

**From:** Smith, Kevin  
**Sent time:** Monday, October 31, 2011 10:10:03 AM  
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**Subject:** FW: 10/28/11 Education Round-Up

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FYI – have a great week!

Sincerely,

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**From:** Higgins, Deborah  
**Sent:** Friday, October 28, 2011 11:44 AM  
**Subject:** 10/28/11 Education Round-Up

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**[Casino bill would help mega resorts, hurts racetracks](#)**  
(Bradenton Herald © 10/28/2011)

Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau In a move designed to shift Florida's gambling focus, two legislators filed bills Wednesday that would award exclusive full-casino licenses to three massive "destination resorts" and leave the struggling pari-mutuel industry to wither. The goal of the proposals by Rep. Erik Fresen, R-Miami, and Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Fort Lauderdale, &#...

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**[Texas Board Requires the Phasing Out of 64 Degree Programs With Low Enrollments](#)**  
(Chronicle of Higher Education © 10/28/2011)

By Katherine Mangan Austin, Tex. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board voted Thursday to phase out 64 degree programs that failed to attract enough majors under stricter enrollment guidelines the board enacted last year. Another 145 programs the board deemed underperforming are also being voluntarily cut. The board's decisions came program by program over four hours in which a parade of...

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### [New Smyrna civics class gets unintended lesson in voting](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/28/2011)

I don't blame Jill Cicciarelli for being unclear about Florida's latest election law. It's not easy to track the changes made to Florida election laws almost annually since the 2000 presidential election fiasco. The way things are headed, you'll someday need an attorney, a note from your mother and a retinal scan to get a voter-registration card. Last spring, the Legislature again decided too ...

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### [Okaloosa will allow classes to be several students above state limit \(DOCUMENT\)](#)

(Destin Log © 10/28/2011)

Student and classroom shuffling likely is finished for the school year in Okaloosa County. The School Board earlier this week voted to enact a policy that will give principals some flexibility with class sizes. A new state law allows classrooms to exceed class-size limits if new students arrive after the state's official attendance count is taken in mid-October, Superintendent of Sc...

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### [Obama Using Education Issue as Political Sword](#)

(Education Week © 10/28/2011)

With President Barack Obama's jobs plan stalled in Congress and his re-election bid saddled by low approval numbers and high unemployment, his administration is using its record on education—and that of congressional Republicans—as a political weapon as Campaign 2012 heats up. Even though the Senate earlier this month rejected a \$35 billion piece of a \$447 billion package the administration sai...

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### [Schools face \\$9 million cut with 'no' vote](#)

(Florida Keys Keysnet © 10/28/2011)

School board members warned of dire consequences if residents vote against using some tax dollars for operating schools instead of for building new classrooms. The referendum, to be voted on early next year, asks whether the school district can redirect about 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value from the school construction fund to its operating budget. The question will be on the Jan...

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### [New charter school OK'd by school board](#)

(Florida Keys Keysnet © 10/28/2011)

Keys School board members this week approved another charter school application, but not before they vowed to look harder at future applications because of a recent shakeup at a Key West charter high school. The Monroe County School Board on Tuesday gave the go-ahead to San Diego, Calif.-based MYcro School of Integrated Academics and Technology to open a campus in Key West. There are 15 MYcro sch...

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### [State education partnership sees how Ware County High ties career possibilities to classrooms](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/28/2011)

Waycross School officials are accustomed to buses stopping in front of Ware County High School, but they usually don't have Army Junior ROTC cadets to greet them or a band playing. The two tour buses that arrived just after noon Thursday were loaded with 80 plus riders from the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education making the final of eight stops at schools from Greensboro west of Aug...

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### [18 Duval County teachers facing layoffs Tuesday](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/28/2011)

The School Board will vote Tuesday on whether to cut 18 teacher positions, saving the school district about \$1 million. The teachers are vocational, special education, guidance and physical education. The layoffs are the result of the district's fall budget modification process and the district complying with the class-size requirements in core classes. In some cases, the district had to add c...

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#### [Duval School Board members could get pay raises](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/28/2011)

Members of the Duval County School Board will have a choice to make in the next few weeks. Keep their current salaries, or accept a more than \$2,800 raise courtesy of a change in state law. Duval County School Board members currently make \$37,300 a year, the same as a first year teacher. That's the rule the state asked all school boards to comply with a few years ago. Now the state wants ...

