One story that was heard over and over was that best to support their work on behalf of children. Listening to the teachers in order to understand how in some of the poorest communities in the state and the Center had spent a year visiting elementary schools that our work had much in common. The Lastinger Center had formed from a network of colleagues who strongly seek partnerships with organizations that provide support, the work of the Lastinger Center actively focus on training coaches and providing follow-up and communities. Although Linda and I primarily on positive interdependence. We continue to learn much from each other, and are working hard to maintain and expand our work with schools throughout Florida. The Lastinger Center, the NSRF Center of Activity in Florida, is currently working in 39 schools in 5 different districts (Alachua, Collier, Duval, Miami-Dade and Pinellas). We have about eleven university faculty and doctoral students, along with a growing number of NSRF National Facilitators and school-level coaches, working with us in our center. We have 3 levels of measurement to assess center effectiveness (internal team, external team, and grant-sponsored evaluation) which will help us to determine the impact of our work on teachers, schools, principals, and of course, student achievement. Preliminary research results indicate that our Lastinger Schools, when compared with matched control group schools, show significant differences in student achievement scores on Florida’s Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in math and reading.

We are especially proud of the fact that we actively seek to work with under-resourced schools and communities. Although Linda and I primarily focus on training coaches and providing follow-up support, the work of the Lastinger Center actively seeks partnerships with organizations that provide a wide array of critical services for the students. For example, President of the Center, the Lastinger Center, together with Collier County Public Schools, The Education Foundation of Collier County, the Naples Children and Education Foundation, the Immmokalee Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Collier County, are collaborating in a broad effort to improve student achievement and child well-being in Collier County. This effort is multi-faceted and includes intensive work in Immokalee elementary schools, an executive program for district administrators, increased access to health and dental care for low-income children, and increasing the availability of quality preschool education for Immokalee children. Immokalee is one of the poorest communities in the nation, with close to 40% of its population living below the poverty line. Since 1997, investigations by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department have prosecuted six slavery cases in Florida’s produce fields - freeing over a thousand workers held against their will. The work of the Florida Center of Activity is profoundly satisfying for all of us. It is also intense and difficult work fraught with disappointment and constant struggle. Indeed, all of us in the NSRF know something of how hard it is to do authentic work in real contexts. That is the one thing that separates us from so many others who have joined the collaboration hand-in-hand in recent years.

And for those of you reading this at the 12th Annual NSRF Winter Meeting, all of us here at the Florida Center of Activity welcome you to Florida! We know that as we engage each other in thoughtful and challenging conversations, we will all be smarter, stronger, and more courageous than we were when we arrived.

Peggy Silva can be reached at psilva@sprise.com

Winter Privilege DNA (continued from page 10)

For more information about the work of the NSRF Florida Center of Activity visit

www.coe.ufl.edu/centers/lastinger/index.html
Pedro Bermudez may be contacted at pbermudez@dadeschools.net
and Linda Emm at lemml@dadeschools.net
As we prepare to come together for the 12th Annual NSRF Winter Meeting in Tampa Bay, Florida this December, we want to provide you with a brief snapshot of the work of the Florida Center of Activity. We were fortunate to have gotten an early start with the work of the NSRF in 1995 and by the time funding for NSRF Coaches training ran out, we had built a small cadre of trained coaches working in a cluster of schools. To this day, most of these individuals are still actively engaged in CFT work—work that, in a multitude of ways, has transformed our personal and professional lives.

Like many other “Centers” of Activity, we formed from a network of colleagues who strongly believed in a new way of working and learning together that had not yet been embraced by the prevailing culture of our district. Indeed, some saw us as a band of subversives whose methods were so radical that our true motives had to be suspect. Still, like Jim Collins’ Hedgehog in Good to Great, we remained focused on our “one big thing.” With the support of key individuals in the district—our “embedded champions,” we grew in numbers.

Five years ago, we had the good fortune to meet Don Pemberton, Director of the Lastinger Communities CFG Coaches Institute. After sharing our dreams and comparing notes, we soon realized that our work had much in common. The Lastinger Center had spent a year visiting elementary schools in 5 different districts (Alachua, Collier, Duval, Miami-Dade and Pinellas). We have about eleven university faculty and doctoral students, along with a growing number of NSRF National Facilitators and school-level coaches, working with us in our center. We have 3 levels of measurement to assess center effectiveness (internal team, external team, and grant-sponsored evaluation) which will help us to determine the impact of our work on teachers, schools, principals, and of course STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. Preliminary research indicates that our Lastinger Schools, when compared with matched control-group schools, show significant differences in student achievement scores on Florida’s Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in math and reading.

We are especially proud of the fact that we actively seek to work with under-resourced schools and communities. Although Linda and I primarily focus on training coaches and providing follow-up support, the work of the Lastinger Center actively seeks partnerships with organizations that provide a wide array of critical services for the students. For example, for many years, the Lastinger Center has worked in the Florida Immokalee community. Immokalee is one of the poorest communities in the nation, with close to 40% of its population living below the poverty line. Since 1997, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department have prosecuted six slavery cases in Florida’s produce fields—freeing over a thousand workers held against their will. The work of the Florida Center of Activity is profoundly satisfying for all of us. It is also intense and difficult work fraught with disappointment and constant struggle. Indeed, all of us in the NSRF know something about how hard it is to do authentic work in real contexts. That is the one thing that separates us from so many others who have joined the collaboration hand-in-hand in recent years. And for those of you reading this at the 12th Annual NSRF Winter Meeting, all of us here at the Florida Center of Activity welcome you to Florida! We know that as we engage each other in thought and in challenging conversations, we will all be smarter, stronger, and more courageous than we were when we arrived.

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White Privilege DNA

Using Protocols with Students... (continued from page 10)

ready to move on. As readers, they did not need the second and third paragraphs of this piece to understand the writer’s point of view. They could see immediately that that was more helpful to the writer than the word “staring.”

After the first two weeks of Writing Workshop, my presence as teacher fades as we become fellow writers striving to improve our work.

The Writing Workshop Feedback Protocol can be found on our website: www.nstharmONY.org, in our protocol section.

Peggy Silva can be reached at psilva@sprine.com

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Center of Activity: Florida (continued from page 6)

Center, together with Collier County Public Schools, The Education Foundation of Collier County, the Naples Children and Education Foundation, the Immokalee Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Collier County, are collaborating in a broad effort to improve student achievement and child well-being in Collier County. This effort is multifacted and includes intensive work in Immokalee elementary schools, an executive doctoral program for district administrators, improved access to health and dental care for low-income children, and increasing the availability of quality preschool education for Immokalee children. Immokalee is one of the poorest communities in the nation, with close to 40% of its population living below the poverty line. Since 1997, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department have prosecuted six slavery cases in Florida’s produce fields—freeing over a thousand workers held against their will. The work of the Florida Center of Activity is profoundly satisfying for all of us. It is also intense and difficult work fraught with disappointment and constant struggle. Indeed, all of us in the NSRF know something about how hard it is to do authentic work in real contexts. That is the one thing that separates us from so many others who have joined the collaboration hand-in-hand in recent years. And for those of you reading this at the 12th Annual NSRF Winter Meeting, all of us here at the Florida Center of Activity welcome you to Florida! We know that as we engage each other in thought and in challenging conversations, we will all be smarter, stronger, and more courageous than we were when we arrived.

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