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Subject: FW: 11/10/11 Education Round-Up

FYI – have a great afternoon!

Sincerely,

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From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 10:27 AM
Subject: 11/10/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[Daytona Arc clients show ability, earn paychecks](#)
(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 11/10/2011)

Schmetta Davis helps Robin Parker and Marsha Lindsey make floral arrangements at the ARC craft cottage in Daytona Beach on Wednesday. (N-J | Jim Tiller) DAYTONA BEACH – Some, like Jamie Blair, can't get around without wheelchairs and need care, even for small things like brushing teeth or changing clothes. Others like Marsha Lindsey, Robin Parker and Apr...

[Blended Learning on the Rise, Report Says](#)
(Education Week/Digital Education Blog © 11/10/2011)

The eighth annual Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning, released today at the Virtual School Symposium in Indianapolis, finds that single-district online programs—many of which include blended learning—are the fastest-growing segment of online education this year. (Single-district online programs are created by a district for the students in that district only.) Another area of growth is con...

[Investing in Gifted Education Could Cost Little, Report Finds](#)

(Education Week/Special Education Blog © 11/10/2011)

As states and school districts grapple with an unending budget crisis, they can better serve gifted students even without spending additional money, says a report out today from the National Association for Gifted Children. Changes in policy and infrastructure could have a dramatic effect on supporting gifted students, if only states would consider them, said Nancy Green, the association's ex...

[ESEA Amendment Would Alter Teacher-Quality Allocations](#)

(Education Week/Teacher Beat © 11/10/2011)

A little-noticed amendment that the Senate Education Committee approved in its recent ESEA bill stands to have a major impact on how teacher-quality funds are distributed among states. Bear with me, there's some wonky background here before we get to the juicy stuff. Every state and something like 90-odd percent of districts receive allocations through the federal Title II state teacher-qualit...

[Intervene meetings cost about \\$49,000](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/10/2011)

The total taxpayer cost for a series of meetings on Duval County's intervene schools will be at least \$49,195, and not \$33,000 as originally reported by the state. The new sum includes speaker fees that were not in the state's original figure. Last month's meeting at Raines High School was the first of the three meetings focused on parent engagement and ideas to improve Duval...

[Parents beg officials to keep Riverview Elementary open](#)

(Florida Today © 11/10/2011)

TITUSVILLE — Mattie Trotter's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have attended Riverview Elementary, and on Tuesday she voiced her support for keeping the neighborhood school open for future generations. "Is the million more important that the children?" she asked during a community input meeting hosted by the school district, referring to the money that Brevard Public Schools ...

[Matt Reed: Dr. Drake's take on change at BCC](#)

(Florida Today © 11/10/2011)

Dr. Jim Drake has steered Brevard Community College through growth, change and a few controversies as its president over the past five years. Now he plans to retire at the end of the fall semester. I questioned Drake about changes during his tenure, including financial struggles at the King Center, job shifts at the college's four campuses, and BCC's decision to pass on becoming a four-year state...

[Edison State accreditation on the line](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 11/10/2011)

Robert Beeson, vice president of the Lee campus and district dean of arts and sciences, said he was subject to retaliation after expressing concerns about discriminatory hiring practices. Beeson was suspended Oct. 25, the same day trustees fired former vice president for academic affairs Steve Atkins, who also lodged a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Both men appro...

[Changing the face of the classroom — to a screen](#)

(Hernando Today © 11/10/2011)

BROOKSVILLE When teacher Sharon Swonger wakes each morning, one of her first tasks is to check on her 178 students to ensure none of them have fallen behind in their English courses. Then, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., she is at her students' mercy to answer questions and help explain the complexities of various literary works, writing papers and determining the proper usage of the obscure semicolon...

[Fasano authors another gaming room bill](#)

(Hernando Today © 11/10/2011)

The legislative crusade to regulate gaming rooms in Florida isn't slowing down. If anything, it's coming on stronger. Sen. Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, will introduce a new bill during next year's Legislative session that would make all such businesses subject to state-monitored inspections. Additionally, it will provide local governments with more power to implement ordinances that could re...

[Study finds that sexual harassment common among teenagers](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 11/10/2011)

Emily Morrow, Alligator Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments About half of all seventh through 12th grade students reported that they were sexually harassed during the last school year. According to a report released Monday by the American Association of University Women, of 1,965 students surveyed across the country, 56 percent of girls and 40 percent of boys said they had been ...

[USF Poly Separation Issue Divisive For Officials in Polk County](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/10/2011)

LAKELAND | USF Polytechnic's newly paved road to independence was a blessing to some community leaders — and a curse to others. Facts "It's abundantly clear that the school is nowhere near ready for independence. That group held their nose and voted for this." State Sen. Paula Dockery R-Lakeland "I wasn't against separation, but why separate until w...