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#### [Edison State faces a key review](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 10/28/2011)

AREAS OF NONCOMPLIANCE Edison State College has responded to 17 potential areas of noncompliance that were self-reported or cited by its accrediting agency: • Inappropriate course substitutions allowed students to avoid core classes required for graduation. • Students were permitted to deviate from programs of study generally accepted as appropriate within higher education. • Credentials of ex...

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#### [Machen offers governor his plan for assessing UF](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/28/2011)

As Gov. Rick Scott pushes for accountability from state universities, University of Florida President Bernie Machen is proposing his own ways to assess the institution. In response to Scott's promotion of higher education reforms, Machen sent a memo last month to the governor. Machen suggested accountability measures for UF that included the perce...

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#### [Scrap public education: make all of it private](#)

(Gulf Review © 10/28/2011)

By Matt Walsh | Editor - Thursday, October 20, 2011 Last week provided great political-media entertainment in our little part of Florida. It also brought to light the fatal flaw of public education. Gov. Rick Scott visited our office in Sarasota. And during a one-hour interview with editors and reporters — a session he later repeated with the editorial board down the street at the Sarasota He...

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#### [Students denied in-state tuition due to illegal immigrant parents](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 10/28/2011)

Emily Morrow, Alligator Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments Wendy Ruiz was born and raised in Miami. She has a Florida driver's license and is registered to vote in Florida. She graduated from high school in Miami and decided to go to Miami Dade College to become a podiatrist. It was then she found out that in the eyes of the state's public university system, she is not a Florid...

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### [UF, FAMU to expand dental programs](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 10/28/2011)

Erin Jester, Alligator Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments UF has altered plans to expand its dental school and will work with two Florida universities that had planned to build their own dental schools. Florida A&M University, which originally requested funds from the state to open its own dental school, will now work with UF to funnel students into UF's dental program, said Ka...

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### [New center puts educational resources in hands of primary teachers: parents](#)

(Jupiter Courier © 10/28/2011)

PORT SALERNO — For parents to build their children's education, they need the proper tools. Maybe the Stuart Parent Resource Center, which opened Thursday in the old Port Salerno Elementary School, should be called The Education Depot. "Our objective is to enable parents," said Shela Khanal, director of Title 1 programs for the Martin County School District, which operates the center. "We want to gi...

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### [IRSC hires chemistry, math professors](#)

(Jupiter Courier © 10/28/2011)

Indian River State College has announced the hiring of new faculty members in the areas of chemistry and mathematics. Larisa Eads, of Vero Beach, will serve as assistant professor of chemistry. Eads received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Chernovtsy, Ukraine, and earned a master's and doctoral degree in chemistry from the Academy of Sciences, Physical Chemistry Institute, M...

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### [Alexander Blasts Critics of USF Poly Separation](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/28/2011)

WINTER HAVEN — State Sen. J.D. Alexander today railed against those who have voiced opposition to the push to make the University of South Florida Polytechnic the state's 12th university, saying the venture would be very, very successful. The Republican chairman of the Senate Budget Committee from Lake Wales was the guest speak...

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### [Critics See 'Chilling Effect' in Alabama Immigration Law](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/28/2011)

ALABASTER, Ala. — The champions of Alabama's far-reaching immigration law have said that it is intended to drive illegal immigrants from the state by making every aspect of their life difficult. But they have taken a very different tone when it comes to the part of the law concerning schools. Enlarge ...

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### [Survey of USF Poly Faculty Shows Majority Against Split](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/28/2011)

LAKELAND | A majority of faculty and professional employees at the University of South Florida Polytechnic represented by a union are against the push to separate from the USF system, a survey shows. The executive committee of the United Faculty of Florida USF System Chapter initiated a survey of faculty members at the Lakeland campus. The survey w...

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[Education Chief: New Loan Initiatives Won't Hike Taxes Read more: Education Chief: New Loan Initiatives Won't Hike Taxes Important: Can you afford to Retire? Shocking Poll Results](#)

(Money News © 10/28/2011)

President Barack Obama's new measures designed to ease student-loan burdens won't cost taxpayers more money and won't require congressional approval, Education Secretary Arne Duncan said Wednesday. The president's new initiatives aim to cut student-loan burdens by allowing borrowers to cap their loan payments to 10 percent of discretionary income a year starting in 2012, down from 15 percent...

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[Higher ed plans don't add up](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/28/2011)

Is Gov. Rick Scott trying to make Florida less appealing to top-notch research professors? Because he seems to be working overtime to get the job accomplished. There is his idea — based on what is being done in Texas by Gov. Rick Perry — to base some tenure decisions on student ratings of a professor's effectiveness, along with the number of students that professor has taught. Then there wa...

