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Subject: Fw: 10/11/11 Education Round-Up

FYI.... Have a great afternoon!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

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Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Higgins, Deborah
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 10:21 AM
Subject: 10/11/11 Education Round-Up



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[State board approves independent medical program at FAU](#)

(Boca Raton Tribune © 10/11/2011)

By Dale M. King BOCA RATON – Florida Atlantic University is just one step away from establishing an independent medical education program on its Boca Raton campus. Charles Schmidt Biomedical Building The Florida Board of Governors (BOG), which oversees state universities, unanimously approved the program recently. It still needs the OK from the state legislature. The doctor of medicine d...

[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...

[School board weighs computer issue](#)

(Bradenton Herald © 10/11/2011)

ataylor@bradenton.com BRADENTON – Manatee County School District paid an additional \$176,000 for a newly purchased computer software system to help ease teacher frustration over access and function problems, Associate Superintendent Scott Martin told board members Monday. Martin said the district purchased two additional computer processors to help the system run more smoothly. FOCUS – ...

[One-on-One Speech Therapy Goes Digital](#)

(Education Week © 10/11/2011)

Eight year-old Gianna DeTara, who lives in a rural community outside Scranton, Pa., participates from home in an online speech-therapy session. Gianna takes the lessons through her online charter school, Commonwealth Connections Academy. School districts nationwide are starting to turn to online speech therapy as a way to save money and ensure that hard-to-find therapists are available to their st...

[Budget news isn't good for UNF, FSCJ](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/11/2011)

TALLAHASSEE - With an estimated \$270 million recently ripped from an already shrinking pot of money set aside for school construction, local colleges and universities are not optimistic that they will be able to add bricks and mortar anytime soon. "Things are really tough right now," said Steve Wallace, president of Florida State College at Jacksonville. State economists estimated last week th...

[Coastal Science magnet anchored now at Mayport Middle School](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/11/2011)

Job training from the past is being replaced with career training for the future at Mayport Middle School. What was once a cavernous woodworking class is now the school's biggest marine lab: 15 aquariums that allow live specimen to be studied as part of the school's new Coastal Sciences Academy. To commemorate the new magnet program is a huge ship's anchor in the aptly-named Anchor Quad. The a...

[After-school system in Jacksonville lauded for progress](#)

(Florida Times-Union © 10/11/2011)

Partnerships and cooperation are the keys to Jacksonville being among 27 cities making "impressive strides" in developing citywide after-school systems, said the executive director of Jacksonville's Children Commission. A report by National League of Cities, Municipal Leadership for Afterschool, identified six areas that enable the cities to build the infrastructure for citywide after-school pro...

[Sen. Paula Dockery Questions Chancellor About USF Polytechnic's Funding](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 10/11/2011)

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

[Major shift under way in Florida's gaming business](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/11/2011)

TALLAHASSEE — From Tallahassee to coastal South Florida, there have been increasingly strong tremors of late that may signal a tectonic shift in the state's gaming business. The shift could affect where people can gamble and which communities reap a jobs bonanza — as well as the headaches o...

[My Word: Zero-tolerance policy against bullying](#)

(Orlando Sentinel © 10/11/2011)

By Chuck O'Neal 12:00 AM EDT, October 11, 2011 Advertisement Jamey Rodemeyer might have been the next Steve Jobs. He might have developed the next technological breakthrough to employ thousands. He might have made a crucial medical discovery, or he might have written your favorite song. He might have done these things, but he will not. Jamey Rodemeyer is dead. You and I are gui...

[UWF taking proposals for business grants](#)

(Pensacola News Journal © 10/11/2011)

The University of West Florida Office of Economic Development and Engagement on Monday began accepting proposals for grant funding to promote business development and research in Northwest Florida. Earlier this year, Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill that appointed the school's economic-development office to manage and administer \$30 million over the next three years to aid in job creation and econom...

