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Subject: FW: 11/18/11 Education Round-Up

FYI – have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

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From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 11:56 AM
Subject: 11/18/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[2 new SCF bachelor programs approved](#)
(Bradenton Herald © 11/18/2011)

State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota won unanimous approval this week to offer two new baccalaureate degree programs – International Business and Trade, and Technology Management. The two new programs, which were OK'd by the State Board of Education at a meeting Tuesday in Jacksonville, follow the recent approval of new concentrations in Gerontology and Nutrition to the Health Servi...

[Questions Arise Over Grants for ELL Tests](#)
(Education Week © 11/18/2011)

Only one consortium got funds to develop proficiency exams By Lesli A. Maxwell While a group of 28 states forges ahead to develop a new generation of English-language proficiency tests, important questions have arisen about how the language needs of millions more English-learners living in the rest of the country will be met under the common-core academic standards. Earlier this fall,...

['Value-Added' Formulas Strain Collaboration](#)

(Education Week © 11/18/2011)

By Sarah D. Sparks The rapidly changing debate on how to account for student achievement in teacher evaluations is putting teacher-district relationships to the test across the country. More than half the states now require districts to take student achievement into account when evaluating a teacher's performance. In most cases, that's calculated through a so-called value-added model...

[Questions Arise Over Grants for ELL Tests](#)

(Education Week © 11/18/2011)

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[Guest opinion: You can help, learn from the homeless](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 11/18/2011)

This weekend is the Lee County Homeless Challenge. The challenge allows people who aren't homeless to experience what it is like not to have a home by spending a few days living on the streets. Why take the challenge? Some take part to better understand how the homeless live. Others believe it helps reduce the separation between society's "haves" and "have-nots." For me, this year's challenge s...

[School officials wary for-profit charter schools may target Alachua](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 11/18/2011)

Three Alachua County charter schools were labeled high-performing under changes to state education statutes, making it easier for those schools to expand with less school district oversight. But Alachua County Public Schools leaders are wary that for-profit charter schools with the same designation and relaxed supervision may seek to enter the county. Alachua County has more than a dozen cha...

[Athletes' Parents Could Face Fines for FHSAA Violations](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/18/2011)

LAKELAND | The Polk County School Board and the executive director of the Florida High School Athletic Association are making a push to hold parents more accountable when it comes to rule-breaking in high school sports. The news comes on the heels of a major investigation in Polk County by the FHSAA in which five football players at Lakeland were ruled ineligible for their senior seasons after...

[Schools face \\$16M shortfall next year](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/18/2011)

The Marion County School District could face as much as about a \$16 million shortfall for the 2012-13 school year if predictions from statewide economic forecasters hold true. Forecasters believe the state may fall \$2 billion short next year of earlier revenue estimates. As a result, officials believe school districts would be cut by at least 2.8 percent each in 2012-13, officials said on Thurs...

[UCF Trustees praise President Hitt but offer no raise](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/18/2011)

University of Central Florida trustees have given President John Hitt a glowing annual performance review but stopped short today of offering him a raise, citing the poor economy. Hitt, whose employment contract was recently extended by nearly a year and a half, has not had a raise since 2006. His base pay remains \$463,500. "The trustees believe the president is doing an outstanding job," Ma...

[USF Polytechnic tensions simmer](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 11/18/2011)

MIAMI - A week after a contentious Board of Governors meeting that laid out the preliminary steps for the University of South Florida Polytechnic to become the state's 12th public university, tensions among legislators and USF leaders are still simmering. New university has legislators and academics arguing State Sen. J.D. Alexander, R-Lake...

[FAMU Close To Reaching Goal Of 15,000 Students](#)

(St. Petersburg Weekly Challenger © 11/18/2011)

The Weekly Challenger Originally posted 11/17/2011 TALLAHASSEE - Last year, Rattler Nation reported that FAMU was on track to reach 14,000 students by Summer 2011. It turns out that this blog's prediction was a bit too conservative. FAMU actually surpassed the 14,000 student mark by more than 700, coming close to a total of 15,000. FAMU finished t...

[Could Florida Schools Strike it Rich With New Casinos?](#)

(State Impact Florida © 11/18/2011)

By John O'Connor A Florida lawmaker has introduced a bill to earmark gaming revenue for education. Lawmakers are likely to debate allowing megacasinos. A Jacksonville state Senator has filed a bill that would earmark gambling money for K-12 education as state lawmakers prepare to debate allowing megacasinos, according to the Jacksonville Times-Union. The bill would set aside 2 percen...

