



PRESS RELEASE
Friday, October 7, 2011

Mercedes Cosby – LEAP Spokesperson in Monroe

Mercedes Cosby has been selected as LEAP Spokesperson in Monroe County. LEAP stands for Leadership, Excellence, Accelerating Potential. LEAP helps high school students, college students, and recent graduates, get a LEAP on success. The organization hosts an annual week long leadership program at UCLA where the curriculum is based upon the experience of those who themselves have accomplished a great success.

“I was so lucky to meet leaders who have motivated me to be the best I can be,” says Mercedes. “I was the first student from Monroe to participate in LEAP.” She spent a week this past August in Los Angeles, living in UCLA dormitories, and successfully finished the LEAP curriculum. “I worked to save money to buy my own air ticket to Los Angeles, and qualified for a scholarship because of my success in the Take Stock in Children program in Monroe.” Mercedes also stated, “along with using the great memory techniques I was taught, I tell my friends I am an eagle that happens to be a 10; therefore, I don’t have time to be a turkey. When you are a 10, you are always a 10, I tell myself daily I am a 10, and I am always soaring like an eagle.” She is a sophomore in Key West high school.

On October 4th, John Padget (President of the Monroe County Education Foundation), Dr. Jesus Jara (Monroe County School Superintendent), Jeremy Wilkerson (Take Stock Assistant Project Coordinator) and Dresdin Edwards-Bray (Take Stock Program Coordinator) had lunch with Mercedes Cosby. Dr. Jara asked Mercedes to spread the word and promote LEAP in all the high schools.

Mercedes has been appointed as LEAP spokesperson and will assist Mr. Wilkerson who is the LEAP County Coordinator. Mr. Wilkerson will be working with Mercedes to get more students accepted into LEAP in August 2012. Any student can apply, and Take Stock in Children scholars may be awarded a scholarship.

“The Monroe County Education Foundation (MCEF) promotes two summer programs for Monroe high school students,” according to Padget. “The popular Experiment in International Living (EIL) just completed its fifth year, and now LEAP has been added. All Monroe Monroe County students can apply for both programs and we expect both to grow in 2012.”

LEAP - Leadership, Excellence, Accelerating Potential

University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

July 30th – Aug 5th, 2012

<http://www.leapfoundationusa.org/>

For information on both LEAP and EIL, contact Jeremy Wilkerson at 305-293-1546, or email:

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*Attached photo –Front – Mercedes Cosby (Take Stock 10th grade scholar at Key West High School & LEAP Spokesperson) Back: Jeremy Wilkerson, Dr. Jesus Jara, and John Padget at Salute Restaurant, Key West, FL

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