

From: Smith, Kevin
Sent time: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 11:47:30 AM
To: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>; elefsky@cfl.rr.com; Lee, Laurie; Colle, Hope; Walt Griffin <walt_griffin@scps.k12.fl.us>; Tart, Suzanne
Subject: FW: 11/15/11 Education Round -Up

FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,
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From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 10:55 AM
Subject: 11/15/11 Education Round -Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[Florida seeks waiver to No Child Left Behind law](#)
(Bradenton Herald © 11/15/2011)

The Associated Press Florida is among the first states to seek a waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind law. State education officials earlier had said they would take up the Obama administration's offer of waivers, but Monday was the first day requests could be filed. State Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson said the waiver would give Florida the flexibility to strengthen its ac...

[New UCF, USF Program to Help Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children](#)
(Chronicle of Higher Education © 11/15/2011)

While growing up in the Bronx, Linda I. Rosa-Lugo watched young children with hearing loss in her family struggle to learn Spanish and English, and she learned sign language to communicate with them. Rosa-Lugo's relatives would have benefited greatly from a new program she is launching in cooperation with University of South Florida professor Theresa Hnath Chisolm. The new initiative, funded with...

[Flagler band teacher resigns amid Internet investigation](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 11/15/2011)

Steve Knob directs the Matanzas High School marching band in 2008. (N-J | David Massey) PALM COAST – A Flagler County teacher resigned after school administrators say he used a district computer to look at websites that had images of naked women. Steven Knob, who taught band at Matanzas High School and Indian Trails Middle School, looked at those sites tw...

[Daytona State College to respond to audit criticisms](#)

(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 11/15/2011)

DAYTONA BEACH – Daytona State College has put measures in place to ensure state laws are followed when it comes to charging the correct student tuition and lab fees, disposing of surplus equipment and other concerns found in a state audit. The college has prepared its response to the operational audit by the state Auditor General's Office. Board members will review the response at their Thursda...

[Tempers flair in debate over FCAT changes](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/15/2011)

A Florida Chamber of Commerce representative says he was called a "coward" and a "sellout" Monday by at least two school superintendents after he didn't fully back their endorsement of proposed "cut scores" for the high school FCAT reading test. Ryan West, the state Chamber's director of talent and innovation policy, said he was surprised by the superintendents' comments during a State Board of Ed...

[Teachers, nonprofits chip in for classroom supplies](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/15/2011)

Shea Grammer wants her kindergarten students at John A. Crookshank Elementary School in St. Augustine to love learning as much as she does. To ensure her students have the tools they need to explore science, reading and writing, Grammer spent about \$500 of her own money buying books and classroom materials. Among the items: art supplies, pencils, paper and educational trinkets to help inspire he...

[UNF Student Leadership Summit](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/15/2011)

UNF Student Leadership Summit"Good leaders make people feel that they're at the very heart of things, not at the periphery. Everyone feels that he or she makes a difference to the success of the organization. When that happens people feel centered and that gives their work meaning" Warren G. Bennis. The importance of developing leaders can be seen by the diverse ro...

[Florida universities turn to market rate tuition to make money](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 11/15/2011)

Desperate for money after years of budget cuts from the state, universities are increasingly turning to out-of-state and online students to bring in more revenue. Through a pilot market rate tuition program, universities are able to charge different tuition rates for online and continuing education master's degrees and certificate programs. In most cases, this means a higher tuition rate than wha...

[FCAT face-lift a fear](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 11/15/2011)

Fewer public school students are expected to be deemed performing at grade level in math and reading next year if a tougher Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test scoring system is approved next month. The anticipated lower student scores will slash the number of 'A' schools statewide, including Lee and Collier counties. No local numbers have been released, but Florida is predicting a 22 percent d...

[Bad scores could hit area](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 11/15/2011)

School officials in Southwest Florida fear the expected drop in student standardized scores will tarnish the community perception of the Lee and Collier school districts. Lee, for instance, has received an 'A' grade from the state for the past three years. What if the lower student scores drops Lee's grade to a B? What if Lee and Collier see a significant drop in their respective number of 'A' s...

