



PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 5, 2003

**Contact:**  
Kimberley Collins 850-321-5549  
Dr. Barbara Savage 386-734-3005

**PRESIDENT BUSH AND EDUCATION SECRETARY PAIGE RECOGNIZE  
ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL WITH  
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD**

*School is the First in DeLand to Win Prestigious National Award*

**DELAND, Fla. (Nov. 5, 2003)** — Students, faculty, staff, local and state dignitaries came together at St. Barnabas Episcopal School Wednesday morning to celebrate the school's receipt of the *No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award*. The award was presented in person to school administrators on Friday, Oct. 31 by Assistant Secretary of Education Laurie Rich. To celebrate its new home, students participated in a variety of celebratory events such as a flag raising ceremony, a plaque unveiling and a proclamation by Mayor Robert Apgar.

St. Barnabas Episcopal School is one of just 47 private schools to receive the national *No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award*, and the first in DeLand. The award is given to K-12 schools, public and private, that are either academically superior in their state or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. St. Barnabas received the award based on scores on the nationally standardized Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The results, based on four years worth of data, placed St. Barnabas at, or above, the top 10 percent in the nation.

"This is a huge honor for our school and the city of DeLand," said Karen Lyon, Head of St. Barnabas School. "We are humbled and exhilarated by the fact that the President himself took time to recognize the strengths this school brings to the table. We believe the award reiterates the commitment to accountability that our faculty, staff, parents, students, and our entire school community, have towards our students."

- more -

***St. Barnabas National Award***

***Page Two***

St. Barnabas has 346 students and is one of hundreds of Florida schools that educate students on Corporate Tax Credit Scholarships. A dozen students attend the school on the Scholarships and one recipient, Nistashia, was honored today by helping Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship donors to raise the new flag given to the school by Secretary Paige during the DC ceremonies.

“Without this program, I would not be privileged to have this opportunity,” said Nistashia Esque, an eight grader attending St. Barnabas on a Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship. “It is an opportunity that will have a very positive effect on the rest of my life.”

The school identified the following factors as key to their success: faculty, Integrative Thematic Instruction and Teaching to the Multiple Intelligences, concentrating on teaching a strong, rigorous curriculum, high expectations for the students and administrative leadership.

The Blue Ribbon School of Excellence program was first created by the US Secretary of Education in 1982. The purpose of the National Blue Ribbon Schools program is to identify and honor America’s outstanding public and private schools, while encouraging other schools and communities to look to them for ideas and inspiration. The program has been re-created as the *No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Award* program.

###