

## Centers of Excellence: Timeline

- March 20, 2006 - WorkNet Pinellas sponsors first of several bus tours for Pinellas County guidance counselors to demonstrate business and career opportunities available to students interested in a technical field.
- April 12, 2006 - Progress Energy sponsored a trip for Pinellas County educators to Okaloosa County to observe its K-12 workforce “CHOICE” programs, considered some of the best in the state.
- April 27, 2006 - Florida House of Representatives Bill 513 passed by a vote of 118-0. Sponsored by Rep. Bilirakis, the Bill mandates the creation of Career & Professional Academies in Florida high schools, requiring the Department of Education to establish a “CHOICE” initiative patterned after the “CHOICE” Academies in Okaloosa County.
- 2006 - Superintendent Wilcox conducts internal survey of high school students in Pinellas County, focusing on career education. Findings support Centers of Excellence model.
- October 16, 2006 - Pinellas Education Foundation committee members, school board members and the PTA president visit Okaloosa school district.
- November 2006 – Pinellas Education Foundation hosts educational workshop on Centers of Excellence for School Board members.
- December 18, 2006 - Pinellas Education Foundation presents a “K-12 White Paper on Career Education” calling for rigorous, relevant, research-based career education in Pinellas County high schools, modeled after the “CHOICE” program in Okaloosa.
- Early 2007 - Superintendent Wilcox publishes “A response to K-12 Career Education White Paper” endorsing the findings of the Pinellas Education Foundation, naming the program “Centers of Excellence.”
- January 23, 2007 - Pinellas County School Board unanimously approves the “Centers of Excellence” initiative. The meeting is attended by 77 corporate and community leaders who endorse the plan. (*see list on page x*)
- May 30, 2007 – Career Education Fund Board of Trustees holds inaugural meeting at Bayou Club in Largo. (*see page x for list of members and purpose*)
- July 1, 2007 - Florida State Legislature (Senate Bill 1232) passes the Florida Career and Professional Education Act (FCPEA) to provide a statewide planning partnership between business and education communities, establishing career and professional academies enabling students to matriculate easily to both postsecondary education and the workforce.

## **Centers of Excellence: Goals**

In Pinellas County High Schools:

- By 2007 - 2008: 3 Centers of Excellence
- By 2008 - 2009: 8 Centers of Excellence
- By 2009 - 2010: 16 Centers of Excellence  
(representing all Pinellas County High Schools)
- By 2010 - 2011: 4 Additional Centers of Excellence