



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate release

Keys Gate Charter School Teacher Named Top New Educator in the State

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (August 17, 2009) – Chelsea Mattox-Blanco, a fourth grade teacher at [Keys Gate Charter School](#) has been named New Educator of 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, creativity and overall excellence as a new educator. 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.

Blanco was chosen as new educator of the year because of her creativity and positive demeanor. Performing like a veteran teacher, according to her peers, she creates themed adventures with her classes that even include theme-related snacks. She is recognized for her compassion and student-based concerns and maintains focus on student achievement. Her professionalism, classroom management and organizational skills are recognized and admired by her peers.

“Chelsea is a teacher whose fresh ideas and creativity inspire even those with years of experience,” says Sherry Hage, vice president of education at CSUSA. “Her enthusiasm is contagious and her professionalism is to be commended, especially at such an early stage in her career.”

A graduate from the University of Miami, she has had a passion for teaching children since high school and has utilized her talents to help teach swimming to community children during the summer months. She serves as a positive role model for her students and strongly believes that her role as teacher is the most important job in the world since teachers are responsible for educating leaders of the future.

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