[William D. Hedges: The distance learning revolution](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 11/15/2011)

There is a revolution about to explode across the nation for higher education, community colleges, and even some of high school and our university and school authorities seem to be totally oblivious to it. It is distance learning. For that portion of education that is primarily lecture, (and that is a huge chunk) why not gain access to that handful of really superb teachers; why use Joe Ordinary?...

[Future FCAT to be harder to pass](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 11/15/2011)

JACKSONVILLE — State Board of Education members will raise the scores necessary for Florida students to pass the newly revised FCAT, but members and panel participants were divided as to how high is high enough to ensure students are ready for college. The board held a workshop on Monday at the Florida State College at Jacksonville Urban Res...

[Move toward new university](#)

(Jacksonville Daily Record © 11/15/2011)

Article reprints available. Find out more. 11/14/2011by David Roysse, The News Service of FloridaCould it all stem from this? Backers of a little school in Lakeland hope the state's future, one that includes lots of jobs in science, technology, engineering and math, could have reached an important milestone last week. Some people hope that a vote taken last week a...

[Polk School District Seeks To Boost Enrollment at Its 37 Career Academies](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/15/2011)

BARTOW | Within five years, the Polk County School District hopes to have 45 percent of its high school students enrolled in one of its 37 career academies. That's approximately 11,900 high school students attending an academy compared with the current enrollment of 5,000. This school year's student population is about 94,000 total. One way to ach...

[State launches charter school competition](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/15/2011)

The state Department of Education and a national nonprofit are rolling out a \$30 million fund to help grow high-performing charter schools in Florida. The fund will award grants to top charter schools that serve low-income students. The first finalist: Youth Co-Op Charter School, a small school in Hialeah Gardens that has received eight consecutive A grades from the state. The school could win as m...

[Broward teachers union boss under investigation](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/15/2011)

The Florida Elections Commission and the Broward State Attorney's Office have launched an investigation into whether Broward Teachers Union President Pat Santeramo used union dues to reimburse employees, board members and their relatives for political contributions. Four of the union's executive board members are calling for his removal, also alleging that Santeramo falsified budget r...

[Editorial: Edison's stability important to the area](#)

(Naples Daily News © 11/15/2011)

Edison State College President a.inline_topic:hover { background-color: #EAEAEA; } Kenneth Walker says the key points in an important accreditation review by outside educators make good sense and are doable. That is good to hear. Edison needs that accreditation. We have longed for some encouraging signs from that important Southwest Florida institution. We have grown weary of conflicts of st...

[Florida Wants Out Of Some Federal No Child Left Behind Requirements](#)

(North Escambia.com © 11/15/2011)

November 15, 2011 Florida has submitted its request to the federal government to exempt the state from some requirements under the No Child Left Behind law. Florida is one of several states that have submitted requests to not continue operating federal accountability programs mandated under NCLB, which passed in 2001. The idea is to streamline various state and federal accountability ...

[Tuesday workshop highlights Vmath Live and Ticket to Read! programs](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/15/2011)

School District officials are trying to get parents to embrace two new online math and reading programs that can help children increase their skills before next spring's FCAT and end-of-year course exams. Tuesday night is the last chance parents from across the county can gather for a workshop to learn more about the computer programs aimed at...

[Portable classrooms still very much a part of Manatee school system](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 11/15/2011)

MANATEE COUNTY - Getting rid of portable classrooms was a chief promise district officials made in 2002 to sell Manatee County voters on a half-penny sales tax for new schools. But despite spending about \$181 million to build or renovate schools, a new report shows that 156 classes across the county are still taught in portables, only two fewer cl...

[District intends to fire teacher for behavior](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 11/15/2011)

MANATEE COUNTY - School district officials intend to fire a Freedom Elementary School special education teacher who they say told her pre-K students she was on medication and told their parents she had been dealt a "bad hand" with this group of students. Holloway Board votes to place educator on unpaid leave Donna Holloway, ...

[Hardee gets solar farms](#)

(Sebring Highlands Today © 11/15/2011)

HARDEE COUNTY - The sun should be shining brightly over Hardee County now that it has landed a \$700 million solar farm deal with National Solar Power. The company plans to construct 10 solar farms at \$70 million each. That will create five new jobs per solar farm for a total of 50 jobs, including engineers, maintenance workers, groundskeepers and security crews, company officials said. The pro...

