

Plainfield Charter School Introduces Director

PLAINFIELD — Dr. Norman Pressman, the Ellen G. Pressman Charter School's founder and board president, introduced Alfredo Huereca as the new facility's inaugural director Tuesday.

Huereca previously was lead person and principal at the 300-student Hoboken Charter School, which in 2007 was honored as one of the nation's top such facilities by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Education Reform. Charter schools are schools that are unaffiliated with public districts or boards of education, but still funded by them; the city has Union County's only three, with Pressman being the fourth.

The new school, named for Pressman's late sister, a well-known figure in state education, will offer a "music-centric" curriculum that incorporates musical study with academics. It's a plan through which its new director is expected to thrive, Pressman said, as Huereca has been credited with developing and staffing a music department in Hoboken complete with a chorus, jazz band and student concerts.

"Huereca is exceptional among the group of candidates because of his educational background, charter school experience, energy, enthusiasm and focus on the needs of children," Pressman said. "He has indicated that he looks forward to meeting as many prospective parents and students as soon as possible and is encouraging them to call the school to arrange conferences."

Huereca's introduction came less than a week after school officials unveiled their new East Front Street home, the YWCA of Central New Jersey, which they will share with the 102-year-old local chapter of the national women's organization. The school, scheduled to open in September, is expected to begin its first year with 160 students in grades 6 and 7 before expanding to 240 students in grades 6 to 8 by 2010-11.
