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Subject: FW: 10-14-11 Education Round Up

FYI – have a great weekend! ☺

Sincerely,

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From: Etters, Cheryl
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Subject: 10-14-11 Education Round Up

Florida Department of Education News Clips

October 14, 2011



[Drug-sniffing police dogs could soon search Brevard schools](#)
(Central Florida News 13 © 10/14/2011)

MELBOURNE – If one School Board member has his way, drug-sniffing dogs could soon be present at Brevard County high schools. Andy Ziegler, who represents District 5 on the Brevard County School Board, said he believes police dogs are needed at area high schools. Ziegler first brought up the idea in March, and has worked for months to get a me...

[Most states to seek exception to education law](#)
(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/14/2011)

WASHINGTON (AP) – A majority of states intend to take President Barack Obama up on his offer to let them get around unpopular requirements in the "No Child Left Behind" education law, the Education Department said Thursday. Obama said last month he was frustrated that Congress didn't act to change the law that he has said is flawed, so he was moving forward with an effort to let qualifying st...

[Board, KIPP to talk performance in Jacksonville school](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/14/2011)

KIPP wants to open more charter schools in Jacksonville, but Duval County School Board is going to do something state law does not: consider KIPP's current performance before giving the OK. School Board members want KIPP Jacksonville officials to explain how they will improve their middle school's F grade and reassure the board that two new schools they wish to open won't perform as poorly. Th...

[Duval school leaders appeal for more local control](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/14/2011)

Duval County public school leaders had a simple request for the Legislature Thursday: more flexibility and local control; less state bureaucracy. Money to pay for underfunded or unfunded education mandates would be welcome, too. "It's the state's responsibility to set standards and accountability. It's the district's responsibility how to get there," county schools Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dann...

[Ted Geltner: Don't stop with the anthropologists](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/14/2011)

"We're spending a lot of money on education, and when you look at the results, it's not great," Florida Governor Rick Scott told a luncheon crowd of the Northwest Business Association in Tallahassee. "Do you want to use your tax money to educate more people who can't get jobs in anthropology? I don't." ...

[Squeezed Out in India. Students Turn to U.S.](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/14/2011)

NEW DELHI — Moulshri Mohan was an excellent student at one of the top private high schools in New Delhi. When she applied to colleges, she received scholarship offers of \$20,000 from Dartmouth and \$15,000 from Smith. Her pile of acceptance letters would have made any ambitious teenager smile: Cornell, Bryn Mawr, Duke, Wesleyan, Barnard and the University of Virginia. ...

[Community urged to fight magnet school proposal](#)

(Hemando Today © 10/14/2011)

BROOKSVILLE - Parents are mobilizing in an effort to spread the word about proposed changes to the magnet school admission procedure that would make proximity to the schools a factor. Standing alongside the roadway near magnet schools Challenger K-8 and Chocachatti Elementary School, Andrew Caamano held a sign Thursday urging county residents to attend the upcoming school board meeting to voice ...

[Booting Down](#)

(Inside Higher Education © 10/14/2011)

Walk through any campus library and you see students hunkered down in their preferred corner or comfy chair with their laptops and cell phones in hand to aid in the process of cramming for their next exam. But are they studying or goofing off? Are they capable of actually staying on (work-related) task? While these students are tech-savvy and have plenty of gizmos, they may not be as distracted b...

[As Online Courses Grow, So Does Financial Aid Fraud](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/14/2011)

While serving nine months in a South Carolina prison on forgery charges, Michelle N. Owens capitalized on the explosion in online higher education to tap into a new — and highly lucrative — way to profit from fake documents. Using information she gathered as she handled paperwork in the prison's education department, Ms. Owens f...

[School Bribery Trial of Construction Company Moved to March](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/14/2011)

TAMPA | A trial in the criminal case of a construction company and one of its executives accused of bribing a former Polk school official has been pushed back to March after defense lawyers asked for more time to review documents. A motion filed by defense lawyers for M.M. Parrish Construction and Lloyd Whann said the previously scheduled Oct. 31 tr...

[Bay Area teachers protest education reform summit](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/14/2011)

SAN FRANCISCO - San Francisco Bay area teachers are protesting an education conference featuring News Corp. CEO Rupert Murdoch as the keynote speaker. The National Summit on Education Reform is being held at a San Francisco hotel on Thursday and Friday. The conference is organized by the Foundation for Excellence in Education, which is chaired by f...

