

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), 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: Vickie Beagle
(must be voting member)

FCITL Member's E-mail Address: beaglev@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us

Phone #: (850) 983-5110 Fax #: (850) 983-5114

Superintendent's Name: John W. Rogers

PRINCIPAL NOMINEE CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Principal Nominee: Dr. Karen Barber

Principal's E-mail Address: barberk@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us

School Name: Chumuckla Elementary School

School Address: 2312 Highway 182 Jay, FL 32565

School Phone #: (850) 995-3690

School Fax #: (850) 995-3695

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). Digital videos are to be sent to Andrew Denard (mailing address to be provided at a later date).

FCITL Instructional Technology Leadership Award: Innovative Principal of the Year.

Our candidate, Dr. Karen Barber, has been an educator for twenty-three years. Initially a special education teacher, Dr. Barber served students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Benefits of her leadership and innovation have extended not only throughout Santa Rosa County, but into other Florida Counties and beyond. During the last eleven years, she has provided leadership as an assistant principal at the middle school level, and since July, 2004, principal at Chumuckla Elementary School. Dr. Barber also serves as adjunct professor for the University of West Florida, teaching master's level courses in curriculum development and school leadership.

Chumuckla Elementary was established in 1923 and currently educates pre-kindergarten through sixth grade students. With a free and reduced lunch rate of fifty percent, the school strives to meet the individual needs of each student. A rural school, the majority of students enter with limited background knowledge and experience outside of farming, hunting, and fishing. However, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Ivan, Dennis, and Katrina, the school has experienced an increase of students of varying ethnicities, including African American, Hispanic, Asian Pacific, and American Indian. The increased diversity, enrollment, and backgrounds of the students provides the school with a new venue to grow and serve.

Dr. Barber has long been an advocate and pioneer regarding instructional technology. Earning her Education Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction in 2001, she conducted research to determine the implementation practices for which integrated learning systems produced the largest amount of learning gains for middle school students in reading. Based on her research, implementation practices throughout Santa Rosa County were improved. Impressive results resulted in requests to present her research and recommendations to several other Florida school districts, including Marion and Broward County. Effects of her research and implementation practices have extended well beyond Florida, and even prestigious institutions such as Harvard University sent a team of educators from the Foxborough School District to observe her programs at Chumuckla Elementary School. When FCAT simulation software was introduced in 2000, Dr. Barber developed and presented professional education for Holley-Navarre Middle School teachers, enabling them to facilitate the software effectively, increasing teacher and student learning, manifesting in higher FCAT scores at Holley-Navarre Middle School for the 2001-2002 school year. Currently, Dr. Barber, provides leadership at the district level for implementation and interpretation of on-line reading assessment for kindergarten students and the analysis of Read 180 longitudinal data.

As principal, Dr. Barber believes that as the instructional leader, she must create conditions under which students learn best, including acquiring appropriate instructional technology, providing professional development, and most of all establishing the belief *and* expectation that all students can learn and that instructional technology has the power to take students beyond the cotton and peanut fields of Chumuckla to any academic venue, profession, or corner of the universe. This philosophy is readily observable by any visitor at the school.

Chumuckla Elementary School has provided excellent academic instruction for students since 1923. However, during the past several years, under the leadership of Dr. Karen Barber, the school has been recognized not only for impressive FCAT scores, but the implementation of innovative programs that have positively affected the lives of the school's students. As a partner with the Perdido Key Creek Indian Tribe, the "Chumuckla Indians" established and live by their school wide expectations of "**Trustworthy, Respectful, Responsible Indians Believe in Excellence!**" (TRIBE), leading to recognition as a Positive Behavior Support Model School by the University of South Florida. The expectation for excellence is possible in large part due to the school's outstanding utilization of instructional technology in every aspect of the curriculum.

Implementation of Success Maker in the school's computer lab, and four student computer stations in each classroom, is not only a mainstay of the school but the standard for effective implementation throughout the district. Students participate in reading software each day and monitor their own performance. Students understand their responsibility to perform within acceptable performance levels and, along with their teachers, set goals for their own learning. For Level 1 and 2 reading students, Read 180 is provided. The effect of Read 180, and outstanding facilitation by the teachers, has been profound. Seventy-two percent of struggling readers made a year's worth of growth in 2005-2006 and 73% of struggling readers made a year's worth of growth in 2006-2007. The effective implementation of Read 180 was recognized by Scholastic who requested that Dr. Barber present the school's successful implementation strategies during the 2007 Florida Read 180 Institute. In addition to instructional technology for the struggling reader, the school utilizes STAR Reading data analysis, and although not a Reading First school, Chumuckla has provided DIBELS assessment for all students for the last four years, utilizing the PMRN. This on-line data base has provided the teachers and Dr. Barber with the information to effectively meet the needs of diverse learners. Chumuckla Elementary was also the first established school in Santa Rosa County to access Renaissance Learning, the web-based version of Accelerated Reader. Since the 2006-2007 school year, students benefit from access to the service's over 100,000 book quizzes, and parents, through the school's web site, can log onto Renaissance Learning for valuable information. Training of 4th and 5th grade students in search engines for research and an on-line homework help line is provided by the public library, as part

of the school's goal to obtain a public library card for 100% of the students and staff. To further reading and writing skills for all students, document cameras provide teachers and students with instructional tools that enhance the writing skills of students, as evidenced by the students' FCAT writing scores from 2007-2008 when 88% of our students, including students with disabilities, scored 3.5 or higher!

