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Subject: FW: 10/21/11 Education Round-Up

FYI – have a great weekend! ☺

Sincerely,

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From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2011 1:51 PM
Subject: 10/21/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[School Board considering \\$7.0 million energy reduction program.](#)
(Chiple Foster Folly News © 10/21/2011)

by John V. Foster Washington County School Board members Susan Robert, Terry Ellis, Wayne Saunders, Pam Cates and Vann Brock met to discuss a proposed electrical energy usage reduction plan for the school system. Meeting first in executive session and later in a workshop setting on Oct.20th, Washington County School Board members discussed a proposal by Linc...

[New 'World Class' Universities: Cutting Through the Hype](#)
(Chronicle of Higher Education © 10/21/2011)

By Jamil Salmi and Philip G. Altbach In today's global economy, where money and ideas change hands at a dizzying speed, and generating sophisticated innovation and knowledge are the new sources of growth and wealth, it can be tempting for many countries to try to tap into that wealth by establishing elite research universities from scratch. After all, top-tier universities are outpacing the smart...

[Early-Learning Race to Top Contests: 35 State Applicants](#)

(Education Week/Politics K-12 © 10/21/2011)

By guest blogger Sean Cavanagh Thirty-five states, plus the District of Columbia, are vying for a piece of the \$500 million Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, a competition meant to spawn innovative approaches for improving the skills and development of young children. The contest has drawn applications from states with very different early-childhood education systems. Eleven of the 1...

[Florida Chamber of Commerce wants more public funds for private schools](#)

(FL Chamber of Commerce © 10/21/2011)

The Florida Chamber of Commerce today released its 2012 legislative agenda, which includes support for education changes that strengthen charter schools, expand the use of public funds for virtual/private schools and broaden the use of technology in the classroom. The Chamber's 2012 agenda (.pdf) states that "working with partners such as the Foundation for Florida's Future, The Florida Council...

[One school ignored, one in the spotlight](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/21/2011)

A total of 90 students. That was the first class of fifth-graders at the new KIPP school in Jacksonville. That was the school last year. That school received some needed oversight Tuesday by the Duval County School Board. The first year for those 90 students got off to a rocky start, qualifying for an F grade by the state, a low F at that. That simply will not continue, not with the sort o...

[Scott struggles to find good news on jobs front](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/21/2011)

With Florida's employment market stagnating and budget revenues declining, Gov. Rick Scott jumped on the good economic news he could find Thursday, touting a new biotech company's decision to move to the Tampa Bay area. But the firm's addition of 40 new jobs will hardly put a dent in Scott's promise to create 700,000 positions in seven years, and th...

[Defining the quality of a teacher](#)

(Hernando Today © 10/21/2011)

BROOKSVILLE - Roughly three years ago, you'd be hard pressed to find a teacher who wasn't deemed "highly qualified" in front of a classroom in Hernando County. Statewide, by comparison, 10 percent of classes overall were taught by educators who didn't have the appropriate certification to teach the class he or she was assigned — such as English, math, science, foreign languages or history to nam...

[More Than Two Sides to USF Poly Split Debate](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/21/2011)

LAKELAND – The maneuvering in anticipation of a Florida Board of Governors vote on the fate of USF Poly is starting to look like a highly personal, emotionally charged political campaign. "Candidates" in the debate about whether the University of South Florida Polytechnic in Lakeland should separate from the USF system include: U...

[FCAT changes concern charter system](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/21/2011)

[Preschoolers 'read for the record'](#)

(Macclenny Baker County Press © 10/21/2011)

A pajama party during school hours? What could be better? Getting to hear a great story like Llama, Llama, Red Pajama and have a snack, that's what. Pre-K children came to school October 6 wearing their PJ's as part of the Read for the Record campaign to promote literacy and the importance of reading as well as help solve America's early education achievement gap. Each year a book is designated ...

[School accidentally gives kids X-rated gifts as reward for fund-raising](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/21/2011)

TALLAHASSEE — School administrators hoping to reward students for their A+ fund-raising efforts at a Florida elementary school unwittingly gave them X-rated gifts, officials said. School officials at Jay Elementary School in the Panhandle on Wednesday were trying to collect more than 100 bracelets distributed to students involved in a fund-raising drive after pictures of naked women were ...

[Florida professors earn below national average, research shows](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/21/2011)

Are university professors paid too much in Florida? The salaries that Gov. Rick Scott posted online days ago have spurred debates across the state about whether these educators are worth what they make. But faculty leaders stress that professors in Florida's public universities earn less than their peers in many other states. Universities must offer competitive salaries, they insist, if the state...

