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Sent time: Monday, November 21, 2011 12:27:44 PM
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Subject: FW: 11/19/11 through 11/21/11 Education Round-Up

FYI – have a great short week! ☺

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

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From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2011 11:51 AM
Subject: 11/19/11 through 11/21/11 Education Round-Up



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[Achievement in School Should be Cool](#)

(FL Times-Union © 11/21/2011)

How do you change a toxic peer culture in many schools? This student culture makes it uncool to study hard and achieve. Ronald Ferguson, a senior lecturer in public policy at Harvard University, is on a mission to change it as part of his movement to transform education. The achievement gap that plagues too many schools will never be closed until the toxic popular culture changes....

[Let unused Bright Futures funds go toward grad school](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 11/21/2011)

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 ?fo...

[Teacher evaluation system a numbers game](#)

(Highlands News Sun © 11/21/2011)

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY christopher.tuffley@newssun.com SEBRING – In its effort to evaluate teachers, and institute a policy of rewarding better teachers with higher pay, the state is phasing in a new evaluation system. It is divided into two parts, each being 50 percent of a teacher's final evaluation score. Half is made up of classroom observations and a teacher's own self appraisal...

[State seeks No Child Left Behind exemption](#)

(Independent Florida Alligator © 11/21/2011)

Emily Morrow, Alligator Writer The Independent Florida Alligator | 0 comments Florida may soon be leaving No Child Left Behind by the wayside. In a proposal sent to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, the Florida Department of Education, along with 10 other states, requested to be exempt from certain portions of the education law. The move is primarily an effort to streamline schools' accountability sy...

[FHSAA Denies Appeals Of Lakeland Football Trio](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 11/21/2011)

GAINESVILLE | The high school careers of Lakeland football players Chandler Brunson, Jadrian Clark and Jacobe Stafford are over. The Florida High School Athletic Association's board of directors voted unanimously Sunday morning to deny all three appeals in a hearing that at times turned heated and impassioned. The FHSAA had ruled Brunson, Clark a...

[Santeramo's stronghold over union officials led to lax financial oversight](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/21/2011)

The launch of state investigations, the results of an internal audit and questions from dues-paying members of the Broward Teacher's Union indicate that President Pat Santeramo held a virtual stronghold over the union's finances, with little oversight. Two of the union's key finance officers — a longtime bookkeeper and its comptroller for the past year — wouldn't comment on how expenditures went...

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(Miami Herald © 11/21/2011)

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[Old education formulas need an update](#)

(Miami Herald © 11/21/2011)

Old habits are hard to break. Unfortunately, nowhere is this cliché truer than when it comes to one's political and societal beliefs. Some of these "hard to break" mindsets are alarmingly prevalent in one of the most influential, yet inexplicably untouchable of our institutions — education. For years, I parroted the traditional rhetoric supporting the educational process. I narcissistically hail...

[Delayed grades will stall bonuses for teachers](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/21/2011)

Teachers working at the best and most-improved schools in the state will not get their School Recognition bonus money before Christmas this year, the state informed Marion County school officials recently. There also will be a delay in the release of high school grades for the second straight year. The 2010-11 grades will likely be released in mid-December, six months after that school year end...

[FCAT scoring system: State Board asks for another panel to consider plan before it votes](#)

(Orlando Sentinel/The School Zone Blog © 11/21/2011)

Discuss This: Comments(1) | Add to del.icio.us | Digg it The State Board of Education will gather more information before it votes on a new scoring system for revised FCAT reading and math tests and the state's new algebra exam. To that end, a new "reactor panel" — this one to include college presidents and other "stakeholders" — will meet in Tallahassee on Nov. 30, the Florida Department of...

[Going cheap is no bargain](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 11/21/2011)

By The Palm Beach Post Posted: 7:43 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18, 2011 Gov. Scott is taking Florida Higher Ed 101, amassing information on the state university system as part of his push for an overhaul during the 2012 legislative session. Unfortunately, the governor is following the wrong syllabus. Though he is right to focus on steering more students into science, technology, engineering and mat...

[What is technology's place in classrooms?](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 11/21/2011)

One group of children is plugged into laptops, working on math problems. Another is navigating the interactive whiteboard at the front of the room. Four more students are tapping iPad screens, completing a creative writing assignment. It is a typical morning in Amber Marshall's third-grade class at Brentwood Elementary Magnet School of Communication and Technology. And every student is using a pi...

[Joe Milberg: Waste, salaries, double-dipping atop Florida university system disservice to tuition-paying students, taxpayers](#)

(Scripps News © 11/21/2011)

Joe Milberg, semiretired after spending 17 years with the state of Florida, including a stint as business and budget manager at Florida State University, lives in Tallahassee. Monday, November 21, 2011 It seems there is no end to the squandering of state funds in higher education. The newest idea forced through recently by Florida Sen. J.D. Alexander, R-Lake Wales, scion of the Ben Hill...