[Questions mounting about USF Polytechnics Marshall Goodman](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 11/18/2011)

TAMPA – Questions are mounting about the future of USF Polytechnic Chancellor Marshall Goodman a week after state officials delayed a request to make the Polk County school an independent university. A state senator said Goodman, an independence backer, should step down after rebuffing a request for an audit of Polytechnic spending. Another defended Goodman and asked for an inve...

[Experts Discuss How To Encourage Student To Get Higher Degrees](#)

(University Business © 11/18/2011)

Iowa and other Midwestern states must better prepare their high school graduates for a post-secondary education and encourage more students to seek that education to help meet a pending deficit of educated workers, one higher education expert said Monday. Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO of the Lumina Foundation for Education, a private foundation that focuses on enrolling and graduating more ...

[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...

[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...

[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...

Have a lovely weekend! Please see the articles below.

Deborah

**HAPPY
FRIDAY!** 

Tallahassee Democrat

Bond Elementary event aims to get parents involved

By Ashley Ames

November 18, 2011

It was a festive atmosphere at Bond Elementary School on Thursday evening, when more than 200 parents gathered in the cafeteria for a parent-involvement themed community conversation, hosted by Superintendent of Leon County Schools Jackie Pons.

"There is a direct relation between success of students and the involvement of the parents," Pons said. He encouraged parents to connect with their children's teachers and to work on making learning something important at home and at school.

"I think this highlights what we need from our parents," he said. "We want them to feel good about coming to school, about being involved."

Parents were asked to sign a huge golden pledge that they would support their child's education to the best of their abilities. Among the pledges were maintaining high expectations, ensuring their child's education as a priority, and modeling actions and attitudes to reflect it .

"I would love to see more parents come out and support their kids," said Keyona Frost, whose daughter Keyaira is in the fourth grade at Sabal Palm Elementary. She's also the school's parent teacher organization president and said that being hands-on as a parent also means something to the kids.

"It makes the kids excited," she said, adding that the PTO encouraged parents to pledge at least two hours of school involvement a year. "It makes them want to do better."

"We are responsible for their future," said Schwanda Cunningham, whose son, Qyran Ackerman, is a student at Bond. "I'm here to support him, and to help push for him to have the things that I didn't get to have when I was growing up."

The conversation, which coincided with Florida's Parental Involvement in Education Month, was one of several that the superintendent has hosted over the year. Pons said he hopes to schedule one a month from now on .

While only a few stood up and spoke during the event, many grabbed the superintendent for a one-on-one after the meeting. Dinner was served to attendees as well, and parents, kids and teachers gathered over hot dogs, cole slaw and baked beans.

Joseph McLemore, who teaches fifth grade at Bond, said that parental involvement was integral to the success of students.

"Being an educator, the most important thing that you can have is parental involvement—there is no success with students without parental involvement," he said. "You have to be able to communicate with a parent."

"There is something for every parent in our community," Pons said. "And we need this entire community working together to help our school system to be the great district that it is."

Tallahassee Democrat

Editorial

Brighter Futures

Proposal could boost students in grad school

November 18, 2011

Sometimes, an idea is so simple that you wonder why we are not taking advantage of it already.

A perfect example is a proposal by the Higher Education Coordinating Council to let college students put any unused Bright Futures money toward in-state graduate school.

The council, which includes leaders in education as well as the business community, was created by the Legislature in 2010 partly "for the purposes of identifying unmet needs" in higher education. It has been working since last fall on a list of proposals, which it has whittled down to about 30 and will present to the Legislature in December.

The Bright Futures idea is one of those.

Currently, Florida Academic Scholars and Medallion Scholars can put some of their Bright Futures money toward grad school if they get their undergraduate degree in seven semesters or fewer. But the hours are limited, and they can use them only in the first semester.

The council asks: If students are motivated enough to graduate early, before exhausting the 120-credit-hour limit for the scholarship, why not let them put those unused dollars toward grad school?

There are several benefits.

It would be another incentive for students to graduate as quickly as possible. (That's one of the goals of the State University System Board of Governors' new strategic plan. Look for more details in this Sunday's Our Opinion.) It would be an incentive for Florida's best and brightest to stay in the state. It's not uncommon for students to use a Bright Futures scholarship, only to take their talents elsewhere for graduate school. It also would encourage parents to become more involved in a child's high-school curriculum, knowing that every Advanced Placement or dual-enrollment course could mean money in the bank when it's time for grad school.