[FL superintendents approve of proposed FCAT scoring changes](#)

(Orlando Sentinel/The School Zone Blog © 10/21/2011)

The Florida Association of District School Superintendents supports the proposed changes to the FCAT scoring system. The association, in a press release sent out earlier this week, said the changes increase "academic expectations and rigor." They will "serve our students well as we all work together to ensure that they are academically prepared for a 21st century economy," said the associati...

[In Hernando County, seeking a fair magnet school solution that sticks](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/21/2011)

Here's what "magnet" means in most school systems: It's a program placed in an existing school. If this school is under-populated, as it often is, the magnet kids fill it up. If it's under-performing, the passion for a specialized magnet curriculum tends to raise the entire school's academic standards. If the school is in a mostly segregated neighborhood, importing children from throughout the di...

[Florida lawmakers to consider added flexibility for school districts](#)

(St. Petersburg Times/The Grade Book Blog © 10/21/2011)

Not so long ago, Florida allowed school districts to earn "charter district" status that in theory freed them from many of the red tape regulations that occupy so much time and money. Hillsborough and Palm Beach were among those to win the label. In reality, they didn't have as many freedoms as they had hoped, and over time the designation withered away. Now, with school district officials...

[Senate committee votes to update education law](#)

(Tampa Bay News 9 © 10/21/2011)

WASHINGTON – A committee forwarded to the Senate Thursday evening a bill that rewrites the education law No Child Left Behind. The bill would give states more control over accountability in schools and alter some of the law's proficiency requirements. Sen. Tom Harkin, the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, said that with the vote, his committee's mea...

[Two state senators ask for audit of USF Polytechnic](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/21/2011)

TAMPA – Two state senators are asking USF President Judy Genshaft to perform a detailed audit of USF Polytechnic after one of them received a letter claiming its chancellor was mispending money meant for students and academic programs. The letter was unsigned, with the writers identifying themselves as students of Polytechnic, in Polk County. One of the senators, Mike Fasano, ...

[State education commissioner honors work by Elia](#)

(Tampa Tribune © 10/21/2011)

Hillsborough County School District Superintendent MaryEllen Elia on Thursday was named Florida 2011 District Data Leader of the Year, the state's education commissioner announced. Elia, who has been the head of Hillsborough County schools since 2005, was recognized for supporting and encouraging the use of data among staff that has motivated a change in classroom culture. The award also recogniz...

[Public Schools Seek Flexibility Like Charters](#)

(West Orlando News © 10/21/2011)

Public schools have enviously watched the rapid rise of charter schools in Florida, with over 500 charter schools statewide and dozens more poised for approval. The main complaint is that charters have been able to operate with more flexibility than school districts. For instance, charters can use longer school hours, don't have to bargain with unions on teacher pay and have relaxed standar...

[College on the hot seat before lawmakers over controversies](#)

(WFSU Newsroom © 10/21/2011)

Edison State College in Fort Myers found itself on the hot-seat before a senate higher education panel Thursday. The school was forced to answer questions about several of its programs which have been in the news lately. Lynn Hatter reports school officials told lawmakers they are working to fix the problems. An investigation revealed about 140 students in Edison's business, drafting and accoun...

[Bad press puts charter schools in lawmakers sights](#)

(WFSU Newsroom © 10/21/2011)

State lawmakers are taking a closer look at Florida charter schools after a rash of bad headlines throughout the year. Lynn Hatter reports state officials want to find ways to make the schools more accountable to Floridians, without taking away much of the flexibility distinguishing them from traditional public schools. Several charter schools have been shut down this year for both academic and ...

[State considers changes to VPK testing rules](#)

(WFSU Newsroom © 10/21/2011)

The Florida Board of Education is considering a rule that raises the standards for learning on voluntary pre-k-providers. Lynn Hatter reports the board wants to boost VPK curriculum standards that show whether students are ready for Kindergarten and whether providers are doing a good job in teaching. Under the proposal 70-percent of students in a VPK program would have to pass state kindergarten-r...

[State Foots Bill For Duval Intervene Schools Public Meeting](#)

(WJXX ABC 25 Duval County © 10/21/2011)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – State mandated meetings in Duval County are costing a pretty penny, but are they worth it? "Before we have F schools that weren't in intervene and C schools that were. How do you do that?" asked Superintendent Ed Pratt Dannals. Over the course of the three state-mandated meetings, Duval County Superintendent Ed Pratt Dannals wants parents and students to understand wh...

[Anthropologists Not Heading to the Unemployment Line Yet](#)

(WUSF Tampa © 10/21/2011)

TAMPA (2011-20-10) - It's been a rough week for anthropologists with Gov. Rick Scott singling out the field as an inefficient use of higher education budgets. Why should taxpayers foot the education bill for an anthropologist who can't find a job? Scott asked a business group last week. Colleges should "drive" students into science, technology, engineering or math – known as STEM – programs....

Have a wonderful weekend!

Deborah

