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Subject: FW: 10/12/11 Education Round-Up

FYI – have a great day!

Sincerely,

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From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 11:23 AM
Subject: 10/12/11 Education Round-Up

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[Just rewards for teachers](#)
(Bradenton Herald © 10/12/2011)

Two decades of empirical research in education have confirmed at least one fact that just about everyone already knew: There are good teachers and bad teachers. The difference between your child being assigned to Mrs. Smith's class or to Ms. Johnson's down the hall can be as much as a grade level's worth of learning by the end of the school year. The wide variation in teacher quality suggests t...

[Florida tax collections expected to fall short](#)
(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 10/12/2011)

TALLAHASSEE – Just weeks after issuing a rosy forecast, state economists now say Florida's tax collections will fall short by \$1.3 billion to \$1.7 billion over the next two years. Economists began meeting Tuesday to draw up a new forecast on state tax collections amid signs that Florida's economy has been stalling over the last few months. Gov. Rick Scott and legislative leaders will rely on ...

[Senate ESEA Draft Bill Would Scrap Adequate Yearly Progress](#)

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

By Alyson Klein on October 11, 2011 2:34 PM | Leave a comment | 3 Recommendations The accountability system at the heart of the No Child Left Behind Act would be completely reinvented under a draft reauthorization proposal released today by U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The measure, which is already being decryd by...

[Parents, educators discuss Duval County Public Schools' magnet preference policy](#)

(FL Times-Union © 10/12/2011)

About 50 parents and interested citizens took part in the first of three public meetings focused on Duval County Public Schools' magnet neighborhood preference policy. The district's neighborhood preference policy, often called "Priority One," ensures that students living in the former attendance zone of the district's 14 dedicated magnet schools have the highest priority in the magnet lotte...

[Edison State sidelines academic leader](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 10/12/2011)

Florida's Auditor General has completed the preliminary report outlining a routine operational audit at Edison State College. Half of the seven-page report details District President Kenneth Walker's compensation package, which the auditor notes is not only the highest among 28 community and state colleges in Florida, but also higher than all 11 university presidents. Walker's compensation pack...

[Machen, others upset by talk of cutting funding for liberal arts](#)

(Gainesville Sun © 10/12/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott's comment that the state doesn't need more anthropology majors has raised eyebrows at a university with hundreds of them. Scott told the Sarasota Herald-Tribune on Monday that he hopes to shift more funding to science, technology, engineering and math departments, the so-called STEM disciplines. In making the case to the newspaper and other groups in recent days, he used anth...

[Alumni Tutoring Effort Strives to Raise Diversity at Elite Public Schools](#)

(New York Times © 10/12/2011)

By ANNA M. PHILLIPS On a Saturday morning in August, Philip Cleary stood in a white, fluorescent-lit classroom in Washington Heights, facing a dozen sleepy seventh graders he and others are training to pass an entrance exam for the city's seven specialized high schools. "The inequality question," he said. "Who was struggling with that?" He was asking about a problem on a math practice sheet,...

[Bill Would Overhaul No Child Left Behind](#)

(New York Times © 10/12/2011)

A senior Senate Democrat released a draft of a sprawling revision of the No Child Left Behind education law on Tuesday that would dismantle the provisions of the law that used standardized test scores in reading and math to label tens of thousands of public schools as failing. The 865-page bill, filed by Senator Tom Harkin, the Iowa Democrat who heads the Senate education committee, became the...

[Seminole school closings: 3 more campuses may be shuttered](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/12/2011)

SANFORD — As many as three more Seminole County public schools may be closed next year to help cover a growing budget shortage, school officials said Tuesday. The School Board confirmed that closing schools is among several serious options it is considering to fix a budget deficit that could top \$22 million for the 2012-13 school year. "We could see two, maybe three closing," Deputy Superint...

