



# The Academy Times

Vol. XII-I

## School Kicks off with Business Conference

The 2011-2012 school year began at Workforce Advantage Academy with the school's annual business conference, a five-day event designed to prepare students for the world of work. The conference is based on the premise that every student is a business of one, responsible for investing in him- or herself and turning opportunities into successes.

Guest speakers offered stories of successful entrepreneurial endeavors and opportunities created through post-secondary education and tours in the military. A fried chicken luncheon, compliments of WAA CEO Ken Hartsaw capped off the week.

Businessman Matthew Costa shared with students his story of risk taking, loss and rewards, before telling them, "You can be anything you want to be. It's not what happens in life that's important but how we react."



Costa advised the students to never lie or steal but not to be afraid to make mistakes on the job.

"Questions and mistakes are how people learn," Costa said. "If you don't try new and

different things, you will never understand other people's perspectives."

Natali Shulterbrondt, Valencia College transitions coordinator, explained to students about the opportunities available through the college, including scholarship programs and the different degrees offered.

"The more education you have, the more competitive you can be," Shulterbrondt said. "Your job experience is important, but so is additional schooling."

Staff Sgt. Laparra-Carrillo discussed the myriad of jobs available in the U.S. Army and the benefits that come with a military position.

Geneva Culbertson, a 2010 graduate now attending Valencia College, shared with the new students how much she learned at Workforce Advantage Academy and how that has helped her in completing her freshman year of college.



Top: Natali Shulterbrondt discusses college options with students.

Above: Graduate Geneva Culbertson shares her thoughts with students.

Top right: Businessman Matthew Costa advises students to never lie or steal from an employer.

Right: Workforce Advantage Academy CEO passes out chicken to Victor Williams and Wesley Bailey

## Preparing for Best School Year Ever

Faculty and staff met prior to the opening of school to review objectives and set priorities.

Principal Belinda Jones began the program with a reminder about the good things the school does for the young people it serves.

"Our intent is to make our students successful," said CEO Ken Hartsaw. "We create a culture of success for the kids. We keep them engaged and help them find jobs."



Business teacher Tina Johnson presented information about her plans to help students pass the FCAT exam by building their vocabulary.

Amanda Ellis, director of Instructional Development at Orange County Public Schools, discussed the federal Race to the Top initiatives. She also shared with the teachers and staff successful strategies for setting learning goals, measuring student achievement, innovating, and adopting new strategies to address student needs.

"We must develop strategies to best succeed with students, set learning goals and measure performance" Ellis said.



Above: Tina Johnson explains her plan to help students pass the FCAT.

Right: Amanda Ellis from OCPS discusses successful learning strategies.

# Science Whiz and Human Resources Expert Join Staff

Two new teachers joined the Workforce Advantage Academy staff this year.

Brad Crouse is teaching a variety of science courses, covering the environment, human anatomy and physiology, and earth and space topics.



Brad Crouse

“You can touch, see and feel science and it effects you in every way,” Crouse said. “I enjoy bringing those topics to students and being a positive influence on young people.”

A Titusville native, Crouse received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Central Florida.

He has taught at Colonial High School and worked as an athletic trainer and in the financial industry.

Kyle Alexandre began teaching the Transition class this fall. A master’s prepared human resource expert, she brings years of experience hiring and coaching young people.



Kyle Alexandre

“I look forward to sharing my knowledge and insights with our students and to help them on their way to successful careers,” Alexandre said

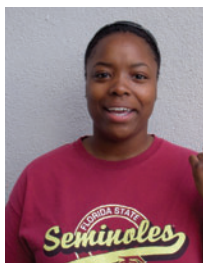
The Transition class prepares students to find work, apply for jobs and interview successfully.

It also teaches communication, customer-service and cashiering skills, all designed to make the students more employable.

## Where Are They Now?

Workforce Advantage Academy graduates are making their way in the world, embarking on new educational goals and serving our country. We are proud of their accomplishments.

### Jharisha Blackman



Jharisha Blackman

A 2007 graduate, Jharisha Blackman has completed her political science degree at Florida State University in Tallahassee and has been accepted to law school.

“The teachers and counselors at Workforce Academy encouraged and pushed me tremendously,” Blackman said. “Initially, I didn’t want to go to college, but now I am going to law school.”

### PFC Luis Cordero



Luis Cordero

Luis Cordero graduated in 2007 and worked for a while at a printing company, but last year, he decided to join the Army.

