



ONLY ONE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL EARNS NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

Mater Academy East Charter Elementary named a 2010 Blue Ribbon School recipient

Miami-Dade County, FL – Thursday, September 9, 2010

Today, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized 304 schools as 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Among the list of high-performing schools is Mater Academy East Charter Elementary School located at 450 SW 4th Street in Little Havana. The award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement especially among disadvantaged and minority students.

For more than ten years, Mater Academy East, a public charter school, has been dedicated to helping students make academic gains and close the achievement gap between minority and non-minority students. In 2010, Mater Academy East – a Title 1 school – earned an “A” on the Florida state exam for the 6th consecutive year and also achieved AYP yearly.

In 2008, Mater Academy East was ranked the 5th highest-performing public elementary school in Miami-Dade County (based on the points received under the State of Florida Accountability Program) and its students earned the highest Science score in the entire school district, with Writing coming in 3rd among the entire public school district. The school has received a “School Recognition Award” from the State of Florida and the “Superintendent’s Platinum Award” for its achievements. “We are honored to be a recipient of the Blue Ribbon Award,” said Betty Riera, Principal, Mater Academy East Elementary School. “This award is a tribute to all of our teachers and administrators who are never complacent and always finding innovative ways to reach and teach our students. It is also a testament to our students and parents who have been our partners on the road to academic success.” “Our nation has a responsibility to help all children realize their full potential,” Secretary Duncan said at the announcement, “schools honored with the Blue Ribbon Schools award are committed to achievement and to ensuring that students learn and succeed.

Their work reflects the conviction that every child has promise and must receive a quality education.” The Blue Ribbon Awards ceremony is scheduled to take place on November 15-16 in Washington, D.C. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals, including those that beat the odds.

A complete list of 2010 Blue Ribbon Schools is available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html>.