

West Orange



Gathered around the diesel oxidation catalyst that will attach to the muffler on the bus behind them are (l-r) John Parker, Orange County Environmental Protection Division; Commissioner Bill Segal; Commissioner Mildred Fernandez; Joie Cadle, Orange County School Board chair; Dana Brewster, Engine Control Systems; and Jim Cundiff, program director for the American Lung Association.

County launches clean school bus Initiative

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners recently celebrated the completion of the 308th school bus to be retrofitted with an emission control device.

Through innovative partnerships, county leaders have worked to ensure that school buses are not only the safest but the cleanest way for children to get to school. In accordance with Mayor Rich Crotty's Orange to Green initiative, a project to reduce diesel school bus emissions evolved.

A collaboration between Orange County's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and Orange County Public Schools, along with a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, allowed for 308 school buses to be retrofitted with Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOCs) provided by Engine Control Systems. These pollution control devices are designed to reduce harmful exhaust emissions and help stu-

dent riders breathe easier. EPD dedicated more than \$100,000 in matching funds to demonstrate that a solution to diesel emissions is available and practical.

DOCs, similar to the catalytic converters on cars, reduce emissions by capturing and in-

cinerating unburned particles, preventing their release into the atmosphere. These devices are capable of removing up to 40 percent of the particulate matter, 70 percent of the unburned hydrocarbons and 40 percent of the carbon monoxide typically emitted by school buses.