[Challenging students](#)

(Sebring Highlands Today © 11/15/2011)

SEBRING - As a fifth-grader in 2005, Matthew Juve was in the first group of students in the school district's then-new Advanced Academics program, which was designed to challenge gifted and advanced students. Now, Juve continues to challenge himself academically as a junior in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Sebring High School. After being open to fourth- and fifth-grader...

[Broward Teachers Union president target of criminal investigation](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/15/2011)

Pat Santeramo, long-time president of the Broward Teachers Union, is under investigation amid accusations he blew through \$3.8 million in union reserves, used dues to reimburse people for campaign donations and has been overpaid for most of his tenure. Santeramo, 64, said through his lawyer Monday he had no plans to resign, despite a criminal investigation by the Broward State Attorney's Office a...

[Union president Pat Santeramo](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/15/2011)

Job: Pat Santeramo has been president of the Broward Teachers Union for 10 years, after serving as its first vice president for a number of years. The organization has 11,500 members, including teachers, classroom aides, technical support staff and charter school professionals. Age: 64 Education: Santeramo is a graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston and began his teaching career in New B...

[Teacher suspended for rejecting peer evaluator hopes for compromise](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/15/2011)

LITHIA — Newsome High School teacher Joseph Thomas, suspended for refusing to meet with a district-assigned peer evaluator, said he hopes for a compromise that will put him back in the classroom. Thomas said he met with school district officials for more than an hour Monday and told them he would be willing to be evaluated by a middle school teacher with experience in grades 7 through 12. "...

[Sen. J.D. Alexander bullies wrong kid on Florida Board of Governors](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/15/2011)

It's merely a theory, mind you, but as we witnessed last week you can be more tone deaf than Yoko Ono and still rise to great heights of power and bullying in the Florida Legislature. Exhibit A: state Sen. J.D. Alexander, R-Snidely Whiplash. It is certainly true that because Alexander chairs the Senate Budget Committee, there is more bowing and scraping in his presence than to Caesar entering Ro...

[Universities Pressing for More Market-Rate Tuition Structures](#)

(Sunshine State News © 11/15/2011)

Posted: November 15, 2011 3:55 AM Desperate for money after years of budget cuts from the state, universities are increasingly turning to out-of-state and online students to bring in more revenue. Through a pilot market-rate tuition program, universities are able to charge different tuition rates for online and continuing education master's degrees

and certificate programs. In m...

[Challenging students](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 11/15/2011)

SEBRING - As a fifth-grader in 2005, Matthew Juve was in the first group of students in the school district's then-new Advanced Academics program, which was designed to challenge gifted and advanced students. Now, Juve continues to challenge himself academically as a junior in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Sebring High School. After being open to fourth- and fifth-grader...

[University Tuition Likely to Increase](#)

(West Orlando News © 11/15/2011)

Desperate for money after years of budget cuts from the state, universities are increasingly turning to out-of-state and online students to bring in more revenue. Through a pilot market rate tuition program, universities are able to charge different tuition rates for online and continuing education master's degrees and certificate programs. In most cases, this means a higher tuition rate t...

[Florida applies for NCLB waiver](#)

(WFSU Newsroom © 11/15/2011)

Florida is applying for an exemption to the federal No Child Left Behind Law. Lynn Hatter reports the Obama administration announced earlier in the year that it would allow states to apply for the waivers if they have their own accountability systems. Florida wants to bridge the gap between how the state rates its schools and how the federal government does. Right now a school can earn an A accor...

[Feeding empty tummies in Manatee County](#)

(WWSB ABC Sarasota County © 11/15/2011)

BRADENTON - Being able to go home after school or a long day's work and have a home cooked meal is something many people look forward to every day. But for others, a meal is something wished for as the number of homeless continues to rise on the Suncoast. What's even more heartbreaking , many of those are elementary school children and the numbers are shocking. "There were about ...

Have a lovely day! Please see the articles below.

Deborah



Tallahassee Democrat

Homesick scientist, administrator Larry Robinson returning to FAMU

11:30 PM, Nov. 14, 2011

By Doug Blackburn

Adults can get homesick, too.

