

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June XX, 2008

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**PREDOMINANTLY HISPANIC CHARTER SCHOOL NAMED AMONG
NATION'S BEST**

*Mater Academy High School in Miami-Dade County makes Newsweek's
"America's Top Public High Schools" List*

MIAMI, FL, June XX, 2008 - Academica, one of the largest, high-performing charter school service and support organizations in the country, announced that Mater Academy Charter High School was listed among the nation's top 1,300 high schools, as reported by Newsweek Magazine's recent ranking of "America's Top Public High Schools."

Mater Academy – a public charter school which serves predominantly Hispanic families - - was ranked number 228, placing it in the top 1% of public high schools across the nation. Newsweek compiled this list out of more than 18,000 public high schools in the country, evaluating each institutions graduation rates, percentage of students passing advanced placement (AP) exams, and participation in dual enrollment courses.

Located in Hialeah Gardens, a predominantly Hispanic community, Mater Academy Charter High School continuously defies expectations. For the past several years, the school's graduation rate has exceeded 95 percent—way above state and national averages for Hispanics. This school year, approximately 100 students participated in dual enrollment classes offered at Mater Academy in partnership with Miami Dade College. Thirteen of those students will graduate high school having already earned enough college credits to qualify for a 2-year college degree. Serving approximately 1,400 students, Mater Academy was also ranked as one of the best public schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in December 2007.

"Mater Academy is an exemplary school, and we are so proud to know it has received this extraordinary recognition," said Fernando Zulueta, president of Academica. "This is a testament to the years of hard work and dedication of the students, parents, and staff."

Academica's winning business formula has played a major role in the success of Mater Academy and all charter schools under their management. Academica takes care of administrative duties such as payroll, budgeting, accounting and facility maintenance, which allow school principals and teachers to focus on providing top-notch education for their students.

Academica is a charter school service and support organization that works with schools in Florida, Utah and Texas. It was founded in 1999 on the principle that each charter school is a unique educational environment governed by an independent board of directors that best knows the right path for its school. Academica's goal is to facilitate the governing board's vision.

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