Bright Futures has been a huge success in rewarding students for academic excellence. The problem is, it has been too successful, with demand growing while the economy and the state budget shrink. The Legislature this year slashed the size of the awards and raised the requirements to qualify. But the grad-school proposal adds benefits with no increase in cost beyond the cashing-in of previously unused hours.

Ed Moore, president of Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida and a member of the council, sees practical value in this proposal and a companion one to let students use Bright Futures money for summer classes.

"If the end goal is we want you to get done," Mr. Moore said, "then offer them some market flexibility."

The proposal is still in draft form, and Mr. Moore indicated it was too early to predict what will happen in the next legislative session. But it would be simple ("Just a tweaking what is there," Mr. Moore said), effective and inexpensive.

That's a hard combination to beat.

FL Times-Union

Duval School Board members chide chairman W.C. Gentry on endorsements

November 18, 2011 - 7:19am

By Teresa Stepzinski

Duval County School Board members scolded outgoing Chairman W.C. Gentry on Thursday when he endorsed Vice Chairwoman Betty Burney to become the panel's next leader and board member Fel Lee to serve as its vice chairman.

Announcing he's not planning to seek re-election, Gentry, whose term ends next year, also told the board during a workshop that he won't seek a consecutive stint as chairman.

Duval County voters elect the School Board members. The board then selects its chairman and vice chairman, who historically hold those leadership positions for one year. Although not mandated, it's been the board's practice for the vice chairman to become chairman.

Gentry lauded Burney for her dedication, service and leadership. From a continuity standpoint, she also would be the best person to lead the board as it continues to deal with intervene schools and other challenging issues, he said. Assuming of course, she wants the job, Gentry said.

"I want to be chairman," Burney said.

Gentry then said he thought the new vice chairman should be either board members Paula Wright, Becki Couch or Lee. Of those, Gentry said Lee would be the best choice in part because he is well-respected in the business community and by the Chamber of Commerce, two important allies to education in Duval County.

Wright reacted first.

"I think you have the right to express your opinion but that you stepped over the line by expressing your preferences," Wright told Gentry. "I'm not interested in being vice chairman and I'm not interested in your dictating your preferences."

Lee said he wants the vice chairmanship and "will serve to the best of my ability with Betty as chairman."

Agreeing with Wright, board member Tommy Hazouri also chastised Gentry.

"I don't believe in this succession thing. ... I agree with Paula. I don't think the chairman has any business to bring his preferences into the board meeting," said Hazouri, who noted he wasn't seeking either leadership post although he's been encouraged to do so.

In another matter, the board got some good news.

Eleven of the 14 teachers whose positions were eliminated last month were spared, said Vicki Reynolds, the school system's head of human resources.

Those teachers are filling other positions at their original schools, said Jill Johnson, school system spokeswoman.

The other three, however, have been laid off. If an opening occurs matching their certification and qualifications, those three will be offered the vacancy first, Johnson said.

The layoffs resulted from the district's fall budget modification process and the district complying with the class-size requirements in core classes.

Lakeland Ledger

Editorial

Undocumented Parents: Educate U.S.-Born Students

Friday, November 18, 2011 at 12:01 a.m.

In one of his finer moments, Rick Perry, Texas governor and GOP hopeful, had this to say when criticized for signing a law that allows undocumented immigrants who are Texas residents access to in-state college and university tuition rates.

"If you say that we should not educate children who have come into our state for no reason than they've been brought there, by no fault of their own, I don't think you have a heart."

Being a politician with aspirations to the White House, Perry recently felt obliged to apologize for suggesting that his critics lacked heart.

"I made a huge error by using that word," he said during a radio interview in Iowa recently.

Actually, Perry was right the first time.

HEARTLESS FLORIDA

Along those lines, a Florida law that denies in-state tuition rates to Florida-born students whose parents happen to be undocumented migrants is heartlessness writ large.

That law is under legal challenge by five students who argue that their parents' legal status should have no bearing on their ability to affordably attend the very public colleges and universities that they help support with their taxes.

"I'm an American citizen. I was born here. But now I feel left out," Kassandra Romero, one of the plaintiffs in the suit, told USA Today.

While, of late, states seem to be striving to outdo each other in passing increasingly draconian "get tough" on illegal immigration laws, Florida's law seems especially onerous and illogical.

What exactly is the public policy benefit of denying in-state tuition to someone who was born in Florida, raised in Florida, attended school in Florida and paid taxes in Florida?

Talk about punishing the child for the sins of the parents. If the courts don't throw it out first, the Florida Legislature should follow Perry's example and get rid of this truly "heartless" law.