[Reform universities, but don't copy Texas](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/12/2011)

In U.S. News and World Report's latest rankings of the nation's best universities, none of the 11 public ones in Florida even made the top 50. The University of Florida came in at 58, Florida State University at 101, and the University of Central Florida at (gulp) 177. There are plenty of bright spots at these three schools and across the state university system — the new medical school at UC...

[Florida's failed policies keep economy on ice](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/12/2011)

We all know: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. But what do you do when something is broken? While the answer may seem obvious to you, it continues to elude the elected officials in Tallahassee. Because Florida's economy is clearly broken. Yet politicians continue to order up more of the same failed policies that got us into this mess. We must start by realizing that Florida's econom...

[Schools close to class-size compliance: just 76 classes now too big](#)

(Palm Beach Post © 10/12/2011)

With just days to go until the looming deadline, the Palm Beach County School District only has a handful of classes left to reduce in size to meet state-mandated class-size limits. In the past month, the school district has gone from having more than 11,000 classes that were over the limit to having just 76 classes that were too big on Tuesday, said Chief Financial Officer Mike Burke. State law...

[New football video game teaches kids how to score financially](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/12/2011)

Knowing how to read a credit report may be as important to a student's future as basic reading and math. But there's no room for that on the FCAT. So, to spur schools in that direction, an unlikely duo teamed up at Northeast High in St. Petersburg on Tuesday to unveil a tool for boosting financial literacy on kids' terms. A video game. Know how a down payment affects a mortgage? On Financ...

[Pinellas School Board blocks Boy Scout grant over gay discrimination](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/12/2011)

LARGO — For more than a decade, Pinellas County School Board member Linda Lerner has objected to the same grant for a Boy Scouts of America-related program. The district shouldn't endorse a group that has a policy of denying gays and lesbians, said Lerner, who has failed to persuade her colleagues to reject the funds. She made her case again Tuesday: "This board has a chance to send a ...

[Walton Foundation chips in for Florida vouchers](#)

(St. Petersburg Times/The Grade Book Blog © 10/12/2011)

OCTOBER 11, 2011 Walton Foundation chips in for Florida vouchers The Walton Family Foundation announced today it was giving another \$1.4 million to Florida's tax-credit voucher program, part of \$6 million it has donated in the past decade to help with the program's administrative expenses. A foundation press release (attached below; click on comments first) notes the program's bipartisan suppo...

[Pinellas County School Board rejects thousand of dollars in grant money because Boy Scouts discriminate against homosexuals](#)

(St. Petersburg: WTSP (Ch. 10) © 10/12/2011)

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – It was the hottest topic at the Pinellas County School Board Tuesday - rejecting money associated with the Boy Scouts. It's all because several board members agree the Scouts discriminate against gays. Nearly \$55,000 would have gone to character education programs in seven Pinellas County schools. It would have been the 11th consecutive year Pinellas schools took the ...

[Focused on Jobs, Rick Scott to Unveil 2012 Legislative Agenda](#)

(Sunshine State News © 10/12/2011)

Posted: October 12, 2011 3:55 AM Job creation, with an emphasis on positions in high-tech fields, will remain Gov. Rick Scott's focus when he starts rolling out his agenda for his second year in office Wednesday in Orlando. On Tuesday, Scott offered a sneak preview of his goals for the 2012 legislative session. "The first part of it will be tied to, what you would expect, job c...

[Buying failure](#)

(Tampa Bay Online © 10/12/2011)

From Oakstead Elementary School in Land O' Lakes to California's Oakland Hills, America's moms want what they want. And what they want sounds a great deal like what Vice President Joe Biden was peddling when he brought the Obama administration's Son-of-Stimulus-&-Re-election-Campaign-Over-America Tour to the heart of Pasco County last week. Not only did a Pasco School District-wide \$54 milli...

[The rise of online education](#)

(Washington Post © 10/12/2011)

By Clayton M. Christensen and Michael B. Horn, Published: October 11 Harvard Business School Professor Clayton Christensen and Michael Horn are co-founders of Innosight Institute, a nonprofit think tank focused on education and innovation, and co-authors of the award-winning book, "Disrupting Class." This year's math classes for many students in the Los Altos School District in California look...

