



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate release**

#### **Gateway Charter School Staff Member Selected as Top Team Member in the State**

FORT MYERS, Fla. (August 17, 2009) – Emma Canizares, executive secretary at [Gateway Charter School](#), has been named Team Member the Year by [Charter Schools USA \(CSUSA\)](#) at its annual Summit. The award is given to an individual who is nominated by peers for his or her professionalism and overall excellence. Once nominated, candidates are evaluated by sister schools where winning nominations are sent to the corporate executive team and ultimately the vice-president of education for the final decision.

Although Canizares' job description is executive secretary, she is known at the school for doing much more. Credited for her calm demeanor and strong organizational skills, she was nominated based on her ability to find solutions and lend a hand whenever and wherever needed.

"Emma attends nearly every school function and is the first to jump in to help – even in difficult or complex situations," says Sherry Hage, vice president of education. "She presents an air of professionalism and calmness that help any situation be handled properly."

Canizares has worked at Gateway Charter School for five years and handles the Free and Reduced Lunch Programs, daily student attendance, and is a master at matching volunteer talents with needs. Her enduring energy, professionalism, and unwavering positive approach have made her an invaluable asset and highly respected member of the school.

(END)

#### **Media contact:**

**Colleen Reynolds, APR** – Edge Communications – (239) 849-6400 – for interviews or additional information.