



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **School Board of Manatee County**

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## **INNOVATIVE NEW ePIE SYSTEM MAKES BECOMING A BUSINESS PARTNER AS EASY AS PIE**

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**(Bradenton, FL. – November 16, 2009)** Creating a business partnership with a school in Manatee County has never been easier thanks to the development of an innovative and convenient web-based application known as ePIE – where PIE stands for Partners in Education.

The new application, which will be available to all businesses in Manatee County and encompass every school in the Manatee District, will be officially unveiled during a 9 a.m. assembly at Palma Sola Elementary School this Wednesday, November 18, 2009. The assembly will honor Palma Sola's Business Partners and is part of the school's American Education Week festivities. Wednesday has been designated as Career Day at Palma Sola and students are encouraged to come to school dressed in career attire. Following the assembly, Palma Sola's business partners will be taken to the school's computer lab where they will be formally introduced to ePIE.

“The beauty of ePIE is that it eliminates time-consuming paperwork and allows businesses and organizations the ability to register as a business partner by simply clicking on an ePIE icon on the school district's website,” said Dawn Lengel, Business Partner Coordinator for the Manatee School District. “Once a business or organization is registered, ePIE helps them form relationships that enhance student learning and promote school involvement in the community. Through successful Partnerships in Education, schools and businesses are able to develop unique methods of accomplishing educational goals that would not be possible otherwise, especially in these trying economic times.”

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The development of ePIE was a collaborative effort involving the Manatee County School District's Office of Community and Press Relations, the Manatee Chamber of Commerce and Webtivity, a Bradenton-based website design company.

“The School District and the Manatee Chamber of Commerce teamed up to create the original Business-Education partnership program almost 20 years ago,” said Jacki Dezelski, Vice President of the Manatee Chamber. “With more than 300 partnerships flourishing locally, our students and community reap the benefits of an involved, committed business community. ePIE is the next step and will bring the partnership program into the digital world.”

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