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Sent time: Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:21:09 AM
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Subject: FW: Education Roundup 2-01-12

FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

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From: Mongiovi, Jamie
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:28 AM
Subject: Education Roundup 2-01-12

Florida Department of Education



[Fla. Senate panel kills immigration tuition bill](#) (Bradenton Herald © 02/01/2012)

Associated Press A bill that would have allowed in-state college and university tuition for certain U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants died Tuesday on a tie vote in the Senate Higher Education Committee. Opponents were unmoved by emotional testimony from a 20-year-old Miami-Dade College student. Instead, Sen. Steve Oelrich, a Gainesville Republican who chairs the committee, interrupted...

[Volusia School Board moves toward changing 2 attendance zones](#) (Daytona Beach News-Journal © 02/01/2012)

DELAND – Plans to change two pairs of school attendance zones to save on busing costs and fill empty classroom seats moved ahead Tuesday by vote of the Volusia County School Board. The proposals would affect DeLand and Southwestern Middle schools in DeLand and Turie T. Small Elementary in Daytona Beach and South Daytona Elementary in August if approved after a public hearing. Both plans would...

[Bill to provide in-state tuition falls flat](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 02/01/2012)

News Service of Florida: A measure that would grant in-state tuition to Florida high school students who are U.S. citizens but whose parents are in the country illegally was voted down Tuesday by a Senate committee. Following nearly an hour of emotional debate, the Senate Higher Education Committee voted down the bill (SB 1018), sometimes known as the "Dream Act." It would allow the ch...

[Thumbs up, thumbs down](#)

(Florida Today © 02/01/2012)

Thumbs up: To West Melbourne Elementary School for Science for being ranked the No. 1 elementary school in Florida by the state Department of Education, and to five other Brevard schools that scored in the top 10. Freedom 7 Elementary School of International Studies in Cocoa Beach was ranked third and Indialantic Elementary ninth. Among middle/high schools, West Shore Jr./Sr. High in Melbourne was...

[Board: Brevard school data not timely](#)

(Florida Today © 02/01/2012)

Brevard School Board members blasted school administrators Tuesday for not providing them accurate data as quickly as they wanted it in advance of making difficult policy decisions. "I still don't have any confidence in the data, a lot of times, when I make a decision," Board Member Amy Kneessy said during a board workshop. "I see a theme in the board (discussions). We continue to question whethe..."

[NCAA reform is coming – and fast](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 02/01/2012)

Cue the Sam Cooke record because a change is definitely coming to NCAA. NCAA President Mark Emmert already pushed for \$2,000 student-athlete stipends (which is currently suspended due to a lack of support), multiyear scholarships and a complete overhaul to the archaic 400-plus-page rulebook that seemingly no one outside of compliance directors read. And Emmert reiterated his support for a BCS cha...

[School open enrollment starts Wednesday](#)

(Panama City News Herald © 02/01/2012)

PANAMA CITY — Bay District Schools' open enrollment for school choice starts Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. and ends Feb. 29 at 4:30 p.m. Applications can be completed online at the district's website, www.bay.k12.fl.us/schoolchoice. Parents also can go to www.bay.k12.fl.us and click on the School Choice Application button on the homepage. Parents who do not have access to the Internet ...

[The true cost of high school dropouts](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 02/01/2012)

Only 21 states require students to attend high school until they graduate or turn 18. President Barack Obama's plan to make such attendance compulsory in every state is a step in the right direction, but it would not go far enough to reduce a dropout rate that imposes a heavy cost on the entire economy, not just on those who fail to obtain a diploma. In 1970, the United States had the world's h...

[School Prayer Bill Open to All Students](#)

Students gathered for prayer at Imagine Charter School at North Port, Florida on Sep. 28, 2011. A bill some have called a cornerstone of the social conservative agenda this session, allowing public school students to run their own prayer sessions at organized events, has been expanded to include all grades. The Senate will vote on the bill Wednesday. The last-minute change introduced Tuesday on t...

[Poverty may burden scores](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 02/01/2012)

TAMPA — Florida has ranked all 3,078 public and charter schools for the first time, largely by scores on the state's standardized test. The results in Hillsborough County: Public schools with the smallest share of poor students perform the best. Bevis Elementary ranks No. 1 among Hillsborough's 150 elementary schools — tied for first, in fact, among all state elementary schools...

Happy Wednesday! Please see the articles below.

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Miami Herald

Gov. Rick Scott will reject tuition increase

BY STEVE BOUSQUET AND KIM WALMATH

Gov. Rick Scott and his fellow Republican lawmakers are poised for a budget battle over raising college tuition by 8 percent. Scott opposes the move.

TALLAHASSEE -- The first budget confrontation of the legislative session emerged Tuesday when Gov. Rick Scott declared his opposition to an 8 percent tuition increase at state colleges and universities that Republican lawmakers support.

"I don't believe in tuition hikes," Scott said. "We have to do what the private sector has done and what every family has done and that's tighten our belts. ... That's the first thing I want to focus on, is how we can reduce our costs rather than how do we raise tuition."