[Keller's plan to shed its D grade](#)

(Macclenny Baker County Press © 10/14/2011)

The state handed Keller Intermediate School a two-letter grade drop last summer, making it a D school for the first time in 10 years. School principal Gail Griffis outlined Keller's plans to regain its former B school label before the Baker County School Board the evening of October 3. School principal Gail Griffis outlined Keller's plans to regain its former B school label before the Baker C...

[Edison faculty demands immediate resignation of President Walker](#)

(Marco Island News © 10/14/2011)

The suggested firing of a top administrator this week was the last straw for faculty members at a.inline_topic: hover { background-color: #EAEAEA; } Edison State College who called for the immediate resignation of President a.inline_topic: hover { background-color: #EAEAEA; } Kenneth Walker at an impromptu faculty senate meeting Thursday. They cited a laundry list of complaints, saying Walker...

[State revising how FCAT is scored](#)

(Miami Herald © 10/14/2011)

Last school year, Florida raised the bar on its standardized test for public school students, debuting a more challenging FCAT 2.0. This year, expect tougher grading standards for the new test. The state is revising how it scores the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. The new system could make it more difficult for some students to pass the FCAT, but preliminary calculations show some would do b...

[Naples native, first-time children's book author invited to story hour at the governor's mansion](#)

(Naples Daily News © 10/14/2011)

First, she wrote a book. Then, it got her invited to the Florida Governor's Mansion. Naples native and author Margaret Cardillo's first children's book — her first book, period — garnered glowing reviews from "Booklist" and "Publisher's Weekly," which said "Audrey Hepburn proves as irresistible a character in the pages of a children's book as she did...on the silver screen." Cardillo's book, "Just...

[Editorial: On our own](#)

(Ocala Star Banner © 10/14/2011)

First the state quit sending millions in annual funding for the renovation and repair of Marion County Public Schools. Then the Legislature wielded its tax-cutting authority and axed the local capital school tax rate from 2 mills to 1.5 mills, further reducing the pool of money for school facility fix-ups. Add to both of those things a 25 percent decline in property values over the past four years...

[Santa Rosa schools raise staff pay 3 to 10 percent](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 10/14/2011)

Bus drivers, bus aides, custodians, maintenance workers, mechanics and food service workers employed by Santa Rosa County school system will receive a raise after two years with no pay increase. The Santa Rosa County School Board unanimously approved a 3 to 10 percent pay increase during its monthly meeting on Thursday. "It means a lot to us to get a 3 percent raise as it will make up for the 3...

[Let educators run education system](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/14/2011)

"We're from the government, and we're here to help." The Sarasota Ballet and The Suzanne Farrell Ballet will repeat their joint performance of "Diamonds" locally at 2 and 8 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, and at 8 p.m. Nov. 19 at The Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater. Sarasota tickets at www.sarasotaballet.org or 359-0099, ext. 101. Clearwater tic...

[Piper High alum makes sure school's TV studio is just like the pros'](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/14/2011)

A Piper High School graduate who made good in advertising has turned a TV studio at his alma mater into something resembling the real thing. The new studio allows students to use professional cameras and lighting and run teleprompters. There are headsets for directors, and even a green-screen backdrop for student weather readers who stand before them and point to features on forecast maps. ...

[Gov. Scott's school daze](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/14/2011)

My late father was an architect and engineer who designed large industrial heating and air conditioning systems. For fun, he enjoyed working out calculus problems — with a slide rule. This apple couldn't have fallen farther from the tree. To this day math eludes me. I simply cannot fathom algebra. How is it possible to add, subtract, multiply and divide letters of the alphabet? Don't eve...

[Pinellas has plan to replace Learning for Life program](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/14/2011)

Pinellas County school administrators have already assembled a plan for how to provide additional services to the six schools that will not be using a Boy Scout-affiliated character education program this year as planned. After school board members decided 4-3 earlier this week not to approve a \$54,838 grant to Learning for Life, a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America, on the grounds that the ...

[Paul Fleming: On education, Scott shows little faith in market forces](#)

(Tallahassee Democrat © 10/14/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a degree in business administration. He went on to earn a law degree from Southern Methodist University. State Sen. Don Gaetz earned a bachelor's degree in religion and political science from Concordia College and later a master's degree in public administration from what was then Troy State University. Now they don't wan...

