

For immediate release

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**FLORIDA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL
RECOGNITION**

Broward County, FL – March 4, 2009 – The Charter School of Excellence in Broward County was just awarded the New Leaders for New Schools' Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC) program grant / Gold-gain award from the National Charter School Consortium for dramatically improving students' academic performance.

Recognized for its high student achievement gain on the Florida achievement tests between the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years, the Charter School of Excellence -- a K-5th grade public charter school -- was among the 21 highest ranked charter schools of the 144 schools in the EPIC National Charter School Consortium and the only elementary school in the nation to receive the Gold-EPIC award. Educators at the school will receive financial rewards of \$4,000 in exchange for working with New Leaders for New Schools to document and share the practices that led to the award-winning gains.

EPIC is unique in that the program compares charter school achievement gain across states and financially rewards educators for sharing their effective practices. EPIC is in its second year of a five-year grant funded primarily by the federal government. Schools have the opportunity to win in multiple years. EPIC awards are based on the progress a school's students make over time, rather than overall proficiency rates. In this way, EPIC identifies and rewards schools that have had a clear impact on their students' learning. Additional information on the EPIC program can be found at www.nlms.org/epic.jsp.

An "A" school for six consecutive years, the Charter School of Excellence is one of the top ten performing public schools in Florida, and was recently named a National Blue Ribbon school by the Department of Education. It currently serves more than 300 students in its downtown Ft. Lauderdale campus. In August 2008, a second K-5th grade campus opened in the Davie / Pembroke Pines area.

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