



# The Academy Times

Vol. X-VI

## Workforce Students Take On the Big Apple

Early in the morning, more than 40 Workforce Advantage Academy students and their chaperones took off from the school's campus for a flight to the Big Apple, where they saw the sights, ate New York pizza and barbeque, took in a Broadway play, and shopped in the stores at Times Square and Chinatown. Rain didn't dampen their spirits as they donned their ponchos and braved the elements to visit Ellis Island.



Above: Students check out the Ellis Island Registration Room.

Far right: Students visit the United Nations

Seniors Marcus Porche, Kathreine Perez and other students expressed their gratitude to Ken Hartsaw and the Workforce Academy team for underwriting much of the trip and making possible an otherwise unattainable travel opportunity.



Photo by: groupphotos.com

### Attend Workforce Advantage Academy

The school accepts new juniors and seniors. If you are a student or know of someone who wants the opportunity to start college or a career while still in high school, call us at 407-898-7228.

## An Enchanted Evening at the Prom



Students dined on a sumptuous buffet and danced the night away at the 2010 prom, a Night in Paris. Fellow students elected Marcus Porche prom king and Briana Johnson, prom queen (far right).

# Students Celebrate at Grad Bash

Workforce Advantage Academy seniors joined thousands of fellow students concluding their high-school experience at Universal Studios' Grad Bash 2010. It was a night to enjoy all of the rides and attractions at Islands of Adventure and the live music



and street entertainment Universal Studios booked for the special high-school seniors-only event.

# A Big Thanks to Our 2009-2010 Business

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Price Chopper  
Proccolinos  
Rue 21  
SeaWorld Orlando  
Sports Dominators  
Summer Bay Resorts  
TGI Fridays  
Tiquana Flats  
Touchstar Cinemas  
Trinity Christian Academy  
Wendy's  
White's Redhill Groves  
Winn Dixie

# Wake Up Mentoring Coaches Lifeskills

Wake Up Mentoring completed its spring lifeskills workshops at Workforce Advantage Academy. Two representatives from the Orlando-based nonprofit met weekly with two groups of about 20 students each.

"We try to help them look at the brighter picture and not focus on the negative," said Kia King, one of the mentors. "I enjoy seeing kids develop and grow."



Cheryl Parry and Kia King from Wake Up Mentoring presented workshops at the academy to help prepare students for life after graduation.

Students opened up to the pair, talking about concerns about life after high school, money issues and job skills, such as conflict resolution.

"We come in as someone they can relate to and speak freely with," said Cheryl Parry, another mentor. "Hopefully, we will reach them. We have a

passion for helping youth and enjoy mentoring them, because many of them need support and guidance."

The mentors plan to stay in contact with students, listen to their concerns and continue to point them in the right direction.

"We were glad to have Wake Up Mentoring here as an instrument for positive change in our student's lives," said Carl Merrell, Workforce Academy chief operating officer. "There's a culture shift for students to go from where they are to where they want to be, and the Wake Up mentors provide guidance from people who are near their age, but already out in the world, with successful careers, and can speak from experience."

**Please remember to patronize the businesses that support our school and hire our students.**

## Workforce Advantage Academy

### Our Mission

Our mission at Workforce Advantage Academy is to create learning environments for high school students, particularly those rising juniors and seniors who desire a different approach to reach their potential. Through attendance at Workforce Academy, our students develop the academic, employment and social skills they need to build rewarding lives and promote positive change in their communities.

Workforce Academy believes that genuine self-esteem comes from academic accomplishments that are recognized and celebrated along with personal fulfillment through strides of independence – being employed, productive citizens.

### Our Administrative Team

Kenneth E. Hartsaw, Jr.  
Belinda B. Jones  
W. Carl Merrell

Chief Executive Officer  
President/Principal  
Chief Operating Officer

Contact us at: 407-898-7228

Workforce Advantage Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

## Different Approaches to Work

For nearly a year, senior Katherine Perez has worked at the Sports Dominator retail store on International Drive. She began as a cashier and now works the floor, answering customers' questions.