[Budget savings may go elsewhere](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/11/2011)

Local governments across the state could be forced to give up millions of dollars in saved retirement money they are using to plug dwindling budgets under a new proposal by the governor. Rick Scott proposes using money to cover shortfall The Florida Legislature this year required most employees who use the Florida Retirement System to pay ...

[CHANGES AHEAD FOR EDUCATION](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/11/2011)

Future anthropology majors be warned, Gov. Rick Scott does not believe such programs contribute much to Florida's economy and wants them on the losing end of university funding decisions. Proposed reforms target funding, quality faculty and tenure Reforming Florida's college and university system will be one of Scott's top priorities when ...

[Plan for higher ed isn't secret](#)

(Sarasota Herald-Tribune © 10/11/2011)

Gov. Rick Scott shed some additional light yesterday on his expectations for the governing boards of state colleges and universities. In a morning meeting with the Herald-Tribune's Editorial Board and reporters, Scott said he expects the governing boards to discuss: Tenure. Do tenured professors advance student achievement? Evaluations. How can st...

[Unlimited sick leave payments for teachers no longer sustainable](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/11/2011)

In another era, it may have been defensible to hand teachers, principals and other school district employees a big check for unused sick leave on their way out the door. But in these economic times, such a generous policy that is so out of line with the private sector is no longer affordable for taxpayers. Pinellas and other school districts should revise their policies and set reasonable limits,...

[Letters: Digital learning for all is a must](#)

(St. Petersburg Times © 10/11/2011)

Online rule will stress schools | Oct. 3, Bill Maxwell column Digital learning for all is a must Providing every student with a digital learning experience, irrespective of a student's county of residence, is a must in the 21st century. Whether it is college courses, vocational certification or job training, today's students are expected to fulfill many higher education and workplace requi...

[Competition brutal among students for seats in magnet programs](#)

(Sun-Sentinel © 10/11/2011)

Thousands of students shut out of favorite classes By Marc Freeman, Sun Sentinel 5:46 PM EDT, October 10, 2011 Advertisement Getting students into a popular Palm Beach County choice or magnet program often is a brutal ordeal that requires talent, luck or principal special selections — and sometimes all three aren't enough. Parents might spend years prepping their kids for a covete...

[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...

Happy Tuesday! Please see the articles below.

Deborah



Tallahassee Democrat

Today at the Capitol

7:44 AM, Oct. 11, 2011

News Service of Florida

TOPPING THE DAY

REVENUE ESTIMATE: State economists and analysts will revise the general revenue estimate, and are widely expected to revise it downward to show a budget shortfall for next year. Legislative leaders have said the shortfall could be \$2 billion. (9 a.m. 301 Capitol, the Capitol.)

SCOTT BEGINS TO LAY OUT AGENDA: Gov. Rick Scott will begin to lay out his agenda for the coming year on Tuesday, in a speech at a [business](#) luncheon in Tallahassee. Administration officials say he'll discuss proposed legislation aimed at economic development and proposals that will lower the cost of living in the state. His speech today is to the Northeast Business Association Luncheon. (11:30 a.m., Holiday Inn, Conference Center, 2725 Graves Rd., Tallahassee.)

ALSO

WORKERS COMP RATE HIKES EYED: The Office of [Insurance](#) Regulation will hold a hearing about a proposed 8.9 percent increase in workers-compensation insurance rates. (9 a.m., 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)

CENSUS TALKS ABOUT VOTING HELP FOR LANGUAGE MINORITIES: The U.S. Census Bureau holds a webinar to discuss the upcoming release of a list of jurisdictions that must provide language assistance to voters. Under the Voting Rights Act, jurisdictions must provide assistance to specific minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. This is the first time American Community Survey estimates will be used to determine the list of jurisdictions. The event will consist of an audio conference and online presentation. The webinar will explain background information on Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, how the list of jurisdictions is determined and provide information on the upcoming release. It will conclude with a question-and-answer session for reporters. (1 p.m., 1-888-324-8115; Participant passcode: CENSUS Note: Stay on the line until operator asks for the passcode. Do not key in passcode. Online: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/> ; Conference number: PW8555041 Audience passcode: CENSUS.)