The House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday is expected to vote out a preliminary budget of \$69.2 billion that includes an 8 percent tuition hike — the same as in the current year's budget, which Scott signed into law last May without objecting to a tuition hike.

Rep. Denise Grimsley, R-Sebring, who chairs the House budget panel, issued a statement defending the House's support for a tuition increase.

"The cost of postsecondary education in Florida is almost the lowest in the nation," Grimsley said. "Allowing tuition increases helps keep Florida nationally competitive."

Grimsley said Florida ranks 45th out of 50 states in the cost of undergraduate tuition, now about \$184 per credit hour or \$5,531 for a full year of 30 credit hours. The 8 percent increase to base tuition by the Legislature last year totaled \$7.65 per credit hour. The universities tacked on another 7 percent to make a \$9.16 total hike, or

\$275.10 for a full year.

Tuition has increased every year for the past six years in Florida.

Scott flatly rejected the logic that tuition needs to increase because it's too low.

"I want the cost of living in this state to be lower than other states. I don't want it to be higher," Scott said. "Would you think that way in business?"

He recalled having to pay his way through community college in Missouri and the "uproar" that ensued when tuition rose by \$20 a semester. "It costs money and I want everybody to be able to afford an education," Scott said.

The state Senate has not prepared its budget but support for a tuition increase exists there, too. Sen. Evelyn Lynn, R-Ormond Beach, who chairs the budget subcommittee on higher education, disagreed with Scott.

"I have great concern because we're cutting back on dollars, and education has been cutting back every single year for the last four years now, and to come one more year where we have to reduce money and say 'no tuition increases' is very difficult," Lynn said.

Lynn noted that state universities still have the option of raising differential tuition. She said she's more concerned about Florida's state colleges because they emphasize programs to train the workforce and have open-door acceptance policies. "That's accountability, affordability and accessibility right there," Lynn said.

"They're losing enrollment, things are going down, that's just the way it is right now, and they are also being reduced in dollars," Lynn said. "So I think perhaps I would like to see a small tuition increase. Having it held at zero is very hard when we are among the lowest in the country."

In a bit of political irony, Scott — who frequently bashes President Barack Obama — echoed the president's recent message to higher education administrators to keep tuition low.

"Let me put colleges and universities on notice: If you can't stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down," Obama told the nation in his Jan. 24 State of the Union speech. "Higher education can't be a luxury — it's an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford."

But Obama said the federal government could not "keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition; we'll run out of money."

"States also need to do their part, by making higher education a higher priority in their budgets. And colleges and universities have to do their part by working to keep costs down."

Orlando Sentinel

Our take on: Tuition time-out

As students at Florida's public universities and their families have been buffeted by a tough economy over the past few years, they've also been clobbered with annual 15 percent tuition increases — a combination of hikes ordered by lawmakers and approved by the system's Board of Governors.

The budget plan introduced by the state House last week would prolong that painful pattern. Fortunately, Gov. Rick Scott is pushing back. Scott held the line on tuition in the budget he proposed in December, and he repeated his opposition to more hikes this week.

The House's budget plan calls for increasing tuition by 8 percent next fall. If universities use their authority, with Board of Governors approval, to hike tuition an additional 7 percent, tuition would rise 15 percent for the fourth or fifth year in a row, depending on the school.

Lawmakers have been systematically raising tuition as they cut direct state funding for higher education, offloading more of the financial burden for running universities and colleges from taxpayers to students. Next year's House budget would cut higher education another 6 percent.

While Florida's public university tuition still ranks among the lowest in the country, that's cold comfort for students and families whose budgets weren't built to withstand annual 15 percent increases. Many will have to go deeper into debt to keep up.

Students and families deserve a break from tuition hikes. Lawmakers can and should cushion the blow for universities by not slashing their direct state funding.

Orlando Sentinel

FAMU President Ammons suspends club recruiting, band-camp activity

By Denise Balona

Florida A&M University President James Ammons has canceled the university's 2012 Summer Band Camp and suspended recruitment of students for all clubs and organizations until the fall 2012 semester, the university announced Tuesday.

Ammons took the action amid a criminal investigation into the hazing death of FAMU band drum major Robert Champion after the Florida Classic in Orlando last November. Since then, the university and police have announced a number of arrests and investigations into other hazing incidents.

In recent weeks, FAMU has been working to gather a panel of national experts to help it figure out how to conquer its hazing problems.

Ammons informed students of his decision to temporarily suspend all recruitment and initiation activities during a mandatory, campus-wide forum on safety Tuesday.

"Our top priority is the health, safety and well being of students," he said in a prepared statement.

The president of the school's Student Government Association, Breyon Love, expressed his support.

"This issue of hazing has had a far-reaching impact on the university and I believe that we need to pause for a moment to make sure that all of our students are ready to seriously move in a direction which will result in a complete culture change," Love said in a prepared statement.

College hazing expert Mary Madden, a research professor at the University of Maine, applauded Ammons' action.

"It's a very bold move on their part to try to get a hold of what's going on," she said, adding that she couldn't predict how effective the suspension would be on curbing hazing at the historically black university in Tallahassee.

"Will this work? I don't know," she said. "I hope it does."