

7-18-2002

Press release : 2002 : 07 : 18 : Verizon awards \$125,000 grant to USF St. Petersburg for literacy programs in Pinellas County schools

Barbara Frye

Bob Elek

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases

Recommended Citation

Frye, Barbara and Elek, Bob, "Press release : 2002 : 07 : 18 : Verizon awards \$125,000 grant to USF St. Petersburg for literacy programs in Pinellas County schools" (2002). *USFSP News and Press Releases*. 885.
https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases/885

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the University Advancement at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in USFSP News and Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.

Media Contact: Deborah Kurelik
(727) 553-3458

Verizon awards \$125,000 grant to USF St. Petersburg for literacy programs in Pinellas County schools

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (July 18, 2002) -- The University of South Florida St. Petersburg's College of Education has received a \$125,000 grant from Verizon Foundation to improve student achievement in reading at three Pinellas County elementary schools.

The grant will be used to improve reading achievement by implementing two programs in local schools. At Lakewood Elementary School, the grant will be used as part of the national Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement school reform effort that helps arm teachers at all grade levels with better strategies for teaching reading.

The second program focuses on early intervention at the second-grade level and will be implemented at Campbell Park and Fairmont Park Elementary Schools as well as Lakewood.

It includes developing a model that will help second-grade teachers effectively reach struggling readers and accelerate their progress. The grant will fund a reading coach who will be responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of the second-grade model while also coaching other teachers at Lakewood. Barbara Frye, an elementary education professor at USF St. Petersburg, is facilitating the grant and will work closely with the participating teachers. Frye also co-developed the Accelerated Literacy Learning Program, referred to as the Early Success Program in Pinellas County, a first-grade early intervention program now utilized in 10 Florida and two Kansas counties.

Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon communications, is committed to helping Verizon employees, customers and the communities in which they work and live make progress every day. The foundation supports a variety of programs that focus on improving basic and computer literacy, bridging the digital divide, enriching communities through technology and creating a skilled work force. The foundation promotes partnerships in technology with organizations serving the needs of diverse communities, people with disabilities, and the economically and socially

disadvantaged. The foundation also supports Verizon Volunteers, an incentive program that encourages Verizon employees to volunteer in their communities and provides matching gifts to nonprofit organizations. For more information on the foundation, visit www.verizon.com/foundation.

Contact: USF St. Petersburg
Barbara Frye
College of Education
(727) 553-1574

Verizon
Bob Elek
(813) 483-2541
bob.elek@verizon.com