Larry Robinson, a highly regarded scientist and administrator at Florida A&M University, fully expected to spend up to eight years in Washington, D.C., after being hand-picked by President Obama's team to join the Department of Commerce.

But after a little more than 18 months as an undersecretary at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Robinson is stepping down from his federal post and returning to FAMU at the end of this week.

"This wasn't an easy decision for me," Robinson said. "I got homesick. I got (longtime wife) Sharon-sick. I got family-sick."

FAMU President James H. Ammons doesn't particularly care why Robinson is coming back to Tallahassee — he's simply glad to have his colleague back in the fold.

"This is the best piece of news I've received in a long time. We look forward to welcoming him back," Ammons said.

Robinson, vice president of research at FAMU when the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment at NOAA, maintained a hectic schedule during his time in Washington. Two days after being sworn in on May 7, 2010, Robinson was off to Louisiana to monitor developments with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf.

He is a member of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Task Force, established in October 2010. It is charged with developing strategies that go well beyond the oil spill and its aftermath.

Robinson came to FAMU in 1997 when Ammons, then the provost, recruited him away from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

"I know the experience (Robinson) had in Washington at NOAA is going to serve all of us well at the university," Ammons said.

Robinson said he's eager to be back working with students.

"A lot of the things I love in terms of preparing the next generation of students is very dear to me," Robinson said.

There have been some significant changes at FAMU since Robinson left the university 18 months ago. One involved changing the name and status of one of Robinson's primary research projects. The university's Environmental Institute is now the School for the Environment.

"Environmental issues are going to be important to all of our lives," he said. "My aspiration was to elevate the institute to a school or college."

"Of course they had to wait," Robinson joked, "until I left to make that change."

Tallahassee Democrat

Our Opinion: Mission extended

FAMU wants to broaden medical imprint

5:11 PM, Nov. 14, 2011

A recent joint announcement between Florida A&M and Florida Atlantic universities to work together on increasing the number of minority or disadvantaged students seeking medical degrees is a worthwhile endeavor on many fronts.

Such a collaboration is an example of how Florida's universities must work together to produce graduates who will pursue degrees that address critical needs for Florida's residents, while doing so under the reality of budget restraints. It also enhances FAMU's mission of identifying and producing top graduates from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to help fill a void in Florida's medical community.

The first of its kind Medical Honors Program is designed to attract some of the state's brightest students. The students would be admitted to an honors program at FAMU that would be closely linked to FAU's medical school. Graduates of the FAMU program would have to meet the criteria for attending any medical school before being accepted at FAU.

"The Medical Honors Program reinforces the commitment of both universities to identify and engage in strategies to meet the health needs of underserved populations," FAMU President James Ammons said in a joint release. "Through this program, the citizens of Florida will benefit as well as the MHP students."

The joint program with FAU in South Florida is the second such collaboration that FAMU is pursuing with other universities in increasing the diversity of students preparing for careers in medicine.

After it became clear that the Board of Governors, which oversees the public universities in Florida, was not inclined to support new dental schools, FAMU and the University of Florida came back with a joint proposal that includes the establishment of a health-based academic program at FAMU that will accept up to 50 students annually.

Those students would undergo extensive undergraduate coursework at FAMU, while at the same time being exposed to academic work at UF's College of Dentistry. Students successfully completing that program would be prepared to seek admittance to medical or dental schools, including the University of Florida and Florida State University.

That program also would include an expansion of UF's College of Dentistry, which means that both schools are looking for state money to make it work. That joint plan is more attractive to the Board of Governors than the separate dental school that FAMU had proposed or the money for expansion that UF was seeking. But the BOG last week again questioned the cost of the proposal and will revisit it again in January.

While details of the FAMU-FAU collaboration still need to be finalized, it would be a less ambitious and less costly endeavor that would result in three to five students per year likely enrolling in the FAU medical school. It would not need Board of Governors approval unless additional money was being requested, said Donald Palm, FAMU's assistant vice president for academic affairs. The agreement would likely involve FAU faculty teaching some courses in the Medical Honors Program.

The sharing of resources and a commitment to enhancing academic offerings by the state's universities can only reap benefits for students and residents.