[Dockery questions USF Poly about school's funding](#)

(Winter Haven News Chief © 10/12/2011)

BARTOW – Sen. Paula Dockery had questions for University of South Florida Polytechnic's Marshall Goodman - but the regional chancellor said he didn't have all the answers when it came to money. Goodman asked the Polk County legislative delegation Monday for continued financial support when he spoke at the annual hearing lawmakers hold with public a...

[Deadline nears to meet class size law](#)

(Winter Haven News Chief © 10/12/2011)

BARTOW - Polk County School District officials have until Friday to meet the state's class size amendment requirement. With 1,000 more students enrolled than projected, they are making transfers from overcrowded schools to those nearby with more capacity to be in compliance. "We are working as hard as we can to meet class size and the expectation i...

[**Bay County high schools will go to 7-period schedule**](#)

(WJHG NBC News 7 Panama City © 10/12/2011)

Panama City– A committee of parents, principals and students examined several different schedule options over the past couple months before deciding on the 7 period day over the current predominate 4-by-4 block schedule. Tuesday, board members agreed, but many students aren't too happy about the changes. Mosley High Sophomore, Douglas Dick, is one of many stud...

[**School District looking at \\$80 million budget shortfall, says board member**](#)

(Boca Raton Tribune © 10/11/2011)

By Dale M. King BOCA RATON – The Palm Beach County School District is looking at a budget shortfall for the 2010-2011 school year of at least \$80 million – and that irks maverick member Frank Barbieri, who represents Boca Raton on the 7-member board. “I want the board to account for every dollar,” Barbieri told members of the Boca Raton Federation of Homeowners Association at a recent meeting...

[**Guest opinion: Higher-ed reform must preserve high standards**](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 10/11/2011)

Recently, Gov. Rick Scott proposed a sweeping set of changes to public higher education in Florida. The proposals emphasize merit pay for faculty; abolition of tenure; and faculty performance ratings based on student satisfaction, how much research money faculty obtain, and how many students faculty teach. Contrary to popular perceptions, there are public universities, such as FGCU, that already ...

[**FCAT soon could be a lot tougher for students to pass**](#)

(South Florida Sun-Sentinel © 10/11/2011)

Currently there are no comments. Be the first to comment!...

[**Florida Schools Monitoring for Hispanics from Alabama**](#)

(Sunshine State News © 10/11/2011)

Posted: October 11, 2011 3:55 AM A number of school districts across Florida have been advised to monitor enrollment numbers for Hispanic migrant families relocating from Alabama after a federal judge upheld that state's new immigration enforcement law. Members of Florida's Education Estimating Conference said so far they haven't seen any influx in the counties bordering Alabam...

Have a lovely day! Please see the articles below.

Deborah



Tallahassee Democrat

FSU Elementary gets national award for healthy lunches, environment

12:06 AM, Oct. 12, 2011

By Kimberly Dantica

Florida State University's Elementary School is one of two Florida schools to receive the Healthier U.S. School Challenge Award for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Steve Hortin, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southeast deputy director for special nutrition programs, will be at FSUS this morning to present the bronze level award with a \$500 incentive check. The ceremony is scheduled for 8:45 a.m. in the school's cafeteria.

"What we're trying to do is recognize schools that go above and beyond the national lunch program," Hortin said.

There were four award levels: bronze, silver, gold and gold award of distinction.

Each level requires schools to provide a certain amount of nutritional foods, physical and nutritional education throughout a four-year certification period.

"They did a lot of impressive stuff," said Hortin. "They served whole grains at least three days a week; they served fruits everyday; they only serve fruit juice with no sodas."

The school had to demonstrate its commitment to promote wellness to parents, students and staff for an \$8,000 health grant received from the state Department of Education in 2010, said Rachael Terrin, DOE's team nutrition coordinator.

