

# **Florida Council of Instructional Technology Leaders**

## **Instructional Technology Leadership Award:**

### **2007-08 Innovative Principal of the Year**

#### **General Information**

In the fall of 2003, the Florida Council of Instructional Technology Leaders (FCITL) instituted a leadership award to recognize outstanding principals in the area of instructional technology. This annual program is designed to highlight school-based principals within our Florida districts that have demonstrated successful program implementations utilizing technology to further student achievement\*.

\* *NOTE: Student achievement is defined as it relates to any number of measures (FCAT preparation, student/teacher technology literacy, classroom technology integration, bridging the digital divide, etc.).*

#### **Awards Program Goals**

The goals of this awards program are:

- To provide a forum for recognizing outstanding principal leaders in the area of instructional technology;
- To share and promote best practice instructional technology implementations within our group as well as with other leaders and decision-makers throughout the state and nation; and
- To bring further awareness of our FCITL organization's purpose:
  - Promoting the enhancement of the instructional process through the effective use and integration of technology;
  - Promoting cooperation and communication among the district and state leaders who impact technology use in education;
  - Positively influencing legislation and policies regarding funding, development, and integration of instructional technology use in Florida; and
  - Recognizing the vital role of the instructional technology professional and promoting professional growth opportunities.

#### **Nomination Procedures**

Each district may submit one principal nominee via the district's FCITL voting member. Nomination forms should be submitted electronically via e-mail to Gary Evans ([gary.evans@audioenhancement.com](mailto:gary.evans@audioenhancement.com)), Award Selection Committee Chairperson, by December 14, 2007. Each nomination should consist of the nomination form (see reverse), the recommended written information, and a digital video\*\* (see description below).

\*\* *NOTE: Digital Video: A short digital video should be produced using the highest possible resolution and quality settings highlighting each nominee, his/her school and their accomplishments. The video can be produced by the school or the district and should be limited to three minutes in length. The video will be used to assist the Award Selection Committee and the at-large FCITL membership in the voting process. It is hoped that the video will also be used to recognize and promote the educational technology programs that have been initiated by these principals.*

#### **Selection/Recognition Procedures and Timeline**

The Selection Committee will review all nominations and select three finalists (*December 17 – 21, 2007*).

The three finalist nomination forms and digital videos will be made available to all FCITL members to assist them in casting their votes (*January 7 – 11, 2008*).

All three finalists will be invited to attend a FCITL-sponsored Awards Luncheon in association with FETC 2008 (*January 22, 2008*). All three principal finalists will be recognized and celebrated, their digital videos shown, and the winner announced. The Innovative Principal of the Year and each finalist will receive a plaque commemorating this recognition.

**Florida Council of Instructional Technology Leaders  
Instructional Technology Leadership Award:  
2007-08 Innovative Principal of the Year  
Nomination Form**

**District Name:**

**NOMINATING FCITL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name of Nominating FCITL Member: Patti Elkin**  
(must be voting member)

**FCITL Member's E-mail Address: Pattide@leeschools.net**

**Phone #: ( 239 ) 335-1407 Fax #: ( )**

**Superintendent's Name: Dr. James Browder**

**PRINCIPAL NOMINEE CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name of Principal Nominee: Carl Burnside**

**Principal's E-mail Address: Carlcb@leeschools.net**

**School Name: Dunbar High**

**School Address: 3800 E. Edison Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916**

**School Phone #: ( 239 ) 461-5322 School Fax #: ( 239 ) 461-5110**

**NOMINATION INFORMATION**

**Please provide the information that best reflects why this nominee should be selected to receive the FCITL Instructional Technology Leadership Award: Innovative Principal of the Year.**

**Recommended information to be highlighted:**

- Principal's Background Information (number of years in current position, number of years in education, educational experience, etc.)
- School Background/Demographics
- School and Principal's Instructional Technology Accomplishments: (focusing on how nominee has provided leadership to make a positive impact on student achievement using instructional technology).

*All information described above needs to be limited to two pages and sent as an attachment in Word format. Completed nomination form, two page narrative and digital videos are due by December 14, 2007. Nomination forms are to be sent via email to Gary Evans ([gary.evans@audioenhancement.com](mailto:gary.evans@audioenhancement.com)). Digital videos are to be sent to Andrew Denard (mailing address to be provided at a later date).*

Carl Burnside is beginning his 22<sup>nd</sup> year as an educator and 8<sup>th</sup> year as principal of Dunbar High School. He is a very passionate and dedicated educator who is driven to provide kids with a superior educational experience. He began his career as a math teacher and obtained numerous awards and honors. Even as a teacher, he was a leader in technology. In 1993, he received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching from Florida. His use of technology in his instruction was a key component of his recognition as an outstanding math teacher.