"I like to help the customer and the camaraderie with my co-workers," Perez said. I've learned to have



respect and be polite, how to operate the register and handle money."

Her manager Khalid Azzaoui describes Perez as a good employee.

"She's doing an awesome job," he added. "We are very happy with her. She is always on time and does what is expected."

Seminole State College of

Florida has accepted Perez for the fall semester. She plans to become a computer engineer.

Her friend senior Ismael Mata Jr. also plans to attend Seminole State in the fall to study auto mechanics.

Mata has taken a more entrepreneurial path, delivering newsletters to elementary schools. While starting with a small route, he has the opportunity to grow his franchise and expand the delivery area.

"Workforce Academy teachers have taught me job skills and prepared me well for my first job," Mata said.

## Meet Board Member Lee Zerivitz

Orlando native Lee Zerivitz joined the Workforce Advantage Academy board of directors in 2008.

"I believe in the cause," Zerivitz said. "Offering students different educational choices is important, and the camaraderie on the board makes serving appealing."



A commercial real estate broker, Zerivitz specializes in Central Florida landlord, tenant and buyer representation. He received the trade group NAIOP's office broker of the year award in 2007 and the Central Florida Commercial Association of REALTORS broker of the year award, also in 2007.

Zerivitz, a University of Florida graduate, co-founded with his brother and later sold a 300-plus employee full-service building maintenance company. He also has developed and owned numerous commercial properties. That business ownership experience helps Zerivitz relate to real estate clients, because he understands business challenges and how real estate decisions can affect the bottom line.

## INROADS Offers Opportunity to Join College-based Program

Graduation represents not an end but a beginning and the transition to college and the workforce presents new challenges.

The INROADS Internship Program offers support and training to outstanding ethnically diverse college students to help them become the country's future corporate and community leaders. It partners with more than 270 major companies, nationwide, that provide multiyear, paid internships and mid- to upper-level executives who coach and mentor the students.

"The mission and vision Workforce Academy has for students parallels what we are trying to do," said Eli Rodriguez, an INROADS manager. "Students obtain work experience and

understand how to manage their time working for someone and be accountable."

Several Workforce Advantage Academy students plan to apply to the INROADS program, taking the internship while attending school concept to the college level.

INROADS High school senior candidates must

have a grade point average of 3.0 or better. Students must also pursue a college degree in a business, technical or health care discipline, although the organization accepts some students interested in liberal arts, law and other majors.

Students joining the program receive business leadership training. While Workforce Academy excels in preparing students with hands-on experience in the world of work, INROADS aims to take them to the next level by providing online, classroom and experiential training designed to sharpen their soft skills and corporate and community leadership skills.

"It gives them an advantage that other students don't have, and it helps them in any job," Rodriguez said.

As at Workforce Academy, INROADS tries to pair an intern with a company in his or her field of interest.

"We think working with Workforce Academy could develop into a great partnership," Rodriguez said. "The students already have experience and understand business, yet INROADS offers the college-bound a different insight and different opportunities."



# From Workforce to the Ivy League

Evan Antoine recently completed his junior year at Cornell University, where he is majoring in communication and minoring in sociology, with plans to become a New York City-based public relations professional.



“Cornell was an opportunity I thought I would never have,” Antoine said. “Workforce Academy helped me get here.”

Antoine credits the attention he received from Workforce Advantage Academy faculty and staff with establishing good study habits that led him to excel in high school and college.

“I boosted my grades, and by the end of my senior year, I had a 4.0 grade point average,” Antoine recalled. “At Valencia Community College, I kept those skills and used them to get into Cornell.”

In addition, he said the communication skills polished as a Workforce Academy intern at Publix have served him well.

“I developed interpersonal skills and learned how to find common ground,” Antoine said. “That

has helped me here, where I meet all different kinds of people. Because of that early work experience, I know what to do and say.”

Not only that, money from the sale of stock he earned as a Publix employee helped him pay for college expenses.