[USF Poly Given Path to Independence](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/10/2011)

LAKELAND | The University of South Florida Polytechnic didn't reach independence tonight, but it did get a road map showing how to get there. Facts BENCHMARKS TO BE MET BEFORE USF POLYTECHNIC CAN BECOME INDEPENDENT The Florida Board of Governors of the State University System late Wednesday set benchmarks it said must be achieved before USF Poly can beco...

[Experts, community exchange ideas on improving education in Collier](#)

(Naples Daily News © 11/10/2011)

A Harvard professor, a senior adviser for the U.S. Department of Education and a news correspondent called for increased community support and more parent engagement to improve education in Collier County and on a national level Wednesday evening. Around 500 people attended the Connect Now Idea Exchange at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club to hear the leaders speak candidly about the need fo...

[School District settles religious-freedom lawsuit for \\$18K](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/10/2011)

Two years after a former Marion Technical Institute instructor sued the School Board for violating his religious freedom, the two sides have reached an agreement and will forego a federal court showdown. The teacher, Ronald Wray, will get \$18,750 and agreed not to apply for a job with the School District again. The School Board did not admit guilt and agreed to the settlement to avoid further e...

[UCF hopes to revive dental-school campaign](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/10/2011)

BOCA RATON — University of Central Florida plans to resubmit its plan for a dental school in the coming months after unexpectedly withdrawing its proposal on Tuesday. UCF Provost Tony Waldrop said Wednesday that the university will try again in an effort to resolve concerns raised by state and industry leaders about its plans. In recent months, the proposal has been sharply criticized by the...

[He helped make UCF what it is today](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/10/2011)

Many students and employees might be surprised at how much William Rex Brown contributed to the University of Central Florida. "I don't think there's anybody out there that has any idea of the hard work and all the trials and tribulations he's had..." said Brown's wife of 57 years, Jeanne Brown. That's because Brown made his mark long ago as the founding vice president of student affairs whe...

[Health district spars on oversight bill](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/10/2011)

A season of turmoil and departures at the Palm Beach County Health Care District churned anew Wednesday as the district's lawyer announced her resignation and board members sparred over legislation that might force them into accepting permanent inspector general oversight. In-house counsel Margaret Hopkins is resigning to become assistant vice president and chief compliance officer at Martin Memo...

[Board wants Palm Beach County schools to look into gaps in its workforce](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/10/2011)

Palm Beach County School Board members are urging the district - the county's largest employer - to look into whether there are any disparities in its workforce and employment practices. Concerns voiced by the Palm Beach Hispanic Education Coalition prompted the move in the part. During a workshop this evening, board members discussed a plan to look at data on the district's employees, including...

[Viewpoint: Rick Scott wrong on anthropology](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 11/10/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott's criticisms of anthropology provide a welcome opportunity to showcase what anthropology is, and how it contributes to the quality of life and economic development of Northwest Florida. At the University of West Florida, the Division of Anthropology and Archaeology includes three units: the Department of Anthropology, the Archaeology Institute, and the Florida Public Archaeolog...

[Teachers oppose Facebook ban](#)

(Sebring Highlands Today © 11/10/2011)

SEBRING - Teachers oppose the new policy prohibiting them from befriending students on Facebook, saying they need to be in contact with their students who flock to the popular social media website. The mix of teachers, students and social media websites has sparked lengthy discussions on prior occasions as the board reviewed proposed changes to the district's technology policies and procedures m...

[USF splinter campus receives preliminary approval to be 12th public university](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/10/2011)

A math- and science-focused branch of the University of South Florida has received preliminary approval to become the state's 12th university. The Florida Board of Governors, which oversees state universities, voted to allow USF Polytechnic in Lakeland to split off from the Tampa-based university if it meets certain milestones in planning. The decision was made Wednesday following four hours of d...

[Board sets path for 12th Fla. state university](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 11/10/2011)

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Florida's Board of Governors on Wednesday agreed on a path to create a 12th state university that will focus on strengthening science and technology education. The board, which oversees Florida's State University System, voted to approve a series of steps for the University of South Florida Polytechnic in Lakeland to become an independent institution. The resolution passed Wed...

[USF students protest tuition hikes, meet with administrators](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/10/2011)

TAMPA — They're upset about tuition hikes totaling 15 percent. Their parents are suffering, they say, and they're suffering. "Why are we always being asked to sacrifice?" asked University of South Florida biochemistry major Cody Childers. Dozens of students marched on the USF administration building Wednesday, chanting, "Judy got paid off, we got ripped off," and "Hi-ho! Tuition hikes h...

[Rising poverty brings new challenges to Pasco schools](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/10/2011)

LAND O'LAKES — For much of its eight-year existence, Pine View Elementary School has served a solidly middle class community. As unemployment and foreclosures have risen, however, the school has seen economic hardships hit its families, too. Requests for assistance from Pine View's Assist Believe Care (ABC) program have spiked. Parents' ability to pay for field trips has waned. The school ...

