webster Elementary School, St. Augustine (St. Johns)

Impact!

DUVAL — On Aug. 10, Children’s Home Society of Florida held its first trauma-informed care training as part of a series of professional development opportunities for EWMAL teachers, with a focus on recognizing and responding to trauma in the classroom. An estimated 60 teachers and faculty members attended, contributing to a 50 percent increase in teacher and self referrals to Launch Pad services and supports for students and families.
ORANGE COUNTY

OCPS Academic Center for Excellence Opens

OCPS Academic Center for Excellence opened on Aug. 14. Adjacent to the emerging downtown campus of UCF, OCPS ACE serves more than 800 students from the Parramore, Calahan and Holden Heights neighborhoods in Pre-K through 8th grades.

As a Community Partnership School, OCPS ACE enjoys partnerships with Children’s Home Society of Florida, UCF, Orange Blossom Pediatrics, Boys & Girls Club and others. Principal Andronidus (Andrew) Rollins, ’95 and ’98, Community Partnership School Director Shannon Currie and the rest of the staff are working hard to get the school’s faculty, staff and students acclimated. School spirit colors are purple and white, and its mascot is a lion.

Did You Know?

♦ Strategic planning meetings were recently held at Gulfside Elementary in Pasco County, Webster and South Woods Elementaries in St. John’s County, and Pelican Island Elementary in Indian River County.

♦ Evans High in Orange County went through its Certification Readiness Assessment in July. Gulfside Elementary in Pasco County, C. A. Weis Elementary in Escambia County and Endeavour Elementary in Brevard County will take part in Certification Readiness Assessments this school year.

♦ We welcomed Mary Brown at Gulfside Elementary in Pasco County, Jessica Noblin at Leesburg Elementary in Lake County and Kylea Carswell at Mort Elementary in Hillsborough County as new Community Partnership School directors.

♦ In partnership with Santa Fe College, The Nest at Howard Bishop Middle in Alachua County sponsored the first teacher-selected book talks, featuring Mindset by Carol Dweck. The Nest also provided the school’s first 6th grade Summer Bridge for incoming students and families.

♦ Gulfside Elementary in Pasco County held a “Meet the Teacher” event. Generations Church and One Community Now donated more than 50 back packs filled with school supplies, and another 50 were donated in partnership with Marjorie’s Hope.

♦ Nearly 100 dads attended Take My Dad to School Day, sponsored by Eckerd, at Endeavour Elementary in Brevard County. The school also has a new panther mascot, donated by The Church At Viera. It debuted at Endeavor’s Parenting With My Panther Ice Cream social, a parent engagement event.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

C. A. Weis Elementary School Launches Afterschool SAILing Around the World

C. A. Weis Elementary offers SAIL Academy, an afterschool program funded by 21st Century Community Learning Center. The successful program serves more than 120 K through 5th grade students.

Recently, University of West Florida students and faculty members collaborated with the afterschool leadership team and created SAILing Around the World. UWF students and faculty members from China, Japan, India, Philippines, Ghana, Egypt, South Africa, Brazil and Guyana participated in weekly projects for SAIL Academy children.

Projects encompassed learning greetings and common phrases; craft projects and games; geography and history; sharing artifacts; and singing and dancing. A UWF student shared, “This is an awesome experience for me to join in the volunteer project.” Another student added, “Excellent experience to spend time with facilitators of the workshop and learn something great about teaching.”

In addition, UWF facilitated Project-Based Learning workshops for teachers, paraprofessionals and UWF students. PBL includes designing curricula using key knowledge and skills, driving activity, authenticity and learner-driven investigation.