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[More Colleges Charging \\$50K Or More A Year](#)

(Palm Beach Gardens-WPBF (ABC) © 10/28/2011)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney) — An increasing number of colleges are charging more than what the average American earns. The number of colleges and universities with tuition and fees totaling more than \$50,000 for a single year rose to 123 for the 2011-2012 year — up from 100 institutions in the previous year. Meanwhile, the national average wage for American workers stands at a little less than \$42,000 ...

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[Judge hears arguments over proposed repeal of ban on state money going to religious groups](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 10/28/2011)

A lawyer for the Florida Education Association asked a Leon County judge Thursday to bar a proposed ballot amendment that would let state money flow to religious institutions, lifting a prohibition in place since 1885. Ron Meyer, attorney for the state's largest teachers union as well as several religious clergy, told Circuit Judge Terry Lewis that the ballot title and summary language of Amendme...

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[Florida union challenges amendment that would allow state funding of religious schools](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/28/2011)

TALLAHASSEE The statewide teachers union, backed by other school and religious officials, challenged a proposed constitutional amendment Thursday that would pave the way for state lawmakers to direct tax dollars toward school vouchers or religious-affiliated institutions. It was the second day in a row that the Florida Education Association was in Leon County Circuit Court arguing against legis...

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[Report points to fewer blacks in math and tech careers](#)

(South Florida Times © 10/28/2011)

Written by Associated Press Thursday, 27 October 2011 (AP) ? With black unemployment reaching historic levels, banks laying off tens of thousands and law school graduates waiting tables, why aren't more African Americans looking toward science, technology, engineering and math ? the still-hiring careers known as ST...

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[Don't be suckered by casino bill](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/28/2011)

State Sen. Elynn Bogdanoff of Fort Lauderdale and Rep. Erik Fresen of Miami claim their legislation to add three destination casinos to Florida is aimed at reducing gambling

in the state. But based on the 142-page bill the pair finally unveiled Wednesday, that's misleading at best. If the Legislature approves HB 487 in anything close to its initial draft, the state might as well put a sign at the ...

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#### [Staff rejects proposed charter school for Pasco's disabled](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/28/2011)

For two years, the Center for Independence in Hudson has proposed opening a charter school to serve students with disabilities ages 18-22. The first year it withdrew its proposal, lacking a location to house the school. This year, Pasco school district staff is recommending denial of the group's application. "I couldn't tell you if they would run a good program or not," said Nancy Scowcroft, dis...

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#### [Ziplining USF president Judy Genshaft knows the value of experiencing different cultures](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/28/2011)

As University of South Florida president Judy Genshaft made her way to the podium at the recent Congress of Regional Leaders, moderator and Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation chairman Ronnie Duncan threw out an aside that many may not realize about the university's sixth president. She loves to zip line. After her remarks at the economic development event, Genshaft chatted with the Time...

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#### [Commissioner Recommends Tougher FCAT Scoring](#)

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 10/28/2011)

Tallahassee, Florida - October 27, 2011 - Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson said Wednesday he will recommend new "cut" scores that will be used to determine a student's score on the FCAT 2.0 and new Algebra 1 end-of-course assessment. These scores will be used to determine whether a student's score is labeled at a Level One (the lowest) all the way up to th...

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#### [Former Pasco teacher accused of having sex with student](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/28/2011)

LAND O' LAKES – A former high school teacher in Pasco County who resigned under fire nearly a month ago has been arrested on an allegation that she had sex with a 15-year-old male student. Maryann Verdi, 40, of 18809 Sugarberry Lane, Shady Hills, was arrested Wednesday on charges of lewd or lascivious battery and unlawful sexual activity with a minor, according to the Pasco C...

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#### [USF says Poly split would put accreditation at risk](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/28/2011)

TAMPA – A move toward independence by USF Polytechnic comes at a time when it might put accreditation of the main campus at risk, the university says. In a written response Wednesday, a top University of South Florida administrator raises two dozen concerns about a proposal for independence submitted by its Polytechnic campus in Polk County. Many of the concerns listed by John W...

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#### [Founder of failed Lutz school loses Milwaukee job](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 10/28/2011)

TAMPA – The career of an embattled private school owner who left Hillsborough County to start a new job as a public school principal in Milwaukee has taken another twist. According to a statement released by the Milwaukee school system late Thursday, "Wendy Alexander is no longer an employee of Milwaukee public schools." Alexander's departure was effective Oct. 21, said Milwauke...

