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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **STUDENTS AND TEACHERS BENEFIT FOR OVER 25 YEARS IN OSCEOLA COUNTY**

### *The Education Foundation Celebrates 25 years in Osceola County.*

**February 10, 2010 —Kissimmee, FL** In 1985, the Osceola County business community and the School District came together to form a partnership designed to bolster the efforts of schools in creating quality education. This partnership produced The Education Foundation ~ Osceola County.

The initial mission of the Foundation included providing mini-grants to teachers for innovative classroom programs and supporting district efforts to recruit quality educators. Today, 25 years later, the Foundation is a solid, non-profit organization led by a 37-member board of directors made up of business, government and community leaders. This board has increased the programs of the Foundation by serving educators, district staff, students, and families in their efforts to give Osceola County's students the best education possible.

"The Education Foundation ~ Osceola County continues to be an amazing partner and supporter of the Osceola School District by bringing together community resources to enhance learning-enriched opportunities and experiences for children and teachers in our schools," said Superintendent Dr. Michael A. Grego. "Over the last 25 years, they have united our community in support of a quality public education."

Over the years, the Foundation has:

- Awarded over 1,800 college scholarships, valued at over \$2,267,000 to graduating high school seniors.
- Distributed over \$4,500,000 in donated school supplies to help Osceola County's neediest children through A Gift For Teaching, a free store for teachers.
- Provided trained mentors to over 500 children through two mentoring programs – Bookmark Buddies and Take Stock In Children.
- Connected students with more than \$1,000,000 in outside scholarships through the Scholarship Counseling program.
- Provided \$833,000 for teacher mini-grants and for student achievement programs.
- Sponsored recognition programs and events in an effort to retain quality teachers and district employees.

Dr. Paul Kinser, retired Provost for Valencia Community College, serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors. "The Education Foundation gets our kids to college with the help of a \$2000 scholarship---now that's economic development at its finest."

Throughout 2010, the Education Foundation will have a series of celebrations to mark their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. Look for upcoming announcements on how the Education Foundation is celebrating in our community. For more information, log on to [www.foundationosceola.org](http://www.foundationosceola.org)

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The **Education Foundation-Osceola County** is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting public education, teachers and students. Led by a volunteer board of directors, the Foundation currently awards over one-hundred thirty (\$2,000) scholarships each year to Osceola County graduates. Other important accomplishments include matching children with mentors through the Take Stock in Children and Bookmark Buddies programs, providing classroom supplies to needy students and eligible teachers at no cost through a teacher free store, as well as providing classroom project grants and hosting special appreciation events for Osceola County educators and students. Visit our Web site at [www.foundationosceola.org](http://www.foundationosceola.org) for more information.

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