In mathematics instruction, Success Maker software has been implemented with students in the lab and classroom setting. This year, after careful research, Dr. Barber acquired Fastt Math for her school and provided professional development to the teachers in grades 3-6. The students are now increasing their abilities with fact fluency, which in turn affects their ability to problem solve in math and apply math to their own life setting. Utilization of the Smart Board is also prevalent at Chumuckla Elementary. In fact, Dr. Barber, after learning to use the Smart Board as an instructional tool, has personally provided training to teachers and lessons to students using this very engaging instructional tool. Chumuckla Elementary provides effective math instruction, with the assistance of technology, beyond the classroom setting. This year, Dr. Barber wrote a grant to fund a joint venture with the University of West Florida. Teachers in kindergarten through 6th grade are partnered with archaeologists at Arcadia Mill, an archaeological site. Teachers have developed lessons not only for Chumuckla Elementary students, but also for all visiting students in grades K-6 in math and science. Utilizing temperature probes, and lap top computers, students are using the scientific method to test theories related to water temperature, water velocity, and sunlight. Students at all grade levels participate in lessons incorporating digital cameras and Microsoft Excel to record, document, and participate in science and math experiences applied in an historic and natural setting.

In addition to the science activities created by the joint project with the University of West Florida, students at Chumuckla Elementary utilize on-line experiments, including cell labeling. To further bring science to life, Dr. Barber acquired the funding and arranged for Earth Adventure, a 17' satellite image globe, to visit our school. Every student was able to share the amazing experience of the Earth. Since the Earth Adventure experience, teachers and students have expanded the curriculum to many scientific web-sites, furthering their knowledge and understanding. The classroom response system is another vital instructional tool for science. Teachers utilize the system for instruction and review of the benchmarks included in FCAT Science. So effective has the science instruction been at Chumuckla that 68% of students scored level 3 or above in 2006-2007. The classroom response system is also utilized for science and math bowl competitions for grades 3-6, emphasizing the expectation of excellence that has permeated the school's culture.

Instructional technology affects the quality of instruction and health of our students during physical education. Students in fifth and sixth grade use digital heart rate monitors to record and calculate their heart rates. This year, heart rate monitors, with computer software, are also being utilized to provide students with charts and graphs to further their understanding related to cardiac health and the benefits of exercise.

Motivation is a key element for success in learning at Chumuckla Elementary. Three years ago, Dr. Barber established the "Great Gains Club" and "Movin' On Up Club" for Chumuckla Elementary students. Great Gains recognizes the students who have made the largest gains in reading and math, as measured by Success Maker. The Movin' On Up Club is an organization of students who have been identified as the Lowest 25% in math or reading and those students who just need motivation. Every morning, Dr. Barber meets with club members in the computer lab. She checks their agenda planner for a parent signature and their homework, and then students log onto the computer for a session of SME, FASTT MATH, or Smart Tutor. Students are then rewarded for their performance on the computer, as well as homework completion and parent signature.

Motivation is also abundant through the school's ITV program daily morning broadcast. Students produce each program, utilizing PowerPoint, video, and sound equipment. Students in each grade level K-6 have the opportunity to produce documentary videos that educate students on such diverse topics as power plants, the school's PBS program, and butterfly gardens. Students research using a variety of web sites, then write, photograph, film, and use a video streaming process to create documentaries that are broadcast throughout the school. The documentaries arouse interest in students regarding the topics and are a wonderful example of curriculum and technology integration.

Parent education and involvement also play a dominant role at Chumuckla Elementary. The school hosts multiple parent grade level workshops throughout the school year during which classroom teachers brief the parents and model effective instructional strategies that will enable students to master the benchmarks of the curriculum. Of course, instructional technology takes a lead role, and parents also work in our computer lab to gain experience in the same programs in which their students participate. Parents are also provided valuable instruction in internet safety.

A culture of excellence is evident throughout Chumuckla Elementary School. Through the innovative and inspiring leadership of Dr. Karen Barber, the possibilities for the students of Chumuckla are infinite. Acquisition of instructional technology is not feared but thoroughly investigated and appropriately embraced, professional development of teachers and staff is integrated, and a firm belief in every child's potential allow this rural school to not only excel, but to serve as a model for the district and state as well!