[Bill and Melinda Gates visit Tampa to discuss their investment in Hillsborough schools](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/10/2011)

TAMPA — The billionaires ate chicken wraps from the school cafeteria. They donned goggles in a chemistry class. And they chatted up teachers whose lives they have drastically changed. Bill and Melinda Gates, one of the wealthiest couples in America, spent Wednesday at Tampa's Jefferson High School checking on their \$100 million investment in Hillsborough County to reform teacher training an...

[Put the School Board's word to the test](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 11/10/2011)

Pasco County School board members rejected a pair of charter school applications last week, and all observers agreed: Their disappointment was thicker than a barrel of white paste. They wanted to give approval — they really, really did — to the petitioners who sought to plug holes in Pasco's public education system with an academy for grade-school Einsteins and for young adults coping with intel...

[Gates classroom observations](#) Editorial

(Tampa Tribune © 11/10/2011)

Bill and Melinda Gates were in Tampa on Wednesday to see how things were going with the \$100 million grant their foundation awarded the Hillsborough County School

District to develop a comprehensive system to evaluate teachers. They also had useful observations for educators who think money is the key to classroom improvement and who dismiss Hillsborough's efforts as unaffordable for districts t...

[Professor disputes anti-AP film 'Race to Nowhere'](#)

(Washington Post/Class Struggle Blog © 11/10/2011)

Posted at 11:00 AM ET, 11/09/2011 Professor disputes anti-AP film 'Race to Nowhere' By Jay Mathews "Race to Nowhere," a documentary by filmmaker Vicki Abeles, continues to be one of the most popular movies ever marketed through community halls and school auditoriums. It has been seen in 49 states and 22 countries and applauded by many Washington area students and parents. It argues that the...

[Study: Nearly 33 Percent of Florida Pension Plans in Trouble](#)

(West Orlando News © 11/10/2011)

Nearly one in three municipal pension plans in Florida are severely underfunded while another 30 percent received high praise Wednesday from a political think tank connected to Florida State University that looked at the state's largest local government retirement funds. In a report released Tuesday, the LeRoy Collins Institute graded 208 pension plans offered by the state's 100 larg...

[Conflicting Reports on Effectiveness of Charter Schools](#)

(State Impact Florida © 11/09/2011)

The Florida Department of Education is touting a report that highlights the charter school movement. Research from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools finds that Florida has eight of the nation's top 50 districts for the number of charter school students in 2010-11. Orange County is the leader with a 42 percent increase in charter school students over the prior year. Florida had five...

Have a lovely day and enjoy the holiday! Please see the article below.

Deborah



Tallahassee Democrat

WFSU chosen to test new PBS KIDS content

By Ashley Ames

November 10, 2011

For some kids, Curious George can mean more than just an adorable monkey and a man in a yellow hat. Just how much more is part of what is being determined by a national project launched by PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting —and by WFSU, the local PBS affiliate.

A \$72-million Ready to Learn grant was recently awarded to the CPB and PBS partnership by the U.S. Department of Education to develop new educational content, featuring PBS KIDS characters like Curious George, Super Why, and The Cat in the Hat — to help improve math and literacy skills in children ages 2 through 8, particularly those in low-income families.

WFSU was selected as one of 11 local stations from just under 50 applicants across the country to serve as a demonstration site for the new content.

"The goal is to show teachers how to utilize this and take it from the classroom, to after-school, to home," said Kim Kelling, director of educational services at WFSU.

The station will be working with Astoria Park Elementary School in Leon County, elementary schools in Walton and Hamilton counties, after-school programs like the Boys and Girls Club and will be making a presentation at the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend conference in a few months.

The new content, which can be found at <http://pbskids.org/lab>, includes games that can be played with a teacher on a SMARTboard in a classroom or at home at the computer.

WFSU received \$93,800 to spend over a year on labor, iPads for local classrooms, after-school and summer programs and teacher education sessions.

"We are sort of the guinea pigs," Kelling said.

The station will be showing teachers, parents and caretakers how to best use the content, and will be determining if that new content is working, Kelling explained.

"We want to know, do children learn," she said. "Is it effective?"

This marks the third time that WFSU has been chosen to participate in a Ready to Learn grant project, which, in the face of \$400,000 of budget cuts this year, is a slight morale boost for Kelling.

"It helped build some sense of, somebody out there values what we are doing," she said.

But grant money is extremely particular, said Patrick Keating, WFSU general manager.

"A grant like this is very specifically targeted to that work, so it's not like we can pay engineers' salaries, or pay our radio reporters' salaries," said Keating. He said that he did hope that the grant will focus in on the positive impact the station tries to have on the local community.

"I think in general, the more people take the time to find out what kind of educational work that we and the PBS stations are doing, the more that they appreciate it — and the more they see that what we are doing really does work," he said.