As with many Workforce Academy students, Antoine didn’t want to transfer from his original high school, but his mom thought the charter school would be helpful to him. Now, he is the first to acknowledge that time has proven her correct. Antoine said she’s quite proud of her son succeeding at an Ivy League institution and the doors that have opened for him.

“Without Workforce, I wouldn’t be here,” Antoine said. “I will always remember that and be thankful for Miss Jones and Mr. Hartsaw not giving up on me. College is a great experience.”

*Evan Antoine is willing to talk with current Workforce Academy students about college life and his experience as an Ivy Leaguer. Please contact the office if you are interested in talking with Antoine.*

## A Successful Leap from Law to Teaching

Life, for science teacher Marge Sum, is all about positively influencing people’s lives. She began her career as a police officer with the Orlando Police Department and retired from the force in 2005, after 26 years of service. While there, she taught a number of classes and felt education came naturally to her.



jMarge Sum and her family: Jake and Corey Bejblik, Marge Sum with Zackery, and Jacob and Christine Sum

“Knowing that there is always a end of a career there must be a beginning of another, I prepared myself for retirement by obtaining a Florida Teachers Certificate,” said Sum, who earned the renewable certificate to teach high school and middle school science in 1986 and kept it current.

Along the way, she married, raised three children.

“I love teaching, and I love teaching at this school,” Sum said.

“In the five years that I have been

teaching, I have touched so many young people. I have had more students tell me ‘thank you’ than I encountered in police work. The thank you, the ‘I wish I would have listened to you’ comments make my day. I think I am making a difference in young adults lives and that makes this job worthwhile.”

Do you have a news item for us or a story you would like us to share with others? If so, please email the idea to: [news@workforceadvantageacademy.com](mailto:news@workforceadvantageacademy.com).

Workforce Advantage Academy will soon email supplementary news summaries to keep you informed between mailings. If you would like to receive them, please email us at: [news@workforceadvantageacademy.com](mailto:news@workforceadvantageacademy.com).



# Congratulations Honor Roll Students

Setting a new record for the school, 129 students have made the Honor Roll this year, including the Principal's Honor Roll, at least one time since school started. To earn a ranking on the Honor Roll students must achieve a 3.0 grade point average and for the Principal's Honor Roll straight As, a 4.0 grade point average.



Principal's Honor Roll - B-Group Assembly Students: Alison Okamoto, Gary Fevrier, Briana Johnson, Stacy Martinez, Brenniqua Hill, and in back Christian Ford.

Principal Belinda Jones presents Caley Knai with one of her four Honor Roll certificates. Knai, a senior, earned straight-A grades throughout the school year.

Knai works at the Country Club of Orlando and plans to pursue a health care career.



Principal's Honor Roll - A-Group Assembly Students: Calisia Marks, Katherine Perez, Treca Morris, Christopher Alicea, Geneva Culbertson, Chester Woods, Caley Knai and Laterria Lampkin.

**First quarter Honor Roll:** 76 students. The following students made the Principal's Honor Roll: Christopher Alicea, Geneva Culbertson, Christian Ford, Briana Johnson, Caley Knai, Calisia Marks, Chester Woods.

**Second quarter Honor Roll:** 102 students. The following students made the Principal's Honor Roll: Christopher Alicea, Kingsley Birch Jr., Geneva Culbertson, Brenniqua Hill, Avione Johnson, Caley Knai, Christian Koch, Laterria Lampkin, Stacy Martinez, Treca Morris, Allison Okamoto, Katherine Perez, Sabrina Thompson, Cody Westerberg.

**First Semester Honor Roll:** 93 students. The following students made the Principal's Honor Roll: Christopher Alicea, Geneva Culbertson, Gary Fevrier, Brenniqua Hill, Caley Knai, Stacy Martinez, Treca Morris, Katherine Perez, Cody Westerberg.

**Third Quarter Honor Roll:** 79 students. The following students made the Principal's Honor Roll: Brenniqua Hill, Briana Johnson, Caley Knai, Stacy Martinez, Treca Morris, Allison Okamoto, Katherine Perez.