“I’m glad I went to Workforce Academy and grateful to Zerographics for giving me the employment opportunity,” Cordero said. “They helped me get where I am now.”

### Vontavis Brown



Vontavis Brown

After graduating in 2009, Vontavis Brown attended Valencia College with plans to become an architect. That goal remains, but Brown decided to enlist in the U.S. Army and receive his education as a benefit of his service. He gets off early every day to attend architecture classes, pursuing a degree that will lead to a second career.

“I love it, with all of the opportunities the Army offers,” said Brown, who recently returned from a year in Korea where he repaired vehicles.

“Workforce Academy changed my life,” Brown

said. “I wouldn’t be doing all I am doing if I hadn’t come to this school.”

### Nathan Marsh

Nathan Marsh, a 2010 graduate, completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Workforce Advantage CEO Ken Hartsaw traveled to the Lone Star State for the ceremonies.

### Brenniqua Hill

2010 graduate Brenniqua Hill is attending Valencia College, pursuing a degree in business.

## 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/Founder  
President/Principal  
COO/Business Development 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.

Fall 2011 (Oct. Vol X11, Issue 1) The Academy Times is published quarterly.

# Principal's Corner

We are excited about the start of our eighth school year, serving Orange County high school students. Just a few weeks into the new year, students are studying hard in their core classes and earning money and elective credit for their internships.

Students, I hope you keep in mind that high school is about more than just earning a diploma. It's a time to learn about your maturing talents, to pursue your dreams, to explore careers, and to discover who you are and what you want to become. We urge you to take advantage of the opportunities the school offers.

Our faculty and staff aim to inspire students and teach them what they will need to succeed academical-

ly and in the world. I thank them for their dedication, commitment and hard work.

I also want to thank the parents for working with us to ensure their children receive a fine education.

Finally, I want to acknowledge our business partners and donors. Without their support we could not carry out our mission.

I look forward to working with each of you this school year and aim to make this the best year ever.

Always expecting success,  
Belinda B. Jones, Principal

## Students Succeeding in Business by Truly Giving Their Best

All over the campus, students are sharing the news of promotions and other successes on their jobs.

### Marivette Cintron

McDonald's operator Orther Foods named senior Marivette Cintron employee of the month at the Kirkman location in July. Cintron attributes the recognition to her hard work and the how much she has come to enjoy working with customers during the past year.



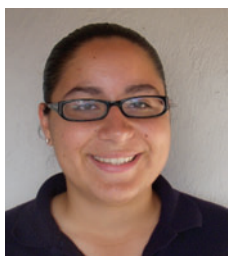
Marivette Cintron

### Jasmin Trubinski

Jasmin Trubinski calls helping keep Universal Studios Islands of Adventure looking spiffy for guests "fantastic and a relaxed way to earn great money and benefits." She enjoys working outside and takes pride in her efforts.

"I love being able to work and go to high school," Trubinski said. "It's a luxury. I'm able to help my family and take care of myself."

The junior plans to attend Valencia College after graduation.



Jasmin Trubinski

### Lamont Cardwell

For more than a year, Lamont Cardwell has snapped photos of guests at Universal Studios' Islands of Adventure for Colorvision. He also sells photos, but he's most proud of his photography skills, saying, "My photos are the best."

Cardwell worked full time during the summer school recess and said he likes having money in his pocket and the independence that affords him. He plans to study cooking with a goal of becoming a chef after graduation, and said all of his contact with customers is helping him hone communication skills that will serve him well in the restaurant business.



Lamont Cardwell

### Kyle Schouler

Senior Kyle Schouler has held a variety of food service positions at Universal's Islands of Adventure during the past 18 months. He's cross trained in stocking, cashiering and serving customers. Schouler said what he likes best is meeting guests from different places and the perks, such as free admission to the parks, that come with the job.

After graduation, Schouler plans to attend Dave's School at Universal to study digital animation and visual effects.



Kyle Schouler

### Falecete Williams

At Wet 'n Wild, Falecete Williams moved up from locker attendant to working in the ticket booth, selling admissions to people.

"I like having direct contact with the customers," Williams said. "I love my job. My boss is strict and wants things done correctly, but we have fun."



Falecete Williams

### Corshay Battle

Corshay Battle received a promotion from sales associate to cashier at the outlet store Ralph Lauren Polo. She said she enjoys the added responsibility and has learned a lot during the past year.



Corshay Battle



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## Mixing It Up with Games and Dancing at Fall Mixer



Students noshed on pizza, played video and card games, danced and got to know each other at the first Workforce Advantage Academy mixer.

