

**Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty
Francis Marion University**

NATIONAL NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS

October/November 2008 E-Brief

**To: Action Team for Partnerships (ATP)
in the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)**

**From: Markey Bee-Associate Director & NNPS School, Family, and Community Liaison
Tammy Pawloski-COE Director**

Greetings NNPS Colleagues!

Do you believe it's already October! With the 2008-2009 school year in full swing, I hope your partnership activities are also "swinging" and that this year will be the best ever in strengthening your relationships with families and the community! The FMU Center of Excellence is excited to continue the COE NNPS E-Brief this year as a way to communicate with all school members of the National Network and to support your program of school, family and community partnerships. The E-Brief is intended to:

- Provide information about COE and NNPS professional development opportunities
- Update you on available research, materials and funding
- Share school successes and promising practices.

The COE NNPS E-Brief will be disseminated quarterly throughout the school year. Most importantly, we want to hear more from you! **Please send us news about your school's partnership activities so that we can continue to spread the word about your good work and progress on partnerships.**

Center of Excellence Wins National NNPS Award!

The Center of Excellence has won the *2008 Partnership Organization Award* from the **National Network of Partnership Schools**. The COE was honored for making excellent progress in guiding districts and schools to develop comprehensive programs of school, family and community partnerships.

The COE staff is appreciative of the award and the acknowledgement of their efforts to help districts and schools improve their plans and programs of family and community involvement to support school improvement goals. In addition to receiving the award, the COE activity, "*An Organization E-Brief*", was selected for publication in the new 2008 edition of *Promising Partnership Practices*.

Plan to Attend
Family and Community Partnership Day
Help Students Succeed!

November 19, 2008 8:30-5:30 Pee Dee Education Center

The Center of Excellence invites you to enjoy a day of professional development on topics that will help increase the quality of your family and community partnership programs and practices. Senior Program Facilitator at the National Network of Partnerships Schools, Marsha D. Greenfeld will be the guest speaker for each of the events. Marsha Greenfeld provides professional development to help leaders in districts, states, organizations, and school teams to implement and maintain goal-linked programs of family and community involvement. She is the representative for NNPS members in the eastern half of the United States. **Highlights of the day include the following sessions:**

<p>8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Workshop for NNPS Action-Team Members:</i> <i>“Homework Connects Students, Families, and Teachers”</i> Learn about the research on homework and how to make school homework practices more student and family-friendly. In this session, the NNPS program, “Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork” (TIPS) process will be examined. TIPS features homework assignments that require students to talk to someone at home about something interesting that they are learning in class. TIPS helps teachers keep families informed and involved in their children’s learning and helps more students complete their homework. With TIPS, homework becomes a three-way partnership involving students, families, and teachers.</p>
<p>12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Luncheon for NNPS School Action-Team Members</i> Join Marsha Greenfeld and the Center of Excellence for a Special NNPS Recognition Luncheon. The COE would like to recognize NNPS Action Team members (principals, teachers, parents and other school personnel, and community members) for your commitment to increasing the achievement of children by partnering with all families and the community to support your schools goals. RSVP by email at coe@fmarion.edu.</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Workshop for FMU Students and Faculty:</i> <i>“Connecting with Families: The Six Keys to Success”</i> Marsha Greenfeld will present NNPS research-based framework of six types of involvement needed in a comprehensive program of partnerships: Parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, Learning at Home, Decision-Making, and Collaborating with the Community.</p>
<p>4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>COE Fall 08 Colloquium:</i> <i>“Climate of Partnerships :Creating a Welcoming School Environment”</i> How friendly is your school/classroom? Do parents feel welcome? Do parents understand school policies and practices? The Center of Excellence Fall 2008 Colloquium topic is “Climate of Partnerships: Creating a Welcoming School Environment.” With a welcoming atmosphere, schools make families feel more comfortable and let them know they are important partners in their children’s education. When schools are inviting to families, they are more likely to get involved. In this interactive session, Marsha Greenfeld, will explore what we know about how to make schools and classrooms more “family-friendly” and how to create a school atmosphere that welcomes all families.</p>

Spotlight on Creek Bridge High School! *2008 Promising Partnership Practices*

Congratulations to Creek Bridge High School for being featured in the NNPS 2008 edition of *Promising Partnership Practices* for their activity “Reading Counts Book Review Celebration”. This annual NNPS collection highlights successful activities and practices that show how good planning and dedicated teamwork by educators, parents, and other partners help create welcoming schools and increase student learning and development.

Remember as an NNPS member school, you receive a **free copy** of *Promising Partnership Practices* each year. If you did not receive your copy during September when they were mailed, contact the National Network at 410- 516-2318.

Way to Go Creek Bridge High School!

Mark Your Calendars *COE 2008-2009 Events*

October 15	NNPS One-Day New Member Team Training 8:00-3:00 Pee Dee Education Center
November 4-5	Leadership Development Conference John Hopkins University – Baltimore
November 19	Family and Community Partnership Day: Help Students Succeed! 8:00-5:30 Pee Dee Education Center
January 24	COE Spring Workshop 8:00-12:00 Chapman Auditorium
April 8	NNPS One-Day New Member Team Training 8:00-3:00 Pee Dee Education Center
April 22	NNPS End-of-Year Breakfast Celebration 8:30-11:00 Pee Dee Education Center

Please remember that we are always available to assist you! We hope to see you at all of our upcoming events!

Working Together for Student Success,

Markey and Tammy

Thank you in advance for distributing this e-brief to all school ATP members!