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[USF says Poly split would put accreditation at risk](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 10/28/2011)

TAMPA – A move toward independence by USF Polytechnic comes at a time when it might put accreditation of the main campus at risk, the university says. In a written response Wednesday, a top University of South Florida administrator raises two dozen concerns about a proposal for independence submitted by its Polytechnic campus in Polk County. Many of the concerns listed by John W...

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[Dade County schools hit upon alternative measures of punishment through Restorative Justice](#)

(Westside News Gazette © 10/28/2011)

It's easy for administrators at Miami-Dade County Public Schools [MDCPS] to suspend and expel students for misconduct, but the underlying is-sue of why pupils misbehave will not be resolved. So instead of rushing to ruin a kid's career, the Educational Transformation Office [ETO] has embraced Restorative Justice at some of the "Rising 19" schools to address the root causes of why kids act out....

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[FAMU gets \\$15 million to study coastal waterways](#)

(WFSU Newsroom © 10/28/2011)

Florida A&M University has received a 15-million dollar grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to research the impact of people on the state's coastal regions. Lynn Hatter reports the money will go to support programs aimed at boosting the number of minorities participating in science. The NOAA grant goes to FAMU's School of Environmental Science. It will be used to boost ...

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[Ambassador to speak at Tallahassee Community College](#)

(WTLX ABC Channel 27 Tallahassee © 10/28/2011)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Tallahassee Community College will host the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Portugal, Allan J. Katz, as part of its celebration of International Education Week. Katz will speak at 6 p.m. on Monday, November 14, in TCC's 480-seat Turner Auditorium. The theme of his address will be "Education Links You to the Global Economy: Are You Ready??"

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[Volusia teachers rally for more pay](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/26/2011)

Andrew Spar, president of the Volusia Teachers Organization, rallies the crowd during a protest Tuesday. (N-J | Peter Bauer) DELAND – Hundreds of teachers chanted outside the Volusia County School Board on Tuesday seeking an increase in pay soon after the board heard how the district could see a large deficit next year. The union has been seeking a raise t...

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[USF Poly puts grand plans in writing for independence push](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/26/2011)

TAMPA — Flip through the University of South Florida Polytechnic's ambitious plan for becoming the state's 12th university and you could forget it's still just a 1,300-student branch campus in Lakeland. Though the school has been operating as a polytechnic for three years, making it an independent university would lead to a twelvefold jump in enrollment, according to the report. That dema...

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Happy Friday! Please see the article below

*Deborah.*

★ **HAPPY FRIDAY!!!** ★

**Tallahassee Democrat**

**\$15 million for environmental sciences is FAMU's single-biggest grant**

**11:47 PM, Oct. 27, 2011**

**By Doug Blackburn Democrat senior writer**

Almost 40 percent of the African-American environmental scientists in the United States earned their doctorate degrees at Florida A&M University.

That impressive number is likely to grow, thanks to a nearly \$15-million competitive grant FAMU has been awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — the largest single grant in the university's history.

"This is an opportunity for Florida A&M and NOAA to make a significant impact on the environmental workforce in America," FAMU President James H. Ammons said following Wednesday's announcement.

The NOAA grant — almost \$1 million more than a federal grant awarded to FAMU's pharmacy program — is focused on educating the next generation of scientists via the classroom and with research.

Audrey Trotman, manager of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program, said FAMU's peer-reviewed grant proposal "out-competed" all other applications.

"This program is designed to support education and training for students from under-represented groups," Trotman said. "Florida A&M is participating in cutting-edge research in the areas of environmental sciences."

The five-year grant will be managed out of the university's new School of the Environment, created earlier this year during FAMU's extensive restructuring. It replaced FAMU's Environmental Institute.

"We think our science programs give us a competitive edge. The fact that NOAA has awarded us this competitive grant I think reinforces what we already knew about our strengths in environmental sciences," Ammons said.

Four other universities will partner with FAMU, which is the lead institution for the grant.

Michael Abazinge, director of the School of the Environment, believes the NOAA grant will only add to the national impact the university is having in the sciences. About half of the 40 graduate students in the school will be involved in the grant.

"We are looking to increase our enrollment at the graduate level," he said.

FAMU faculty and students are involved in several projects on the coast, including work on healthy oceans, said Charles Jargoe, FAMU's distinguished professor of environmental science.

Jargoe noted that NOAA will pay close attention to FAMU's students. Each graduate student participating in the grant is required to have an NOAA scientist on their dissertation committee.

"The grant is a big deal," Abazinge said. "It's the largest grant in the history of the university. How much bigger can it get?"