

## LTS Panel Highlights Early Childhood Education Discussion Focused on Program's Accessibility & Impact

Nov. 19- Two school administrators familiar with Leap Learning Systems' early childhood programming participated in a panel discussion focused on **Language Through Science** and its application in the early childhood classroom.



(Left to right) Kate Gottfred, Marta Moya-Leang, John Lybolt, Carol Dellahousaye

The panel discussion was held at the Chicago Hilton Hotel and featured Marta Moya-Leang, Head Teacher at the **Belmont Cragin Early Childhood Center**; Carol Dellahousaye, Executive Director of Youth Programs at the **Abraham Lincoln Centre**; and John Lybolt, Ph.D., Research Director and co-author of Language Through Science.

Catherine Gottfred, Ph.D. served

as moderator for the event, which was attended by some key figures in education policy and leadership in Chicago. A question and answer format was used to enable each of the panel members to answer from their different perspectives.

One theme that emerged from the discussion centered on the positive interactions between Leap staff and

the teachers they worked with.

"Getting out of the classroom is a challenge for most teachers. Leap brings you what you need to the classroom; they come in, model, and challenge our teachers," commented Ms. Dellahousaye.

Ms. Moya Leang attested to the ease of adapting to the LTS curriculum, commenting that the science activities and book reads were easily integrated into the daily preschool curriculum used at the Belmont Cragin Center.

Ms. Dellahousaye reinforced this notion, adding, "Leap helps teachers reach their own magnificence."

**This holiday**, help Leap bring transformative literacy and language programs to students and teachers across Chicago.

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## Boeing Employees go to Great Heights to Provide Students Access to Hands-On Science Learning

Boeing employees supported Leap Learning Systems' Language Through Science (LTS) program this fall through a grant from **The Boeing Employees Community Fund (ECF)**.

The ECF grant is providing up to 20 classrooms learning and science supplies, benefitting nearly 500 preschool and kindergarten students and their teachers who are currently participating in Language Through Science. LTS is a professional development program and science curriculum for early childhood educators.

"The Boeing ECF Chicago committee was impressed with the innovative

strategies Leap is using to reach out to Chicago-area students," said Janice Llereza, Manager of Alternative Investments and co-chair of the ECF of Chicago. "We felt that Leap's Language Through Science program aligned closely with our community outreach objectives - and we're excited to see the impact that the program will have on building literacy skills in preschool and kindergarten students."

The Employees Community Fund (ECF) of The Boeing Company is the largest employee-directed fund of its kind in the world. Established

in October 2001, the ECF of Chicago makes grants to local nonprofits from a pooled fund of contributions from Boeing Chicago employees. Since Boeing covers all administrative costs, 100 percent of employee dollars are invested, so that employee charitable contributions can have the greatest impact possible on the community.



ECF representative Adam Schulman presents Development Manager Liz Condon with a grant to support LTS.



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## News and Notes

### Leap Launches New Website!

We would like to extend a warm *thank you* to volunteers **Dave Miretzky, Andrea Zaacks, Marie Leconte, Lydia Morken, Devyani Nanduri,** and **Kavitha Nanduri** for their creativity and hard work which resulted in Leap's new advanced website. Thank you also the **The Taproot Foundation** for the support provided during this service grant.

### Upward Bound Students Participate in LFS

Thirty-five high school students participating in the **Upward Bound** program at **Chicago State University** will attend a three-day Language for Scholars workshop in March 2009. The Upward Bound program provides academic skills and motivational activities to secondary school students.

LFS is Leap's premier language skills trainings program that helps individualized speech goals. This is the second year Leap has partnered with CSU to provide Language for Scholars. For more information on LFS contact Kathleen Jackson -

Kathy@leaplearningsystems.org

### Chicago Semester Interns

Chicago Semester students **Amanda Fox** and **Danielle Pyle** wrapped up their three month internship with Leap in early December. Chicago Semester is an off-campus program that provides college students from suburban and rural communities in the Midwest the opportunity to work and live in Chicago for a semester.

"These young ladies did a great job for the organization. They were hard working, fun to be around and full of helpful ideas," said Michael Levesque, Executive Director. Thank you Amanda and Danielle for your hard work and dedication! The team will miss you.



Chicago Semester students (left to right) Danielle and Amanda

### ASHA Wraps up 'Winds of Change' Convention

Congratulations to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for a successful convention in Chicago. Thank you to all that visited Leap, we hope to see you again soon!