



NEWS RELEASE

News from Orange County Public Schools

OCPS's Morris Honored Among Top Central Florida Executives

Jul. 24, 2014 - John Morris, the Chief Facilities Director for Orange County Public Schools, has been recognized as one of Orlando Business Journal's 2014 C-Level Award honorees. The business publication praised 28 central Florida executives of finance, operations and development in business categories from government and non-profits to small, medium and large companies.

As the district's Chief Facilities Officer, Morris leads the state's largest school construction program. This year he oversees an \$800 million capital building program with 13 schools under construction, nine projects in design and another 12 in planning. In addition, the daily maintenance of more than one million square feet of building space and 4,000 acres of land fall under his command.

"I'm humbled by the recognition, but my best reward will come on Aug. 18 when we successfully open 11 renovated and replaced schools to Orange County students," said Morris. "I love seeing the faces and hearing the comments of excited children when they see their 'new' school."

Under his leadership, the district will be able to build three more schools than anticipated with proceeds from the 2002 half penny sales tax. The \$48 million collected for those schools were the result of his strategic planning and focus on value engineering. His push for green design and energy conservation in district facilities has resulted in \$1.6 million in energy rebates over the last two years. These impressive results earned OCPS Duke Energy's 2013 Power Partner Award and the 2014 Energy Management Award by the Association of Energy Engineers.

The district's schools now have a roadmap for long-term maintenance thanks to the most comprehensive facilities condition assessment performed in district history. Under Morris's direction, this assessment of all 212 facilities identified the life expectancy and replacement costs of building systems (roofing, envelope, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.) The assessment is the basis of a capital renewal program Morris developed to address future facility needs and extend the life of school buildings by replacing major systems prior to their anticipated failure.

Morris joined OCPS in 2011 with an extensive background in managing large, public construction programs. He was the Development Manager on the new Orlando Amway Center (Orlando Magic's home), an 875,000 square foot, \$480 million high-profile project. Prior to that he oversaw construction of the Orange County Convention Center's successful \$748 million Phase V expansion. He began with Orange County in 1993 as a Project Manager on Phase III of the Orange County Convention Center before rising to the position of Orange County Construction Manager for the Center's massive expansion.

Another OCPS executive, Chief Operations Officer Michael Eugene, was named the Orlando Business Journal's 2013 C-Level Executive of the Year.

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