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Sent time: Wednesday, September 28, 2011 5:09:19 PM
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Subject: FW: 09/28/11 Education Round-Up

FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

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From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2011 9:22 AM
Subject: 09/28/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Colleges scramble to stem tide of dropouts
(Charlotte Sun Herald © 09/28/2011)

BOSTON (The Hechinger Report) — Things were going well for Job Asimwe as he approached his final semester at Bunker Hill Community College here last winter. Then a toothache almost derailed his college career. Asimwe, an immigrant from Uganda who's been on his own since age 19, was close to graduating. He had been accepted to a bachelor's degree program at a college in Vermont and his plan to b...

Volusia Schools Accept Application For New Charter School
(Daytona Beach Sun © 09/28/2011)

DeLand, FL- By a unanimous vote, the Volusia County School Board approved the application for a charter middle school at Daytona Beach's Richard Milburn Academy. Director of Alternative Education Gary Marks said that the school's application met or exceeded the criteria for a charter school to be created. There were originally two charter applications on the Board's agenda, the other coming...

[**Bill Comes Due on Race to Top's Varied Goals**](#)

(Education Week © 09/28/2011)

Winners of the \$4 billion Race to the Top jackpot committed to grand goals in using the federal grants to raise student achievement, as measured by higher test scores, narrowed achievement gaps, and increased graduation and college-going rates—all in four years. Now comes the hard part: With the money in hand, the 11 states and the District of Columbia must deliver on those goals, which often i...

[**Guest opinion: Cape 912 teaches Constitution to kids**](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 09/28/2011)

Cape 912's mission is to unite, educate and take action to preserve the Constitution and the principles of our Founding Fathers. In order to help instill in our youth a love for, and an understanding of, our Constitution and the principles of our Founding Fathers, Cape 912 has established an education focus directed to the youth in our schools and communities. In 2010 Cape 912, with the Found...

[**Broward district considers opening its own charter schools**](#)

(Miami Herald © 09/28/2011)

To stem a drop in enrollment spurred by a growing number of charter schools, the Broward public school district might need to open its own such schools, School Board members say. On Tuesday, they directed staffers to research three options, including converting district schools into charters, opening district-run charter schools or acting as a "management company." Under the third opt...

[**EDITORIAL: Gaetz's three jobs for Florida**](#)

(NW FL Daily News © 09/28/2011)

Don Gaetz of Niceville hasn't yet become president of the Florida Senate and already he's creating jobs. He came up with three new ones last week, when the Republican Party caucus formally designated him to lead the upper body beginning in November 2012. The new jobs Sen. Gaetz has in mind are for legislators. Maybe, just maybe, they'll lead to new jobs in the private sector, too. The first...

[**More Orange County teachers will get low ratings under new evaluation plan**](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 09/28/2011)

A new evaluation system mandated by state law and negotiated with the teachers union will result in a slight increase in the number of Orange County teachers who will get "unsatisfactory" ratings this school year. About a dozen of the county's approximately 13,000 teachers got unsatisfactory ratings last school year. Under the new plan approved by the School Board on Tuesday, 1.6 percent of the 5...

[**Are we still 'Corruption County'? Grand jury rates policy changes after officials' downfall**](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 09/28/2011)

Palm Beach County leaders have made progress in ridding the county of its corruption-tainted image, but much work remains to strengthen the ethics initiatives launched in 2009, according to a grand jury report released Tuesday. The 25-page report took aim at the county, the school district and several cities and towns, saying recent decisions regarding the ethics package could stifle efforts to s...

[**Palm Beach County School District hurries to hire teachers, obey class-size limits law**](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 09/28/2011)

The Palm Beach County School District is spending millions more to staff 132 new positions, including moving up to 34 teachers to fill some of those posts, in a race to meet state-mandated class-size limits by next month. The changes come on top of about \$19 million spent to meet the limits. The district must count how many students are in each class on Oct. 14 and report those numbers to the st...

[Florida's political climate cool to in-state college fees for immigrants, as issue becomes hot](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 09/28/2011)

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has created a hornet's nest of controversy in conservative circles by defending his Texas policy of offering in-state tuition to undocumented students. It is one of the deviations from conservative orthodoxy that has brought Perry strife in Florida, especially in tea party circles. Florida does not allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition. Down the line, conserva...

[Schools see increase in student absences](#)

(Santa Rosa Press Gazette © 09/28/2011)

Superintendent of schools for the district, Tim Wyrosdick said that absences are becoming a "bigger problem" in the district as more and more parents are pulling their children out of school, in turn putting their child behind in their classes. At Thursday's school board meeting, Wyrosdick and school board member Hugh Winkles discussed the number of absences that have been...

[Grades eaten by software glitches](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 09/28/2011)

MANATEE COUNTY - Glitches with a new \$700,000 computer system for Manatee County schools that records attendance and other student information have caused teachers to lose student grades while delaying progress reports for parents. Teachers using the district's new Focus system told the School Board this week that they entered grades only to see t...

[Editorial: Partnership between St. Lucie school district and FPL brings energy cost savings for the school district](#)

(Scripps News © 09/28/2011)

saving money Faced with tight operational budgets, the St. Lucie School District looked to energy conservation and has successfully cut costs editorial board Wednesday, September 28, 2011 A cool idea turned into reality by the St. Lucie County School District in partnership with FPL is paying big dividends and allowing the district to spend less on energy and more in classrooms. "Four...

