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Renowned school reformer kicks off Ethics in Education Conference that highlights hot issues

A two-day conference on controversial topics in education kicks off with a keynote address by a national expert on turning around troubled schools and includes panels on student testing, school choice and even “tiger mothers.” **Ethics in Education: A to Z** is intended for teachers, students, parents, educational administrators and concerned citizens and will cover major ethical issues at all levels of American education, presented jointly by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, the University of Miami, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools. It takes place May 1 at the University of Miami and May 2 at Miami Senior High School.

The opening reception on Friday, May 1, offers great networking along with refreshments at UM’s Storer Auditorium. Local notables will present the Lifetime Achievement Award for Ethics in Public Service to former Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court **Gerald Kogan**. **Principal Baruti Kafele**, a former high school and middle school administrator who gained fame for turning around troubled inner city schools in New Jersey will speak on “The Intentionality of Ethics in Education.” The award-winning motivational speaker is the author of *Closing the Attitude Gap, Motivating Black Males to Achieve in School and in Life*, and *The Principal 50: Critical Leadership Questions for Inspiring School-wide Excellence*.

A full day of fascinating presentations and panel discussions will take place on Saturday, May 2, at the historic and beautifully renovated Miami Senior High. Participants include local and national leaders in their academic and professional fields. Miami Hurricanes Head Football **Coach Al Golden**, former Miami Dolphin and current County Court **Judge Edward Newman** along with **CBS4 Sports Anchor Jim Berry** are among the panelists discussing how to balance education with the allure and power of school sports. Local 10 Broadcast Journalist **Glenna Milberg** will moderate a discussion on the immigration influx with Miami-Dade School Superintendent **Alberto Carvalho** and Harvard Professor **Andres Alonso**. Other sessions will address civics education, bullying, social media and the role of school police, among other topics. The day includes an “ethics bowl” demonstration and a discussion among high students on race and justice, moderated by Ethics Investigator and veteran South Florida columnist **Robert Steinback**.

Miami-Dade School teachers and administrators can earn up to 12 Master points. The cost for both days – including 3 meals and all supplies – is only \$50 thanks to the generous support of the Arshat Ethics Initiative at UM. For a complete list of participants and detailed program and to register, visit ethics.miamidade.gov or call 305-579-2594.

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of education, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.

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