THIRD QUARTER CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS: Candidates for state offices must report fundraising totals for the quarter that ended Sept. 30.

SCOTT

Gov. Rick Scott has a meeting today with Secretary of State Kurt Browning. The state's election law is probably foremost in Browning's mind most days – it's under fire from several sides about changes made this year that a number of groups say will disenfranchise them. Scott also has a meeting with police chiefs, with the Association of Insurance Agents, and does an interview with a writer from Fortune Magazine.

Tampa Tribune

State economists to revise Florida revenue estimates

October 10, 2011

Associated Press

State economists will figure out just how bad Florida's financial situation will be during the coming year.

Economists will meet 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 these forecasts to determine whether more cuts will be needed in 2012 to schools, health care and other state programs.

Preliminary estimates released last week suggested that state legislators may be confronted by a \$2 billion shortfall next year due to dropping tax collections. Florida relies primarily on the state's 6 percent sales tax to balance its budget.

Despite the shortfall, Scott is expected to ask lawmakers to approve another round of tax cuts.

Tallahassee Democrat

Jeff Kottkamp:

We need an educational formula that will let us compete globally

October 10, 2011

Several years ago, members of the Florida business community went to China to explore trade opportunities. During their visit, they toured an elementary school.

When they arrived at the elementary school they were greeted by a Chinese third-grader who spoke perfect English, with no accent.

This is just a small example of China's commitment to prepare its children to compete in the global economy. China, in fact, will soon be the No. 1 English-speaking nation in the world.

If a Chinese delegation of business leaders visited an elementary school in Florida, I wonder if we could find a third-grader who could speak perfect Chinese.

Perhaps we could, but, unfortunately, it would be rare. Why? Because we still don't fully comprehend the competitive nature of the world today.

You can't really grow your economy unless you understand your competition — and commit to creating a workforce that is superior to that competition.

One example of our competition is India, where the 25 percent of the population with the highest IQs is greater than the population of our country.

That means India has more honors students than we have students. And the nation is wisely directing those students to study science, technology, engineering and math, the disciplines expected to be in the highest demand for the next 50 years.

To bring jobs to our state, it is not enough to encourage businesses to move to Florida.

To maximize our potential, we must embrace systemic change. We should start by making a stronger investment in education, beginning with early learning.

Actually we must do this.

Today, far too many children drop out of high school. This usually happens because the children have grown up in an environment where no one reads to them. By the time that child enters first grade, the child is already behind his or her peers in the most basic learning skills.

Generally, each year that child falls a little bit further behind until the education experience is meaningless and the child gives up.

The societal cost for each dropout is huge.

Think of how much money we could save on social programs, jails and prisons, rehab programs and more if our dropouts were instead high-school or college graduates with skills that would make them productive, taxpaying citizens.

We also have to be far more innovative in our thinking about education. We should stop comparing ourselves with other states — and start comparing ourselves with other countries that excel in education.

It may mean that we consider year-round schools and advancing students not by calendar year, but when they have mastered the material for each grade.

We also must align our degree silos in our colleges and universities with our economic development efforts. This is necessary to create the pipeline of engineers and scientists needed to compete globally now and in the future.

Florida already has a competitive advantage over most places in the world.

I have met with hundreds of government and business leaders from all over the world to discuss business opportunities in Florida.

To a person, they all know that Florida is a low-tax, business-friendly state with great weather and an amazing quality of life. Thus, people around the world want to do business here — but they won't do so if we don't have the workers to meet their needs.

Thus, in order to bring jobs to Florida for the long term, we must build a world-class workforce. If we do so, the future of the Sunshine State will be brighter than ever.