[Most part-time college students in Florida don't graduate](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 09/28/2011)

If you want to graduate from college, go full-time, a new study suggests. Just 43 percent of part-time students in Florida received a bachelor's degree within eight years, compared to 69 percent of those going full-time. Even worse, fewer than 10 percent of part-time students in two-year degree and certificate programs graduate. "Contrary to conventional thinking, more time and more choices ofte...

[Broward School Board to explore opening its own charter schools](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 09/28/2011)

One of the these days the school board might see through the bureaucracy and realize that the "freedom" of charters is simply letting go of the useless bureaucracy and letting schools do what they are meant to do teach children. No more jumping through hoops to include useless information or be politically correct, but to teach children what they need to know to transition successfully to ...

[Florida needs to do more to curb student loan default rates](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 09/28/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott and state legislators are pondering big changes in higher education, including limits on tenure for professors at public universities. But there's another issue that's begging for attention: the rising rate of student loan defaults at universities and colleges in Florida. Figures released by the U.S. Department of Education this month showed more than one in 10 Floridians required...

[Perspective: States need some relief on education law](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 09/28/2011)

The Washington Post The following editorial appeared in The Washington Post on Sunday. Just about everyone agrees on the need to update the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. Nearly a decade of experience as well as new research underscores shortcomings that are becoming increasingly untenable for local school districts. It would be ideal for Congress to fix these problems, but that could...

[Pinellas School Board hears public's idea on superintendent search](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 09/28/2011)

LARGO — Someone collaborative and responsive. Someone who listens to teachers and values the arts. A person who knows how to bring change and leadership, but doesn't necessarily hold a Ph.D. Those were a few of the qualifications Pinellas County School Board members were urged to look for as they embark on a search for the district's next superintendent. Because of superintendent Julie...

[Pasco lawmakers, school officials praise each other, ignore teachers](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 09/28/2011)

The mutual gratitude comes in heavy ladies. It is standard procedure at these annual legislative delegation meetings. People are thanked for coming. Thanked for listening. Thanked for speaking. Thanked for being polite. Thanked for providing information. Thanked for directing state dollars to a favored project/program and thanked for not cutting sacred cows. There is so much thanks, the only mis...

[Decline in district's quality of education leads to rise in homeschooling](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 09/28/2011)

More families turn to homeschooling | Sept. 25 article Schools decline, parents switch While I feel for the loss in income for the district, it brings up a comparison. If I buy a product or service continuously, and the quality of that product or service declines, I will seek other sources. The antics coming from district and overall decline in the state's education scores makes me wonder why ...

[Ground broken, but hiccup in funding delays PHCC site](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 09/28/2011)

WESLEY CHAPEL – Construction is under way at the new Pasco-Hernando Community College at Wiregrass Ranch, but the school's opening has been delayed until 2014. School spokeswoman Lucy Miller said contractors broke ground last week on the Porter Campus at State Road 56 and Mansfield Boulevard. The campus was scheduled to open in fall 2013, but Miller said that was pushed back to...

[**Teacher punished further**](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 09/28/2011)

TAMPA - A former Eastside Elementary School teacher who was demoted last year to a nonteaching position in light of accusations that she manhandled students has been further punished by the state. Lisa Studer was placed on two years probation, issued a letter of reprimand and ordered to pay a \$500 fine following a ruling by the Florida Education Practices Commission. Studer was also ordered to...

[**Revised state economic forecasts cloud local government revenue expectations**](#)

(The Florida Current © 09/28/2011)

State forecasters issued revised estimates this week that show the recovery in property tax revenue for local governments could be slower than they had expected. Values that had been expected to flatten in 2012 are now expected to decline. "A lot of things kind of hit a wall in August, as far as a recovery," said state economist Amy Baker, pointing to recent turmoil in the global economy and a...

[**Lawmakers envision advertising along state trails, on school buses**](#)

(The Florida Current © 09/28/2011)

Depressed tax collections resulting from a deep recession and sputtering recovery, combined with pledges from Republicans not to raise taxes or fees has sent lawmakers scrambling to find revenue for favored projects in more unorthodox areas. Selling advertisements on state and local government properties is one way lawmakers are considering to get money for projects that have seen cuts in recent...

[**Debate Over College Tenure Heats Up**](#)

(West Orlando News © 09/28/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott's interest in higher education reform has ignited a contentious debate over the use of tenure at Florida's universities and colleges. As lawmakers ponder whether to revisit a proposal to change or eliminate tenure at Florida's colleges and universities, one public university has the enviable position of being largely unaffected by tenure changes. That's because Fort Myers...

[**Help Me Howard: FCAT Score**](#)

(WSVN-TV © 09/28/2011)

FCAT: A four-letter word to some students and an outrage to some parents who want to know what their children score on the test. But the State of Florida is telling them, "No, we won't tell you what your child scored." Can they get away with it? It's why we have Help Me Howard with Patrick Fraser. WSVN – Aletha is a single mom raising two children. Proud of herself and her teenagers. Aletha R...

Have a lovely day!

Deborah