"They set the stage and met the criteria by building that school and establishing a healthier school environment," Terrin said.

Eight Florida schools have won HUSSC awards since the USDA created the program in 2004.

"We've always known that we did a good job and this just validates that, so other people know that we do a good job," said Linda Searight, FSUS' food services director.

FSUS also provides vegetarian meals, nutritional lessons, recess and physical education classes.

"We offer a lot of different things that a lot of schools don't offer just because we realize there's a need," said Searight. "It took us 2 1/2 to three years to get to the point that we are at now."

Tallahassee Democrat

Scott predicts quick economic rebound

12:09 AM, Oct. 12, 2011

By Bill Cotterell Florida Capital Bureau

Gov. Rick Scott treated Tallahassee business owners to a preview of his business-friendly legislative plans for the 2012 session Tuesday, confidently predicting that Florida's economy will rebound faster than the nation recovers from the recession.

The governor is scheduled to begin formally introducing his legislative proposals around the state today. But in a half-hour speech to the Northeast Business Association on Tuesday, Scott outlined pretty much of an encore to the past session's agenda — no tax increases or additional state borrowing, uprooting government regulations that inhibit job growth and focusing education where the jobs are, in fields of science and technology.

While Scott was at the NEBA luncheon, state economists began meeting on a new revenue forecast for the stalled economy. The revenue estimate is expected to fall short by \$1.3 billion to \$1.7 billion for the next two years.

Scott said that won't stop him from pushing for continued tax cuts, a sequel to the reductions in the corporate income tax and property taxes that he won from the Legislature this year.

"It's going to be tough until we start seeing nice growth in state revenue, which is all tied to jobs," said Scott. "I believe, and you can see the results, our economy is going to turn around faster than the rest of the country's. Our job base is growing."

He noted that statewide unemployment has dropped from 12 percent when he took office last January to about 10.7 percent, where it's been stuck for the past two months. Scott ran last year on a promise to add 700,000 new jobs in seven years and said Florida has had job growth of 87,200 in the past nine months.

He briefly touched on a half-dozen legislative goals, mostly updates of what he promised as a candidate and pushed for in his first legislative session:

- Streamline permitting and eliminate regulation. "We're going through agency by agency and saying, "What are the regulations that just destroy jobs or destroy competition?" "
- Cut taxes. To "look at every tax and fee that we have, and see what can we get rid of," in order to "put more money back in the individual's pocket" for spending and investment.
- Change unemployment compensation to "a re-employment system" that emphasizes job searches and training. "If you are going to get paid during the time you are unemployed, shouldn't we as taxpayers expect you to spend time either looking for a job or being trained for a job? Isn't that logical?"
- Prioritize transportation spending to spur economic development, mainly in ports, cargo rail and highways.
- Emphasize education in sciences, technology, engineering and math. "I want kids to get jobs. Education should prepare you for a job."

NEBA member Ted Thomas, who runs a realty business, praised the governor's plans. But he said reviving the housing market is the key to producing jobs.

"The housing and construction industry has been severely affected by this recession," he told Scott. "It's my belief that unless you solve the housing crisis, we will not resolve unemployment problems."

Investment counselor Marshall Cassidy said he was pleased that Scott favors cutting business taxes.

"I would 100-percent endorse what he advocated," Cassidy said. " Once you cut those taxes, it's like putting kindling in the middle of a fire, and it will grow."

But state Rep. Alan Williams, D-Tallahassee, called Scott's message "the status quo" – more tax cuts, regulatory reduction and shrinking of state government. He said Florida would produce 700,000 jobs over seven years, no matter who was governor.

"I think we need to focus on job creation but focus on it in a way that's more inclusive," said Williams. "Close some of these tax incentives for companies that don't have a nexus here in Florida, close some of the spending on drug-testing of people who are on (temporary assistance to needy families). Think rationally about that."