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Miami business leaders take the public-school teaching challenge

Wells Fargo teams up with The Education Fund on the 2021-22 Teach-A-Thon.

MIAMI (Jan. 17, 2022) – The Education Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing innovative programs for public school students and educators in Miami-Dade County, launched its annual teaching challenge, enlisting more than 100 business professionals to test their savvy and skill and teach an hour in local schools.

The Education Fund Teach-A-Thon presented by Wells Fargo seeks to build understanding for the teaching profession, a profession sorely tested by COVID-19.

“The experience is eye-opening, allowing business professionals to experience the job educators do every day. Our guest educators will walk away with a new perspective on the teaching profession and the amount of effort it takes to educate the next generation especially in today’s classroom environment,” says Linda Lecht, president of The Education Fund.

The Teach-A-Thon experience spans all grades K-12 and professions. Each volunteer selects the grade level, subject, and geographic area where they wish to teach, and they’re matched with an educator. This year, the Teach-A-Thon will be mostly virtual to ensure the safety of the students and our guest teachers. Who is stepping up to the Teach-A-Thon teaching challenge?

Business professionals from Wells Fargo, Assurant, Kaufman Rossin, Assurant, Sapoznik Insurance, and dozens of other businesses have signed up to teach throughout January and February. Already, many top executives have committed to teaching, including Hector Ponte, Wells Fargo, Victor Benitez, Gus Machado Ford of Hialeah, Pablo Pino, TD Bank, Rachel Sapoznik, Sapoznik Insurance, Scott Denight, Badia Spices, and Angela Burgess, Assurant.

“As a proud graduate of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, a father of three public school graduates, and the son, husband and father of teachers, participating in the Teach-A-Thon provides a perspective like none other,” says Hector Ponte, region bank president of Southeast Florida for Wells Fargo. “You’ll see the level of preparation that’s involved and witness the important work educators are responsible for in our community.”

All Teach-A-Thon volunteers raise money to benefit The Education Fund’s work in public schools in Miami-Dade County where it runs programs for both students and teachers.

To donate to the 2021-22 Teach-A-Thon, visit educationfund.org/teachathon. Follow our volunteers’ efforts on social media:

- Facebook, Instagram, TikTok: @educationfundmiami
- Twitter: @educationfund
- LinkedIn: education-fund-miami

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About The Education Fund: Raising more than \$61+ million to improve education for public school students and teachers in Miami-Dade County, The Education Fund focuses on bringing innovative methods to our schools; informing the community about public education; and encouraging private sector investment in public education. Winning numerous awards for innovation, The Education Fund is currently directing Food Forests for Schools, a first-in-the-nation effort to install food forests as eco-labs on school grounds; Ideas with IMPACT, Miami-Dade’s only district-wide best practices network; Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials, the state’s first free-supplies warehouse & distribution program; Student Power, an action-government learning pilot; and SmartPath, a college &

careers service for students. Visit EducationFund.org or join us at @educationfundmiami on Facebook and Instagram, and @educationfund on Twitter.