[Pinellas schools embrace personal touch for struggling parents](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/21/2011)

The Pinellas school system, in partnership with community groups, has embraced a smart new approach to reach out to struggling parents: knocking on their doors and asking, one-on-one, how they can help. This personal approach, tested earlier this month and to be repeated next month, is much likelier to result in positive change than holding community meetings with their typical poor attendance or...

[Mom upset that Hooters waitress is guest speaker at Pinellas school](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/21/2011)

"Delightfully tacky, yet unrefined" is the slogan for Hooters, the restaurant chain known for busty waitresses in skimpy orange shorts. But after a Pinellas County parent found out that a Hooters waitress had addressed her son's school for the Great American Teach-In, other words came to her mind ... inappropriate ... stunning ... Really? The waitress — dressed in sweatpants and a sweater — spok...

[Gulf Highlands Elementary educators solving school's problems from within](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/21/2011)

NEW PORT RICHEY — The fifth-grade teaching team at Gulf Highlands Elementary School gathered in the principal's conference room carrying stacks of tests and spreadsheets. Their task: To discuss students' first-quarter math performance, and how to improve upon it. "Our students have not mastered the standards," principal Kara Smucker said, receiving nods of agreement. "We have to think a...

[Gaming's promises to Florida have often exceed the payoffs](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 11/21/2011)

TALLAHASSEE — The news conference called by the heads of South Florida's horse and dog tracks in October 2004 had one goal in mind: to counter voter skepticism. After nearly two decades of partly kept promises that the Florida Lottery would benefit education, the industry was struggling to persuade voters that if they supported a constitutional amendment to give the South Florida tracks slot...

[The Nation: America's Online Learning Curve](#)

(State Impact Florida © 11/21/2011)

This article was reported in partnership with The Investigative Fund at The Nation Institute. If the national movement to "reform" public education through vouchers, charters and privatization has a laboratory, it is Florida. It was one of the first states to undertake a program of "virtual schools"—charters operated online, with teachers instructing students over the Internet—as well as one of...

[Accusations of rule breaking fly during high school playoff season](#)

(Sun-Sentinel © 11/21/2011)

Governing board inundated with allegations of illegal recruitment and bogus student transfers By Megan O'Matz and Christy Cabrera Chirinos, Sun Sentinel 4:35 AM EST, November 21, 2011 Advertisement In the insular world of high school sports, it's common to hear parents, fans and educators complain of students falsifying addresses to play on winning teams and of coaches violating ru...

[Gambling in Florida may be set to explode](#)

(Sun-Sentinel © 11/21/2011)

TALLAHASSEE Advertisement With the Legislature set to consider allowing Vegas-style casinos, even as smaller operators seek a rash of new pari-mutuel permits, Florida finds itself at a gambling crossroads. The state could explode with more gambling options, from glitzy, high-end resorts in South Florida that offer slots, card games and craps to barrel racing — and maybe slot machines —...

[Editorial: An early start](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 11/20/2011)

It is a paradox of public education that by the time some children get to grade school it is already too late to begin to educate them. Indeed the more we learn about the development of the human brain the more apparent it is that early childhood education is crucial to instilling lifelong learning habits. "Brain connections develop especiall...

[Approach to education isn't working](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/20/2011)

The idea that a teacher's pay should be tied to student scores is not only ludicrous but downright stupid. This is a business model, not an educational model. It is also a political model, in that politicians can solve any problem with one solution. Know your FCAT. The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test was originally designed as a remedial tool....

[Delayed grades will stall bonuses for teachers](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 11/20/2011)

Teachers working at the best and most-improved schools in the state will not get their School Recognition bonus money before Christmas this year, the state informed Marion County school officials recently. There also will be a delay in the release of high school grades for the second straight year. The 2010-11 grades will likely be released in mid-D...

[Enrollment at Jefferson Co. schools growing](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 11/20/2011)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky's largest school district, Jefferson County Schools, has reached its highest enrollment in 25 years, thanks in part to a slow economy. New figures released for this school year show the district, one of the nation's largest, has reached 100,534 students. School officials credit the steady growth to modest population increases around the county, new career theme...

[A-School Recognition Dollars May Not Get Home for Christmas](#)

(Sunshine State News © 11/20/2011)

Posted: November 19, 2011 3:55 AM Lincoln Park Academy in St. Lucie County is a consistent A school. | Credit: stlucie.k12.fl.us | Jokerpro - Shutterstock Staffers at Florida's "A"-rated schools shouldn't count on getting their 2011 bonus money by Christmas. "School recognition" funds totaling more than \$100 million have been delayed by the state's new grading formula for high...