Because of his passion for technology, Mr. Burnside's first administrative position was as assistant principal Lee Middle Magnet School. Lee Middle School's magnet theme was a STEM school and its primary focus was technology. Lee Middle became the premiere technology school in the Lee County School district. During this period, the school's reputation rose to unprecedented heights.

Mr. Burnside's first principal appointment was to Tice Elementary School. During his tenure there, they applied for a magnet grant and the focus was technology. The school received the grant and implemented a dynamic instructional technology program. The school was located in a very low socio-economic area of town and part of the program included a parent outreach. Most of the parents had no access to computers and as part of its Title 1 plan, the school sponsored parent nights to assist parents with becoming familiar with technology.

Even with all of his past accolades, Mr. Burnside was presented with his greatest challenge in re-opening Dunbar High School in 2000. Dunbar High School was closed in 1969 as part of the desegregation of Lee County Schools. An agreement was made between local community leaders and the school district to re-open Dunbar High School and Mr. Burnside was appointed as principal. Dunbar High School is located in a predominantly African American neighborhood and has a high percentage of free and reduced lunch students. Presently, the school's enrollment is approximately 850 students with slightly 80% being minority students.

In 2005 under his leadership, Dunbar High School established the ultimate technology program: The Academy for Technology Excellence. The Academy for Technology Excellence (ATE) is preparing students of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century for success. This phenomenal program provides students with the chance to learn, use, and even become certified in advanced information technology systems. As principal, Mr. Burnside believes that he is the instructional leader and that in this ever changing technological world, it is imperative that he leads his school into the technology of tomorrow. He has stated that in his 22 years as an educator and 11 years as a principal, he has never seen such a powerful learning opportunity for students.

The Academy offers students college level IT curriculum that is taught by IT certified instructors and gives students a competitive edge. All ATE students can acquire numerous recognized industry standard IT certifications using fully integrated technology systems within the classrooms. The certification exams are at no cost to the student.

Additionally, ATE offers honors weighted and dual enrollment credit and meets the requirements for the Florida Gold Seal Scholarship. Every Academy lab is well provisioned to mirror innovative college level technology labs. LCD projectors, sound systems, interactive SMART Boards™, and wireless networks and more. Instructors have integrated web-based activities, software simulations, and online organizational tools like "Blackboard™" and "Microsoft® IT Academy" tools.

Academically, Dunbar was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state for making learning gains on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade reading test. Data provides evidence that the technical reading that our students experience enhances their performance on reading assessment. In addition, Dunbar has ranked in the top half of the 12 Lee County High Schools on the school grade point system over the past two years.

The list that below consists of just a few of the benefits and achievements of this stellar program. Beside the obvious benefits to students, those impacted include, faculty and staff, parents, the school district and local businesses.

- Students and instructors share their technical expertise with local business partners, parents, students and staff to help maintain various IT environments.
- Instructors provide technology training and support to our faculty, district and business partners.
- ATE students developed a website for the School District of Lee County.
- The ATE program provides the district with training/testing facilities..
- The ATE program has been showcased at various state and national conferences.
- ATE was selected as a Magnet School of Distinction by Magnet Schools of America 2007.
- ATE was selected as one of 15 most innovative technology programs in the nation by T.H.E. Journal 2006.
- Digital Divide Program for families in the community.

Being principal of the high school with the highest percentage of students who qualify for free lunch, he realizes the support needed for low socio-economic families. As a result, Dunbar is implementing the nationwide program called Digital Divide. Students in the ATE program will be refurbishing older district computers that will be donated to needy families. The goal of this program is to narrow the gap for these students by providing refurbished computers for their families.

Recently, Microsoft selected Dunbar High School to become the first Microsoft Certified High School in America. All of the students and staff at DHS will be given the opportunity to at least one certification. Microsoft has named students in the ATE program their “Certified Heroes” and hope that by providing the same opportunity for all of their students, that it will make a difference in student achievement at our school. They are preparing a success documentary video on Dunbar’s innovative ATE program to be distributed worldwide.

Over 400 certifications have been received by students since the start of the ATE program. Last year alone, over 78% of the students enrolled in the ATE program received 2 or more certifications. The ATE program has truly placed Dunbar High School on the global technology map.

As principal, I am excited about the continued growth of ATE and its impact on our school and community. Our goal is to be the ultimate technology school in the nation and to continue to provide our students with a superior educational experience.