



Ina A. Colen Academy Celebrates Topping Out Event

Ocala, Florida – Ina A. Colen Academy and Ausley Construction celebrated the Topping Out of the new K-8 public charter school on Friday, September 10th, 2021. The Topping Out signified a construction milestone; the academy had reached its maximum height.

Members from the Colen Family Charitable Trust, Ina A. Colen Academy Governing Board, and Ausley Construction signed a steel beam to commemorate the event. The beam is placed in the outdoor assembly area with the signatures and special notes visible for future students to see.

Ina A. Colen Academy is halfway through construction and will welcome students in August of 2022. The K-8 tuition-free public charter school will be open to all Marion County students.

Ken Ausley, CEO of Ausley Construction, thanked the craftsmen and women who have put in over 62,000 hours of labor to construct the charter school so far. Ausley also thanked the Colen Family Charitable Trust for their support throughout the project.

Kenneth Colen, Trustee of the Colen Family Charitable Trust, shared his remarks and appreciation towards Ausley Construction and everyone involved with the academy. The academy is named in memory of Ina A. Colen, “A reflection of my family’s values, the academy was founded in honor of my mother, Ina A. Colen, to carry on her legacy of creating passionate learners capable of making the best decisions for themselves and for the society in which they live.” Mrs. Colen was a social studies teacher who loved education and cared deeply about her students.

Among the attendees at the ceremony was Mayor Kent Guinn, Senator Dennis Baxley and Legislative Assistant Matt McClain, Haylee Austin with State Representative Joe Harding’s office, Jennifer Treiber and Ryan Thomas with State Representative Stan McClain’s office, Ocala Metro Chamber and Economic Partnership President Kevin Sheilley, Dean Blinkhorn, and Beth McCall, CEO of Florida Home Builders Association Rusty Payton, Marion County Public School Board Director of School Choice and Student Assignment Stephen Ayres and Ina A. Colen Academy Principal Sandra Rocquin.

Executive Director of the Colen Family Charitable Trust, Rebecca Rogers, was the emcee for the ceremony and expressed gratitude and appreciation for all in attendance and everyone involved with Ina A. Colen Academy.

For more information about Ina A. Colen Academy, please visit iacafl.org and follow us on social media (@iacafl). Please email info@iacafl.org for educational inquiries.



Dr. Christy Noe, Principal Sandra Rocquin, and Trustee Kenneth Colen



Ken Ausley, CEO of Ausley Construction