[First Lady Ann Scott Hosts Florida Children's Authors at Mansion](#)

(Tallahassee-WCTV (CBS) © 10/14/2011)

Tallahassee, Fla. – October 13, 2011 - First Lady of Florida Ann Scott invited students from Leon County's Ruediger Elementary School and Gadsden County's Crossroad Academy Charter School to the Florida Governor's Mansion today to hear some of her favorite children's book authors and to encourage reading and writing. ...

[Florida Schools NOT Monitoring for Migrants from Alabama, Despite News Report Saying Otherwise](#)

(WUSF Tampa © 10/14/2011)

TAMPA (2011-10-13) - Are students from Alabama ending up in Florida because of that state's tough new immigration law? A news service reported that Florida's educators were trying to answer that question. But school officials say they're not keeping count. There are some anecdotal stories about migrant families from Alabama arriving in Florida's tomato growing country several weeks early. Ma...



On education, Scott shows little faith in market forces

By Paul Fleming, Tallahassee Democrat

Gov. Rick Scott graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a degree in business administration. He went on to earn a law degree from Southern Methodist University.

State Sen. Don Gaetz earned a bachelor's degree in religion and political science from Concordia College and later a master's degree in public administration from what was then Troy State University.

Now they don't want Florida college students to repeat what we can only figure they view as their mistakes.

Do as I say, not as I matriculate.

Scott and Gaetz both say they'll put a special focus on higher education in the upcoming legislative session. Those two want Florida's state universities to stop producing so dang many graduates with degrees that do nothing to help the state's economy. Both say they want to get public universities producing more degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"Do we need to use your tax dollars to educate more people that can't get jobs in anthropology?" Scott asked on Monday. "I want to make sure we spend our money where people can get jobs when they get out."

Scott has a habit of taking swipes at small constituencies that don't matter much. It's political bullying. When he signed his first budget earlier this year, he vetoed \$150,000 for alligator marketing and derided the whole idea.

Alligator farmers and anthropologists.

Pick on somebody your own size, governor.

How about business executives?

In the past decade, Florida's state universities have conferred 613,061 degrees.

A full 22 percent of those degrees have been in business — 136,533 sheepskins in business, management or marketing.

That's the most common degree Florida universities hand out. For every five robed and mortar-boarded students who walk across the commencement stage to shake hands with the university president, one of them gets a business degree.

"We no longer have the luxury of producing another generation of graduates steeped in intellectually interesting majors for which there is no job market and whose technological understanding is limited to friending people on Facebook," Gaetz said last month. "The market demands more, our children deserve more, and we must do more to make Florida first."

Gaetz invokes the market. That's appropriate. He's the wealthiest member of the Legislature, with a reported net worth of \$25 million in June. Scott has earned a few dollars in the free-enterprise system himself, reporting a net worth of \$103 million as of December.

These two Republicans, part of a political movement devoted nearly exclusively to the unwavering belief in the power of market forces and unfettered capitalism, are both now advocating government intrusion, regulatory controls and market intervention to dictate that Florida universities produce more science and technology graduates and fewer of everything else. Paging Chairman Mao, the planned economy committee meeting is about to begin.

Every individual "generally neither intends to promote the public interest, nor knows how much he is promoting it," wrote Adam Smith in his 1776 bedrock economic work "The Wealth of Nations."

"He intends only his own gain, and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention. Nor is it always the worse for society that it was no part of his intention. By pursuing his own interest he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it. I have never known much good done by those who affected to trade for the public good."

Gaetz and Scott view public higher education as a tool, an extension of economic development efforts, little different from tax credits. Educated students, in this equation, are not citizens. They're assets, some worth more than others depending on their value as employees to current or prospective resident businesses.

But as Smith would have it, Gaetz and Scott's public-good intentions will at best be benignly beside the point.

A higher education — a, dare I say it, liberal education — is valuable unto itself.

If the public universities of Florida produce well-rounded, educated citizens, we're all the better for it.

The market will sort out the degrees Florida students pursue. That's faith in the marketplace. That's understanding the nature of higher education we should all wish for. That's an invisible hand I'm more than happy to rely on, even if it keeps on pumping out business graduates and lawyers.

— *Paul Flemming is the state editor for the Tallahassee Democrat and floridacapitalnews.com*

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