[Duval School Board members chide chairman W.C. Gentry on endorsements](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 11/19/2011)

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...

[Trying to clarify school grading system. Florida seeks waiver from No Child Left Behind law](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 11/19/2011)

Florida has been grading its public schools A-to-F for more than a decade, using a system most educators and parents find easy to understand. During much of that time, many Florida schools also have been judged by the complicated federal No Child Left Behind act, resulting in sometimes confusing and contradictory results. Eagle's Nest Elementary in Orange County earned an A from the state this y...

[Trying to clarify school grading system, Florida seeks waiver from No Child Left Behind law](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 11/19/2011)

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[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 ...

[Brogan: Wait until 2013 to make major changes to university system](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 11/16/2011)

By LILLY ROCKWELL Copyright 2011 . All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. November 16, 2011 - 12:01am Brogan: Wait until 2013 to make major changes to university system News Service of Florida TALLAHASSEE — The head of Florida's state university system said Tuesday he wants to wait a full year before taking up major changes to how the st...

Happy Monday! Please the article below.

Deborah



Tallahassee Democrat

Editorial

21st century universities

November 20, 2011

BOG's strategic plan looks toward 2025

Where do you want to be in 2025?

If you just shrugged, join the club. For citizens and businesses alike, sometimes it's hard enough just getting through the week at hand.

But looking ahead is essential, and the State University System Board of Governors took a big step toward 2025 last week when it approved a new strategic plan.

The strategic plan, which has been a little over a year in the works, includes a focus on three key areas — teaching and learning; scholarship, research and innovation; and

community and business engagement.

Then there are three essential themes that can be applied to those priorities — excellence; productivity; and strategic priorities for a knowledge economy (in other words, addressing workforce demands).

Finally, there are broad ways of focusing on those areas, and specific goals.

The challenges of the 21st century call for more than the traditional mission of state universities — teaching, research and public service. The 2025 vision expands all three of those to “teaching and student learning, research and commercialization, and community and business engagement.”

Here’s a brief look at what the priorities would look like:

Teaching and learning: This puts a focus on expanding the “knowledge and innovation economy” and further committing to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. To make the effort more efficient, universities will expand the use of distance learning, interdisciplinary collaboration and resource sharing.

Scholarship, research and innovation: This got a jump start in 2010 with the New Florida Initiative, an effort to make Florida globally competitive in a wide range of fields — from health care and finance to education and the arts. The strategic plan calls for more federal and private funding for research, as well as commercialization and collaboration with private industry to promote “entrepreneurial campus cultures.” In other words, think Innovation Park and the economic engine we hear about so often.

Community and business engagement: The plan calls for outreach in government, culture, health care and public schools, as well as “mutually beneficial and sustainable” business partnerships. The BOG wants all 11 state universities to earn the “community engagement” classification from the Carnegie Foundation (seven now have it, including Florida State).

How do you measure such dreams? The BOG has specific goals on such things as freshmen in the top 10 percent of their high-school class (from 28 percent currently to 50 percent in 2025), average time to degree (4.3 years to 4.0), bachelor degrees awarded annually (53,392 to 90,000), percent of courses offered via distance and blended learning (18 percent to 30 percent), bachelor degrees in STEM (18 percent of the total to 25 percent of the total), bachelor degrees in areas of strategic emphasis (37 percent to 50 percent), and even the percentage of research and development money from sources outside state government (59 percent to 67 percent).

There are a few obstacles.

First, the BOG, created by voters in 2002, quotes its constitutional mandate to “operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system.”

However, in all likelihood, there are 11 university presidents who chafe at least somewhat at such rigid oversight. The strategic plan talks of “institutions’ individual strengths and unique missions.” But the words “freedom” or “flexibility” are nowhere to be found. Hopefully, world-class universities will be given leeway to experiment and use what they know works. Two heads are better than one, and 11 (or maybe more by 2025) certainly are better.

Second, but perhaps most important, is money. Over two decades, the Legislature’s support for Florida’s state universities has fallen more than 20 percent in inflation-adjusted spending per student. The BOG is honest in saying it must aggressively advocate for sufficient state funding to maintain teaching and research facilities, expand needbased financial aid and, well, just operate a top-notch university system.

The strategic plan is a solid one. Still, saying it doesn’t make it so. But with everyone pulling in the same direction (there are 324,000 students and many more thousands of faculty in the university system), we can slow the brain drain, cut the loss of faculty and attain the ultimate goal of, as the BOG’s mission statement says, providing “undergraduate, graduate and professional education, research, and public service of the highest quality.”

